

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit Part 3

New Testament

Last time we saw how Jesus is

- *the* ultimate fulfilment of Isaiah 11:1-2 - *the* Spirit filled king in the line of David,
- the one - as John says in John 3:34 - to whom God gives his Spirit without measure.

He is the king who has come to establish his kingdom.

How does he do that? And how do the gifts of Spirit - which in Ephesians 4:7-8 Paul tells us are the gifts of Christ the victorious king as he ascends to his throne - fit into that?

1. Christ the King

Luke 4:18: Jesus reads from Isaiah 61 in the synagogue at Nazareth and says, 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me...' (v18)

How does he go on to describe what his Spirit anointed ministry is going to look like? 3 times in 2 verses he says his ministry as the anointed king will be through proclamation - through preaching and declaring the good news of the gospel.

Luke 4:43 and **Luke 7:22:** In Jesus' own words, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing mark his ministry.

But how does he heal, forgive and deliver from demons? Through his word. He does touch, but predominantly he proclaims healing and deliverance with his mouth.

2. The Twelve and the Seventy-Two:

Luke 9:1-2, 6 and **Luke 10:1, 9, 16.** Both groups are sent out to proclaim the kingdom, and do it by preaching and healing.

3. The Church to the nations

Luke 24:45-49, Acts 1:8, Acts 6:7, Acts 8:4-5

The Spirit empowers the church as witnesses to the king. That witness is through proclaiming and preaching the word and the Christ (the king).

As we consider the gifts, we need to keep in mind the mission = the proclamation of the gospel of the kingdom. So if we spend our time focusing on the more dramatic or controversial gifts, we have gone AWOL, we're off mission.

And maybe that is why we get so many warnings.

4. Warning Passages

The Corinthians are told to eagerly desire spiritual gifts. The Thessalonians were told, 'don't quench the Spirit or despise prophecy'. Timothy was told to fan into flame the gift of God. But, Jesus took more time to warn of the counterfeits of gifts than teaching the church about the goodness of his gifts.

Matthew 7:15-23 and **Matthew 24:11, 24:** False prophets are real. People will claim to be speaking for God and are not. 'Many' - it is not just a few bad apples! Prophesying, casting out demons, doing miracles are no test of whether someone is a Christian or not. People will be lead astray. **In a parallel passage Mark adds - "be on guard".**

The apostles maintained this attitude of protectiveness and warning:

2 Corinthians 11:13-15; 2 Thessalonians 2:9; 1 Timothy 4:1-2; 2 Peter 2:1-2; 1 John 4:1-3

We are not to believe everything. We are to test the spirits. In **Revelation 2:2** we get an example of a church doing just that.

Summary

Jesus the king comes to extend his kingdom in the power of the Spirit through proclaiming the good news. He pours out his Spirit on his church so that work of kingdom expansion continues through witnessing and proclamation. We are to be on our guard against false teachers and prophets who may come with signs and wonders and who detract from that mission.

Job of pastor and elders: Feed the sheep and shoot the wolves. We protect and nourish the flock by proclaiming the gospel, and resisting all false gospels.