



LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

a Life Transformation course

Del Wells

INCLUDES STUDY GUIDE
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THE FOUR CORE COURSES FROM THIS LIFE TRANSFORMATION
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Del Wells is an ordained minister with the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada having served the local church for 37 years as a pastor. His vision is to see people transformed daily by having their minds renewed with the Word of God and the power of the Holy Spirit. Utilizing his teaching gift and drawing on his many experiences and spiritual insights, Del has written numerous courses, studies, and articles to help followers of Christ learn to live well, be godly and impact the world around them for Jesus.

Lesson 8: The Spiritual Gifts of the Holy Spirit - Part 2

The Big Deal!

The Holy Spirit has the gifts needed for any situation.

“All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.” 1 Corinthians 12:11

In Lesson 7, you looked at the spiritual (also called manifestation) gifts of the Spirit in a general sense. In this lesson you will examine each of the nine gifts more closely that the Holy Spirit is ready to operate through Spirit-filled believers. They are divided into three groups – Revelation, Power, and Voice Gifts.

A. The Revelation Gifts

1. The message of Wisdom

- ✧ This is specific insight into the mind and purpose of God that can be related into ordinary problems and issues of life.

This manifestation can be a practical revelation of God's word or the Holy Spirit's specific wisdom to a situation of need at a particular time. The person giving the message of wisdom appears to speak with great skill and experience because God is the source. The one receiving the message of wisdom is encouraged and strengthened by receiving insight for the proper and effective use of knowledge.

2. The message of Knowledge

- ✧ This is God-given knowledge about people or circumstances that you did not know previously.

The information revealed is factual even though the person being used in this gift has no way to know it otherwise. The one hearing the message of knowledge is often amazed as attitudes and motives of people's heart are revealed.

3. Distinguishing between Spirits

- ✧ This is the ability to test and discern spirits to determine if they are of God, Satan, or self (1 John 4:1).

It is the ability to judge the voice gifts of the Spirit to determine if they are from the Holy Spirit for the common good (1 Corinthians 14:29 / 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22).

It also includes the ability to discern demonic activity and possession of individuals (Acts 16:16-28).

As a human being, you cannot accurately see into people's hearts to determine motives behind what they say and do. As a believer you are expected to be discerning, to test each spirit that you encounter. The ability to distinguish between spirits is the enabling of the Holy Spirit to determine the genuineness of the spiritual dynamics at work. Demonic forces and human spirits are exposed through this gift.

Believers benefit by holding on to what God reveals to be good and letting go of anything that is not.

B. The Power Gifts

1. Faith

- ✧ This is special faith that is imparted by the Holy Spirit to enable believers to ask God for things that are extraordinary and miraculous.

This is different from the faith that someone exercises to be saved (Ephesians 2:8). It is sometimes called mountain-moving faith (Matthew 17:20-21) and often works in concert with other manifestation gifts (e.g. healing – Acts 3:16). The gift of faith is received as needed before the physical evidence is seen. It is exercised as confidence in God despite circumstances that look to the contrary. The effect of the gift of faith is that special needs that would not have been otherwise.

2. Gifts of Healing

- ✧ This is the restoring of health by supernatural means.

The healing can come instantly or over time. The gifts of healing work in concert with the gift of faith being released in prayer (James 5:14-15). While you do not need to be an elder to operate in gifts of healing, you do need the gift of faith. Healing is an accompanying sign for those who believe in the gospel of Christ (Mark 16:15-18) and an integral part of the message of the gospel of the Kingdom of God (Luke 9:1-2, 6 / 10:1, 8-9). Healings often occur inside a person (emotions, spirit, unseen body parts) as well as on the outside parts that can be seen. It is important not to only focus on the outward, physical manifestations of this gift to see its operation.

3. Miraculous Powers

- ✧ This is God supernaturally altering the normal course of nature.

These are extraordinary acts of God that transcend human ability and understanding. What is impossible for man is not impossible for God. God's power is completely dominant over Satan's kingdom of darkness (2 Corinthians 10:3-5). This gift of the Spirit also operates in concert with the gift of faith in prayer. Miraculous powers are given to confront and overcome Satan's kingdom and are signs that accompany the believing of the message of the gospel of the Kingdom. The intended effect of miraculous powers is that God is glorified in the miracle, not the one being used in the gift.

C. The Voice Gifts

God speaks through believers expressing the personality of the Holy Spirit.

1. Speaking in different kinds of tongues

- ✧ The speaking of a message in a language never learned by the speaker.

This is the expressing of one's spirit under the influence and control of the Holy Spirit. The language conveyed by the Spirit may be an earthly language (Acts 2:4-6) or a heavenly language unknown to man (1 Corinthians 13:1 - "tongues of angels"). The tongues spoken are unintelligible to the hearers (1 Corinthians 14:14, 16). When someone speaks out publicly in a gathering, the message in tongues must be interpreted for the listeners to be able to understand it (1 Corinthians 14:6, 13).

Speaking in different kinds of tongues with interpretation accomplishes a couple of things:

- ✧ It is a sign for unbelievers that they are separated from God and lack understanding of the ways of the Spirit of God (1 Corinthians 14:22).
- ✧ The whole church is edified (1 Corinthians 14:5, 26).

How speaking in tongues operates in public:

- ✧ It must not be forbidden (1 Corinthians 14:39)
- ✧ It must be interpreted (1 Corinthians 14:27-28)
- ✧ It must be regulated (1 Corinthians 14:27-28)
- ✧ It must be fitting and orderly (1 Corinthians 14:40)

This lesson deals with speaking in tongues as a manifestation in a corporate setting. The two other uses of tongues are the initial sign of being baptized in the Holy Spirit and a personal prayer language for an individual's edification.

2. Interpretation of Tongues

- ✧ The special ability to interpret what has been spoken in tongues and to communicate the message to the congregation.

This is not a literal translation of the message in tongues but an interpretation of what the Holy Spirit has spoken in another language. This gift is exercised either by the one who has spoken the message in tongues or by someone else in the congregation (1 Corinthians 14:13, 27- 28). The combination of tongues and interpretation functions as a directive to worship in prayer to God. The message in tongues is validated by interpretation and the church is edified and strengthened (1 Corinthians 14:5, 26).

3. Prophecy

- ✧ A word, warning, exhortation, or revelation from God under the direction of the Holy Spirit given in the language that the hearers can understand.

This is the proclaiming of God's will by exhorting and encouraging the hearers to godliness as revealed in his Word (1 Corinthians 14:3). This gift is potentially available to every Spirit-filled Christian believer (Acts 2:17-18) as are the rest of the spiritual / manifestation gifts (1 Corinthians 12:7).

How prophecy operates in public:

- ✧ There must be one prophecy given at a time and no more than three in total (1 Corinthians 14:29-33).
- ✧ It must be given in an orderly manner (1 Corinthians 14:39-40).
- ✧ It must be evaluated for its genuineness (1 John 4:1).
 - ⇒ Is it consistent with God's revealed Word?
 - ⇒ Is it self-serving or for the benefit of the church?
 - ⇒ Is the speaker sincerely living under Christ's lordship?
- ✧ It must be treated with respect and taken seriously (1 Thessalonians. 5:19-22).

The effects of the gift of prophecy are threefold:

- ✧ It is a sign for believers that God's grace is among them (1 Corinthians 14:22).
- ✧ The secrets of the heart of the unbeliever are laid bare causing them to worship God and acknowledge the Lord's presence (1 Corinthians 14:24-25).
- ✧ The church is strengthened through the exhortation (1 Corinthians 14:26).

In this lesson we looked specifically at the spiritual / manifestation gifts of the Spirit. The body ministry gifts (Romans 12) and the equipping gifts (Ephesians 4) are examined in the course Learning to Serve.

Your Response

- ✧ Take time to be knowledgeable of what the nine spiritual gifts of the Spirit are and how they function.
- ✧ Prepare yourself in prayer and surrender to the Holy Spirit to be used by God in whatever gifts may be required.
- ✧ Thank the Spirit for his ongoing work in you, providing everything you need to be effective and productive in life and ministry.

A Word of Encouragement to You

You have completed the *Life in the Spirit* course. You are now ready to take further steps in your spiritual growth that facilitate productive ministry and kingdom influence. Your next phase of learning builds upon the foundational principles you have established in your daily living thus far. The next course, *Learning to Serve*, will help you understand the importance of serving Christ in his mission of impacting people for eternity one at a time.

Commit yourself daily to being a person of the Spirit who invites him to fill you continually with his presence and power so that you will be ready to respond to his direction at a moment's notice and do what is needed in his supernatural enabling.



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Lesson 8: Spiritual Gifts of the Holy Spirit – Part 2

The Big Deal!

The Holy Spirit has the gifts needed for any situation.

This lesson is set up in a basic teaching format, focusing on each spiritual gift individually. Here are some further thoughts as you work your way through the lesson and the discussion questions.

- We need the spiritual gifts because we are lacking answers and resources in many situations. God provides for this need in supernatural ways.
- We cannot see God, but he reveals himself working through his people in supernatural manifestations. God is to be glorified as the spiritual gifts accomplish their purposes.
- The spiritual gifts originate in God and operate through your life as you ask and receive them from God and put them to use.
- Operating in the gifts does not make you more spiritually mature than before but does indicate an openness to be used of God in whatever way he chooses.
- When the gifts of the Spirit are in operation, there is a great sense of God's presence among the people.

Discussion Group Questions – Lesson 8

1. Identify the gifts that would be useful in the following situations:
 - a. To give wise counsel to someone in a difficult situation.
 - b. To know something about a person or situation that you have no way of knowing that unlocks a door to freedom for that person.
 - c. To have the kind of confidence that looks at a mountain of overwhelming challenges and considers it a hill of kingdom opportunities.
 - d. To be able to lay your hands on a sick person, pray for them, and see them completely healed.
 - e. To expect God to intervene in a seemingly hopeless and impossible situation and see the natural course of events altered accordingly.
 - f. To speak the word of God so powerfully that unbelievers cry out in repentance and believers are strengthened in their faith.
 - g. To discern if someone is speaking for God or not and to tell whether they have been sent by God or not.
 - h. To speak in a language you have never learned so that when the message is interpreted, unbelievers know that God is real and present.
 - i. To interpret messages in languages spoken you have never learned so that the sign of God's presence is recognized by the unbelievers present.

2. What reservations do you have about the manifestation gifts and how they work?
3. Why is it important for the spiritual / manifestation gifts to be evaluated when used?
4. What would be the condition of a church where spiritual gifts are not in use?
5. What would a church be like that taught and encouraged the use of spiritual gifts?
6. What key things have you learned by studying *Life in the Spirit*?
7. What are you now inspired to do to keep yourself in step with the Holy Spirit?