

# To Be Filled With The Holy Spirit

(Part 10)

*“<sup>3</sup> For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. <sup>4</sup> For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: <sup>5</sup> So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. <sup>6</sup> Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; <sup>7</sup> Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; <sup>8</sup> Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.” (Romans 12:3-8)*

Normally when it comes to gifts of the Spirit one jumps to the Corinthian passage and the nine gifts listed there, but Romans 12 seems better suited for this occasion. One needs to first understand that, according to Scripture, the working of the Holy Spirit can produce many gifts. But there are surely occasions when God’s Holy Spirit produces a gift tailor-made for a particular situation. Nevertheless, every believer should become acquainted with the specific gifts listed in Scripture. With Romans 12, one sees some gifts of the Spirit that God gives to the body of Christ for the benefit of His people. Paul reminds believers not to think of themselves more highly than they ought (v. 3), and he notes that, just as these fleshly bodies are one, with many members, so too is the body of Christ (v. 4). First Corinthians 12 has the same message. Just as each member of the fleshly body is designed and gifted for a specific function, so with the spiritual. Each believer has different gifts according to God’s grace and purpose. If a believer’s gift is prophesying, then he/she should use this gift in proportion to his/her faith.

**PROPHECY:** Prophecy, according to one’s proportion of faith, is the ability to speak God’s words, on God’s behalf, to the people of God. In other words, the one who prophesies speaks on behalf of God. Of the 21 spiritual gifts to be studied here, this is the only one which appears in all three listings—Romans, Ephesians, and 1 Corinthians. Even in the Old Testament, a twofold definition concerning prophecy is given. Prophecy is not just the one stream of telling or foretelling the future, but there is also another stream of “forth-telling”—speaking forth the words of God for the benefit of the people. Both are part of the prophetic ministry and gifting that God gives to His people. Some groups—in fact, some of those to be looked at more closely later—will suggest the gifts of the Spirit have ceased or that the gift of prophecy has been funneled into the gift of preaching. This is not stated anywhere in the New Testament. Preaching has its own arena and its own gift and calling, but prophecy seems to be something that occurs in a manner different from preaching. Although one might define the two as different, it would seem quite obvious that the prophetic can occur in the middle of preaching. God’s written Word and God’s immediate prophetic message can certainly come forth very clearly at one and the same time.

**SERVING:** The word *servicing* can also mean “ministering or helping.” It comes from the same root word as *deacon*, literally meaning “to wait on the table or to serve someone else.” Spiritually, this gift would be the ability to give assistance or aid in any way that offers strength and encouragement to others. The gift of ministering, helping, serving is surely the one the body of Christ needs today, and one of the largest areas too often left unnoticed when it comes to spiritual gifts. Some of the more showy gifts may receive

more attention, but the body of Christ could not long survive without this marvelous gift of ministering/helps. At varying points of life, all have been recipients of this gift and know from experience just how valuable it is.

**TEACHING:** Teaching is here defined in a twofold sense—the ability to analyze and interpret God’s truth and the ability to communicate that truth clearly. This important gift needs to be more recognized in the church. The spiritual gift of teaching does not necessarily come upon the career professor or career teacher, although it may, but the focus here is a gift for the body of Christ, to minister to the members of the spiritual body—His church.

**EXHORTING:** This spiritual gift translates into the ability to move people to action by authority of God’s Word or the truth that derives from His Word. It seems quite clear this gift must be connected with speech, and it works like a coach who encourages another forward. The word *encouragement* is another beautiful way to translate this gift; however, it is an encouragement wrought through the use of words.

**GIVING/SHARING:** If one is blessed with this gift, Paul says, let it be done generously. What a wonderful gift—the ability to make and distribute money to further the kingdom of God or to assist those in need. How important it is for the church congregation to have spiritually mature individuals with this gift—those who never wince when the offering plate comes around, but who find pleasure in contributing to the needs of others.

**GOVERNING/LEADING/ADMINISTRATING:** This gift is the ability to lead others and to manage the affairs of the church, and it should be done diligently. A related passage concerning this gift is given in the Book of 1 Timothy where elders are described as those who can manage the affairs of the church well, taking care of the spiritual and financial business of the church, *“Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.” (1 Timothy 5:17)*

**SHOWING MERCY:** Showing mercy is the ability to work joyfully with those whom the majority ignores. These would be those who are today in nursing homes, hospitals, asylums, prisons, even the shut-ins and the handicapped individuals who dwell in loneliness. These need mercy and cheerful ministry from the body of Christ. These seven gifts, then, speak to believers today of some wonderful ways that the body of Christ demonstrates ministry

*My Dear and Beloved: “<sup>18</sup> But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. <sup>19</sup> And if they were all one member, where were the body? <sup>20</sup> But now are they many members, yet but one body. <sup>21</sup> And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. <sup>22</sup> Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: <sup>23</sup> And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. <sup>24</sup> For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked. <sup>25</sup> That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.” (1 Corinthians 12:18-25)*

*My prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your word that made me understand the spiritual gifts in a better way. Lord help me to develop and use my spiritual gifts for the benefit of others in the body of Christ, give me the grace to do that, this all I ask and pray in Jesus name, Amen.*