

Are You Looking for More?

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Are you looking for more? If we're not looking, expecting, believing, and wanting to receive, something is wrong with our experience.

Let's get our minds oriented to really thinking about those spiritual things that God wants to give to all His children.

Thank God for the joy of the Lord. When I got saved, I got joy—and it's been there ever since. I thank God for this great joy that's deep within, whether I'm shouting or not shouting. That deep joy that God gives you is the joy of our salvation. And we need that joy. Life has its hard times, has its trials and problems, and has its hurdles it throws at us. The devil is there to fight us every day, but we have Jesus and the power of God. And we need to just stand firm, knowing deep in our heart that God has even more to share with us.

I'm in that place in my life where I'm determined: if God has something more to give me I want it.

My thought today is spiritual, of the spiritual things that we need added to our lives. The things we need in our battles. Things we need in running the race. Things we need in the hard times.

Gifts of God

II Corinthians 10:3-5

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ

God talks to us about the weapons of our warfare not being carnal, but mighty through God. Thank God for the wonder of the gifts of God.

It's wonderful for God to use spiritual gifts in our lives, real gifts. Every time they're manifest they always add another blessing to your life, as well as making you a channel of blessing to others.

Acts 2:14-16

But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:

for these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day. But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel . . .

Let's stop right there.

Peter stands right up with Holy Ghost boldness. These people weren't drunk with wine. You who have been baptized in the Spirit of God know how it felt to them on the day of Pentecost.

When those saints came down from that upper room they were on fire for God. They had a taste of the real thing, the first-fruits of the Holy Ghost poured out upon them. The blessing of God was flowing, and Peter was bold to jump up and declare that this was that which was promised by the prophet Joel.

The Gift of Prophecy

Acts 2:17-19

. . . and it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: and on My servants and on My handmaidens I will pour out in those days of My Spirit; and they shall prophesy

Thank God for verses of Scripture that tell us this. When God poured out His Spirit on the day of Pentecost the promise was fulfilled upon all people who would turn to the Lord Jesus and receive that which He said they would.

Now, the gifts of the Holy Spirit are mentioned in this text: the gifts of God. It starts out with prophecy, with God pouring out His Spirit upon men and women: they would prophesy. Thank God for genuine prophecy, for a true Word from God. Thank God for gifts which are authentic and real. When you hear that, it will go to the depths of your soul, because it's the Word of the Lord.

Prophecy is a wonderful gift: but it's a gift that has a tendency to be abused. I've heard people who thought they had prophecy, but all it ever did was to stir up confusion—they didn't want it any more. That's a shame when you throw something as wonderful as one of the gifts of God out the door just because someone came along who had a counterfeit gift.

Peter was declaring that this wonderful gift was part of what was promised by the prophet Joel, and fulfilled on the day of Pentecost.

Do we need this gift today? The early church didn't have all the Scriptures that we have. They had to receive a lot by the Spirit. We have the complete Word of God—and we also have the Holy Ghost. And we still need to hear from God.

Now, Acts 2 also speaks of the revelation gifts of the Spirit: young men would see visions and old men would dream dreams. Has that day gone by? I know that day hasn't gone by! I've had dreams and visions from the Lord.

We need those revelations from God that are sound and real. What would we do without these gifts of God?

Those who are pastors like me are leaders over God's people and surely need these gifts. If we don't hear from God, what will the people gain from the ministry?

Ministers of God take time to pray and seek the Lord hear from God. They get direction from God in ministering to His people.

There are those who pray, yet never seem to hear from God. If we don't hear from God, we're going to run things with our own mind. And that's the recipe for a mess! That's what's wrong with many churches today: too many are running them with their own understanding. Such churches run this way call it a program.

A church that let's God have his way will be something different altogether.

God set the gifts in the church! They're so wonderful, so real. If there's ever anything that's amazed me it's the genuineness of the gifts of God; the realness of the gifts.

Now, what about the young man who just started out in the ministry? Should God bypass him? Oh, they surely need the anointing of the Holy Ghost. It's biblical. We can see many places in the Scriptures where someone was saved, filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to prophesy.

The Gift of Word of Knowledge

Acts 19:6

And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

They didn't have to learn to prophesy. They didn't have to get the approval of the board. They just had to let God have His way.

About a month after I was filled with the Holy Ghost I had a firsthand lesson on how real the gifts of the Spirit are. I hadn't even started in the ministry yet, but God used me in the gifts.

I received a phone call about 5:45 in the morning from a friend of mine, who has since also gone into the ministry. I heard him cry out to me, Brother Dailey! Something's wrong! I don't know what the matter is! He got those words out of his mouth when the Holy Ghost came all over me.

I knew God was moving to do something here. That man was in serious trouble, but who was to know what was wrong? As soon as he told me he didn't know what was the matter, out of my mouth came these words:

Brother, your house is filled with carbon monoxide—that's what the matter is!

How did I know that? Well, the words came right out of my mouth. That's how I knew. It wasn't something I figured out.

A lot of folks have left this world because of carbon monoxide in their home.

I said, Brother, do what I tell you to do, and nothing else.

He told me his wife was in the bathroom lying on the floor, throwing up. And his baby was in the bedroom crying. And he said he was feeling groggy.

I said, Open the door. Grab your wife and drag her out into the open air. Then come back to the phone so I know you're all right. It seemed like a long time to do that: I suppose he was moving in low gear because of its effect on him.

When he came back to the phone, I said, Now, go get your baby and get outside in the air with your baby. And when you get some air, come back to the phone. When he came back to the phone, I told him to turn the furnace off, open all the doors and windows (even though it was in January) and let the gas out of the house. He did just what I told him to do. After a while he felt revived, and his wife was able to get on her feet. And the baby seemed to take it better than they did.

It took about forty minutes for him to do all those things. I called a preacher friend of ours and said, "Let's get over there to be sure everything's all right." We went down in the basement to see what happened: the vent on the furnace had rusted right off and fallen down, letting all those fumes into his house during the night.

You see, he had a real problem, an emergency—but he also served a real God, who used a real gift of the Holy Ghost in a young Christian who had only been filled with the Holy Ghost for a month. You don't have to be in this all your life to get a genuine touch of God. It isn't like you have to study for ten years before you can be used of God.

I tell you, the power of God is real. The gifts of God are real. And when they work they accomplish that which God sent them forth to accomplish. His gifts that morning spared a family. And God got hold of that young man and placed him in the ministry. He's an old fashioned preacher, filled with the Holy Ghost and fire.

You see, when there's real problems like there was that morning, we need real power. We can't make believe, though there is a lot of make believe concerning the gifts of God. But I want you to know this: God is real. And He'll be real with you, as long as you want to be a real on fire Christian. God will be real to you. When others are only making believe and playing church,

God will be real to you. Remember that: God will be real to you. God won't falter, and God will not fail. You can depend on Him.

Have you ever had a fiery trial? Sometimes in our Christian walk it seems such trials follow us wherever we go. Those are the fiery trials the Lord spoke of that are sent to try us.

The Gift of God's Faithfulness

I Peter 4:12,13

Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: but rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when His glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

Often during such a time you get your mind on the circumstances, rather than on Jesus. You wake up with your mind on the trial, and you can't get it out of your mind all day.

I was having one of those fiery trials early in my ministry in Pennsylvania. Sister Dailey and I were learning to live by faith during those days. We were going to the school of hard knocks. We learned to eat out of the Master's hand like sparrows.

One day the trial was so great that I slipped out and took a walk down the dirt road to have a talk with Jesus. Isn't that the best thing to do in the midst of the trials? They'll overwhelm you if you don't.

As I was praying, the Lord spoke to me. He wrote it right in my heart, where I would never forget what He had to say: My, son, I want you to remember that above all things I am faithful.

He wrote that deep within my heart. And I would suggest that you let Him write it deep in your heart today. God is faithful. He's not going to let you down, never going to fail you.

The Gift of Dreams and Visions

Psalms 89:33

Nevertheless My lovingkindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer My faithfulness to fail.

You may have troubles and problems in your life, but know that God is faithful. If you're a praying person, you're going to know that God is faithful. He's not going to let you down, regardless.

I can look back over my life since I got saved, and there's one thing I can't find: I can't find any place where God ever failed.

Yes, God will try us; but He won't fail us. He'll test us; but He'll prove Himself faithful.

I remember another time early in my ministry. We were having a good song service, praising God. Listen, don't be ashamed to praise God in church. All at once, I saw a vision:

I saw a great big bale of hay! What did that mean? Why was God showing me this bale of hay?

There was a sister sitting in the back of the church. The Lord said, "You call her to come up front, and you tell her what I just showed you." When I told her about the vision of the bale of hay, she said she had no hay to give the cattle in the morning. What was she going to do?

Well, we prayed, "Lord, You know she needs hay for her cattle by the morning."

And, I tell you, at 7 the next morning there was a big truck load of hay delivered right to her door. God knew the need. He knew the cows needed hay. He cared for them; but much more, He cared because that was a burden on this woman's heart.

God knows the burden of your heart; and He is not one to fail in a time of need. One of the things I've witnessed over the years is how faithful God really is. How many times I've seen Him move over and over just like He said.

The Gifts – to God's People

I Corinthians 12:4-8

Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit

The word of wisdom and the word of knowledge are certainly wonderful gifts. They have been so beneficial to me down through the years so many times, not just in my own life, but in the ministry as a pastor.

Don't try to pull the wool over your pastor's eyes. If he's in tune with the Lord, the Lord will come and tell him all about it. No way can you hide something from God. And when He wants something revealed, He'll move to reveal it.

The gifts of God are given to help people. That's what makes them so important. Many times we just don't know what to do. Our mind is incapable of coming up with an answer. But when you get to praying, Jesus gives you the answer. He is a deliverer of His people.

Just because you've been serving the Lord all these years doesn't mean you won't need a miracle down the road somewhere. It doesn't mean you've come to the place where you're problem proof.

God's Gifts – for Today

Psalm 34:17

The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.

Thank God, He has the answer to all we may face that would really trouble us.

I trust this whets your appetite to pray more earnestly about the gifts of God. You ought to be more concerned about His genuine gifts, because they will help a lot of people when they are used.

So many are troubled and vexed, facing things they have no answer for. Who is going to straighten out their scrambled lives? Who is going to get down to the bottom of their problems? And who is going to set them free?

We know this: God sets people free. We need the manifestation of His gifts in our day. We need those gifts of God at work. It takes the power of God to loose men and women from the bondages they find themselves in. It's amazing when you see a drug addict get set free right on the spot, with no withdrawals. You see them walk away praising the Lord.

It takes the manifestations of God. He has given the church nine gifts of the Spirit, to meet every possible need. But it's up to us. When we set our heart to see God at work setting the captives free, and we start praying—that's what will make the difference.

God would want us to be full of desire for His spiritual gifts, fully desiring their manifestation. But these things don't just happen. When God gets hold and begins to move, and the Holy Ghost begins to fall things will begin to happen.

It's wonderful to watch the Holy Ghost work in old fashioned revival. God give us another one. Give us God moving by His Spirit to do a great work.

Some people feel the day of such a move is past, gone with the book of Acts. But He gave the move of the Spirit to the church today, as it was on the day of Pentecost. We want the fullness of all of His gifts.

We need the power of God in our day. Some years ago a woman was brought to us who had lost her mind. And there are so many who just don't care: but somebody has to care.

Well, someone cared, and asked us to come and pray for this woman. When I saw her I knew that only the power of God could set her free. She couldn't eat or sleep. I told them to bring her to our house on Saturday morning, and God would deliver her and set her free. I didn't just tell them that—God gave me those words.

Come Saturday morning about 15 people came with her. I sat them down and asked them to get down and pray and believe God with us to set her free. They started to pray, and we began to

pray for this woman. We should thank God for His power. Whatever the problem, He has the answer.

The Gift of Discerning of Spirits

I Corinthians 12:7-10

But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; to another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits

As I began to pray for her, the Lord gave me a vision: I saw a huge chain stretched tight. That girl was really bound. Satan had chained her where she was bound. Then I saw what I would say was the hand of the Lord, like a flame of fire—when it hit the chain, the chain snapped. And at the same instant, God spoke to me, labeling that spirit—I commanded that foul spirit of insanity to come out of her. That foul devil began to scream out of her, and suddenly she was free. She opened her eyes, and was in her right mind.

Matthew 12:44,45

When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first.

You don't want to leave a vessel like that empty. We prayed for her, and she was filled with the Holy Ghost. She hadn't slept or ate for days. I told them to feed her and then let her sleep until she woke (she slept 18 hours, and was normal when she woke.) She was set free by the power of God.

You have to have the power of God, the gifts of God to help such people. I'm thankful for what Jesus can do, whatever your need may be. His power is the answer. Know that God cares, God understands, and you are someone in particular to Him. It's not enough to know He understands, but to know that He really cares, and wants you to come to Him with all your needs.

Oh, how we need the power of God these days. We need the anointing. I urge you to pray earnestly for His power to be in your life, and in your church. But many have a program, with no power. It's like having a Cadillac without an engine. People are attracted: but people are also attracted to the circus.

We need to take time to pray, putting our faith to work. Seek God earnestly for His move in these days of great need. Jesus has the answer.