

Spiritual Gifts

Brynmawr Family Church Sermon
Stuart Wheatman, Sunday 22nd Nov 2009

Intro

- My testimony- searching for meaning, occult, supernatural. Read about miracles Apostles did in Bible- I believed for today. Gave life to God in room. Lady who led me to God- spoke in tongues & could interpret dreams. I became Christian. Later in Church got prayed for HS to fill. Felt presence of God. Later spoke in tongues on own in bedroom. Tongues deliverance. Started to get pictures. At Spring Harvest picture God wanted to give girl tongues- shared & she did back. In age of counterfeit Christians have true spiritual gifts- let's use them.
- Doing Network Course- teaching on and assessing our Spiritual gifts, the way we serve and also areas of passion- not meant as a limit but a starter for ten.
- Vision of gifts unopened- God wants to give out new gifts today and for existing gifts to be opened. All at different places, but God has something for us all today.

God wants to give new gifts today- Joel 2:28-29

- Spiritual gifts come from the Holy Spirit- 'Pour out My Spirit' followed by prophetic gifts given- be filled to receive them- Acts 19:6- 'And when Paul laid hands on them the Holy Spirit came upon them and they spoke with tongues and prophesied'. Go on being filled to continually exercise them (Eph 5:18-19) =release in singing psalms, hymns & spiritual songs to each other.
- Age of Spirit (Acts on). All flesh- not superchristians- all ages (Stoneleigh kids), sexes, backgrounds. Not a reward for good behaviour, but by faith in God's promise.
- Desire Spiritual Gifts- 'I thank my God...that you come short in no gift' (1Cor 1:1,7), 'earnestly desire the best gifts'- (1Cor 12:31) 'desire spiritual gifts, especially prophecy' (1Cor 14:1). 'I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied' (1Cor 14:5).
- Ask. 'Do not have because do not ask'- James 4:2. 'Let him who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret'-(1Cor 14:13). Matt 7:7-11- Ask seek knock (keep on asking- I didn't get tongues immediately)
- Expect. God is good father. bread stone, fish snake.
- Reuben's birthday- I went to get camera to video Reubs opening his presents because I love to see the joy on his face- how much more God the Father with us.

God wants existing gifts to be stirred up-2Tim 1:6

- Stir up- Timothy- 2Tim 1:6 -stir up (moving the fire around), fan into flame (me with fire) gift in you through laying on of my hands . 1Tim 4:14, Do not neglect gift given through prophecy & elders hands. Unless we tend the fire it dies down. We need to attend to the ministry God has given us- Col 4:17 Archipus to heed to fulfill ministry called to.
- Is there a work in us that we need to attend to? A gift we need to exercise?
- Easier to steer something that's moving- start to speak in tongues in faith.
- Muscle. Gift grows with use- tongues- one language, Paul spoke in tongues more than Corinthians. Known and unknown languages (men & angels-1Cor 13:1)- Tony Reynolds Galic, Zulu, Tony Nam person spoke Mandarin. My tongues can change. Pictures- ask what means & expect answers to come. Have enquiring mind- Jer 1:11, 13 Jeremiah sees 2 things, God asks him what he sees, he answers God and

then God gives the interpretation. When God audibly called Samuel He only spoke prophetic words to him when Samuel responded & asked Him to speak & listened to the answer. When Zech saw things he didn't understand he asked the meaning- Zech 4:4 (2 Olive trees). Dan 7:16,19- Daniel asks about what the pictures of beasts mean. Rev 17:6,7- John marvelled at the mystery of what the harlot of Babylon was and so the angel told him.

- Stewardship- dream diary- have more. Words- write down.
- Stepping into mantle. Overcoming fear- me first day in charge of ward & having keys of SEN 'E' grade. You've been trained by the best to do a job- step into your mantle. 1Kings 2:13-15- Elisha took up the fallen mantle of Elijah for himself- he had asked for a double-portion (firstborn inheritance) of the spirit of Elijah. Elijah said to him that if he saw him when he was taken it would be his. Elisha did see him taken up in the whirlwind with a chariot of fire. He had previously seen his master divide the Jordan with his mantle, so now he decided to do the same asking 'where is the God of Elijah?' and the waters opened. Elisha decided to walk in the mantle promised to him. Do we know the mantles that God has for us? Are we walking in them?
- Use the gifts you have as stepping stones to break into new gifts- e.g. Speaking in tongues opens the line of communication between you and God so that God can speak. Atmosphere of faith, the presence of the anointing- is Saul also among the prophets? Bring me a musician- Elisha to king of Israel 2Kings 3:15 (music brought about release of the gift of prophecy). David played harp and Saul was delivered of demonic oppression. Use worship CD's to get into God's presence.

God desires a flowing together of the gifts in love-Rom 12:1-8

- We present our bodies as a living sacrifice- temple language. Reasonable=logical (because of God's mercy to us in Chap 1-11) service (literally work, ministry- a servant in the temple, hence worship). ILLUSTRATION- Me playing Jesus, feeling self-conscious, but He was willing to go through humiliation for me. Using our spiritual gifts to serve Him is our logical response to His gift of mercy to us. We are a living sacrifice- we are just the pizza delivery boy, we make our bodies a channel, a vessel for God to use for His glory.
- Humility. The word 'gift' in this passage comes from the word 'grace' in this passage- it is something we have been given rather than something we have earned. Some Christians elevate themselves because of their gift, as if it was given as a reward- it wasn't- it is a gift.
- The 'my ministry' obsession- the word 'ministry'=service. We are all to be ministers (servants). What if not recognised? Keep serving in humility and will be raised up- God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble- take the low seat at the table and the master of the table will see you and invite you up. Paul was not recognised by many initially, except Barnabbas, but didn't give way to discouragement- kept serving faithfully. Eventually came to be recognised by other Apostles. Jesus' ministry was not recognised or accepted by many, but God vindicated Him by raising Him from the dead- let God do the vindicating in His time.
- All given a measure of faith by God's grace to us (Rom 12:3,6, Eph 4:7) and we need one another's measure to complete us (Eph 4:13), which will happen as each part does its work (Eph 4:16). Eph 4- Then the body won't be mature and not swayed by every wind of doctrine- won't need to look elsewhere for what is missing in the gifts- won't need any more conferences. Also unity comes when each person uses their gifts unselfishly for the common good of the body. The opposite is also true- disunity comes when our gifts are used selfishly or not in a way motivated by love. E.g. Corinth using tongues as a status symbol rather than to edify the body-

result=confusion and friction.

- We are called to use our gifts in proportion to our measure of faith- don't compare yourself to others and just do the minimal and cruise- let your faith be stretched.
- Faith grows and gifts grow. Faith in congregations and nations grows. E.g. Not many with gift of miracles in West, but God very willing to give it, will change as we press forward. Congregations can have faith for some gifts and not others- press in for what's missing.
- Character all important, even above gifting. Can disqualify yourself from certain areas of service if do not work on character.

Summary

- God wants to give new gifts today
- God wants existing gifts to be stirred up
- God desires a flowing together of the gifts in love

Song: *Soaking. Praying for people to be filled with HS and to operate in gifts.*