

Introduction

Last week, we looked at not by might, not by power, but Living by the Spirit of God.

The power of God comes by the Spirit of God, not by any other source.

Everything we need to do and say has already been bestowed upon us and given to us freely. We don't have to strive for it, or work it up, it is already in us:

Scripture

- **Zechariah 4:6**

⁶So he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty.

Living in His Presence, and having a continual encounter with God, gives us purpose, and ultimately, will be for the advancing of the Kingdom of God.

All God gives us by His Spirit, is His equipping us to be effective in the Kingdom of God.

Any gift, talent or ability given to you is ultimately to fulfill Gods purposes.

Since we started we have been looking at relationship which leads to revelation so now we need to look at responding to revelation.

Respond: to make a return by some action; to react favourably

Whatever God has revealed in our hearts we should have working in our own lives and Paul said to King Agrippa in

Scripture

- **Acts 26:19**

¹⁹Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision: **I have not been disobedient to the heavenly calling.**

Paul responded to the revelation which was downloaded into him by writing most of the New Testament. Paul was:

1. **A Great Apostle:**

Scripture

- **1 corinthians 1:1**

¹Paul called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother,

2. **He Was A Man That Moved In Signs And Wonders:**

Scripture

- **Acts 14:3**

³So [Paul and Barnabas] stayed on there for a long time, speaking freely and fearlessly and boldly in the Lord, Who continued to bear testimony to the Word of His grace, granting signs and wonders to be performed by their hands.

3. He Was A Great Missionary:

Scripture

- **Acts 15:1**

¹NOW AFTER [Paul and Silas] had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews.

4. He Was A Man That Went Through Persecution:

Scripture

- **Acts 14:19**

¹⁹But some Jews arrived there from Antioch and Iconium; and having persuaded the people and won them over, they stoned Paul and [^[a]afterward] dragged him out of the town, thinking that he was dead.

5. He Was A Servant:

Scripture

- **Phil 1:1**

¹Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

6. He Released Others:

Scripture

- **2 Timothy 4:5**

But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

As Christians, frustration and dissatisfaction comes from not responding to what God has done in our own heart. We are never given talents or gifts to bury them. We are called to respond to them and release them.

Peter, in the scripture below, gives us some guidelines concerning the gifts and how we should respond to the gift that God has blessed us with.

Scripture

- **1 Peter 4:10-11**

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

In this passage of scripture, we understand that Peter was saying that we all have gifts and goes on to say how we should use those gifts.

1. Each one should use whatever gift you have:

Scripture

- **2 Cor. 9:12**

Your gifts meet the needs of God's people. And that's not all. Your gifts also cause many people to thank God.

No one is excluded.

Everyone, with no exceptions has been bestowed or given a gift from God.

God has deposited into us a gift or gifts that are not for us but for others.

You may feel like you aren't important or the gift you have is not like someone else's. But each of us is an important part to the body of Christ.

Some may be more visible, others may be crucial parts of the body, but you don't see them.

In the natural, we can't live without a heartbeat, but you don't see the heart, it is what keeps us alive, but it dwells on the inside. It is the most crucial part of the body, but not visible.

Scripture

- **Romans 12:5**

⁵so in Christ we, though many, ***form*** one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

Your gift might not be as visible as someone else's but it is very important. Nothing God gives us is unimportant, or useless. There is a purpose in it.

To think of the gift you received from God as unimportant or useless, really is an insult to God who gave the gift!

To get a revelation of how your gift is necessary to others, will empower you to move confidently by His Spirit to be effective.

We cannot be jealous or envious of someone else's gift. We have received the perfect gift From God that He deemed perfect for us.

There are times we need to stir up the gift inside us because we have not used it.

Scripture

- **2 Tim: 1:6** (Amp)

⁶That is why I would remind you to stir up (rekindle the embers of, fan the flame of, and keep burning) the [gracious] gift of God, [the inner fire] that is in you by means of the laying on of my hands [^[a]with those of the elders at your ordination].

We cannot let the gifts, or the fire that resides in us to die. If you don't use it, it loses its effectiveness. So we are encouraged to keep the gift burning that is inside us.

To use our gifts and allow the Holy Spirit to teach us how and when to use them, will keep them working and effective.

2. **To serve others:**

Scripture

- **Philipians 2:3**

³ Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves.

So the gift we have is for serving, not for selfish motives and ambitions. Loving and serving others brings joy, and contentment.

To see someone benefit from your serving is what God is looking for.

We are all pieces of the same body and without one part, which is you, the body is not complete and is broken.

No servant is greater than his master. We become less and He becomes more. He already gave us all of Him, we must decrease and he must increase. This is not passive but active.

'Using' is an action word. We are to be proactive in looking for ways to serve others with what we have received.

3. Faithful stewards of God's grace in various forms:

Scripture

- **Ephesians 3:2**

²Assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace (His unmerited favour) that was entrusted to me [to dispense to you] for your benefit,

We are to be good stewards of the grace of God.

The gift you have is only by His Grace. It is not something you worked up, or had to earn. We cannot claim that the capacity of our gift came from our self. We did not produce it, so we cannot claim it.

It is a gift, a favour bestowed upon us. Our gifts are for the purposes of bringing people into freedom.

We exercise our gift in grace because we received our gift by grace!

4. When we speak we should speak very words of God:

Scripture

- **1 Corinthians 2:1**

¹ Brothers and sisters, when I came to you I didn't come with fancy words or great wisdom. I preached to you the truth about God's love.

We should be speaking the words of God. So much of our speaking is mixed with humanistic views and useless ideologies.

If we haven't trained ourselves to hear God, how can we speak or release what He has said to us? And if we are not gaining revelation from the Word, we are only speaking in natural terms and not spiritual terms.

We should have so much of God that God pours out of our speech, our lives, and our actions.

5. When we serve we should do it with strength God provides:

Scripture

- **1 John 2:20**

²⁰But you have been anointed by [you hold a sacred appointment from, you have been given an unction from] the Holy One, and you all know [the Truth] or you know all things.

He is encouraging us to serve NOT in our own strength but in the strength that God gives.

If we truly are serving because He is the One giving us the word to do so, we will have the strength of God, because it is now empowered and backed up by God's word!

If we get an instruction by God, you can be sure that He will give you all things needed to carry out that assignment.

6. In all things God may be praised through Christ:

Scripture

- **Hebrews 13:15**

¹⁵Through Him, therefore, let us constantly and at all times offer up to God a sacrifice of praise, which is the fruit of lips that thankfully acknowledge and confess and glorify His name. ^(A)

7. That He gets all the Glory and power Amen!

Scripture

- **1 Corinthians 10:31**

So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

AA Allen wrote in a book no servant is no greater than His master.

John the Baptist said that he must decrease and Jesus must increase.

A religious saying that I don't understand is this: people running around saying they want more of God, I find that hard to comprehend because God cannot be divided or cut up in small pieces.

What we should say is that I want less of myself and that I respond to revelation of the knowledge in my heart.

When Jesus came to take up residence in us when we were born again, all of Him came.

When we were baptised in the Holy Spirit, not a part of the Spirit came, but the whole of the Holy Spirit.

To be baptised means to be fully submerged. We don't have a part of the Kingdom with us; we have the whole Kingdom with us.

So once we come to an understanding of that and change our confession this passage of scripture written by Peter would be more alive and active in our hearts.

As a diver dives for the pearls, so should we dive deeper and deeper into the Word for the revelation of who Christ is in us, what He can accomplish through us, so we can become dispatchers of truth so others can become complete and healed and set free by the resurrection power of Jesus Christ.

This week use your gift to bless someone and see freedom come and joy into their lives.