

GRACESPRING BIBLE CHURCH ON

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

gracespring is committed to the authority of God's revealed Word. We are also committed to leveraging the resources that God has provided us (*Ephesians 1:3*) to accomplish the purposes that He has built in each of us personally, and the local family of faith collectively. The gift of the Holy Spirit has been given permanently to the New Testament Church as the means by which we are to function. Yet we do see His work in a more "coming and going" way throughout the Old Testament. The Holy Spirit imparts spiritual gifts as He chooses. All of the gifts of the Holy Spirit are vital for the mission of the church and are to be earnestly desired and practiced. While all genuine believers are indwelt by the Holy Spirit at conversion, the New Testament indicates the importance of an ongoing, empowering work of the Spirit, as a matter of practice.

Throughout church history, there are various views pertaining to the relevance and exercise of gifts, particularly "sign gifts" that some would argue are more normative in giving credence to the message being proclaimed. We would argue that each gift mentioned in Scripture has merit today and can be witnessed beautifully in the Church worldwide. We must also be aware, of course, that some claim the gifts of the Holy Spirit in ways that are beyond Scriptural bounds. This means that it is important for us to understand Scriptural descriptions and depictions of the Holy Spirit and His works.

ABOUT SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Spiritual gifts are supernatural abilities given by the Holy Spirit to Jesus followers in service to others.

The gifts promised in the New Testament continue to be given today. (*1 Corinthians 12:4-11*)

All Jesus followers have at least one gift, but no one gift is for everyone.

The Spirit determines which gifts are needed for whatever context at any given time.

Spiritual gifts can come and go, depending on the need. (*Romans 1:11-12*)

Each of us should know, develop, and responsibly use the gifts that we currently possess.

We should understand, value, and desire the contribution of all the gifts in our church family.

All should exercise their gifts in love, in good order, and in submission to the appointed leaders of their spiritual community. (*Ephesians 4:11-16*)

ABOUT SPIRIT BAPTISM AND FILLING

We are baptized once, but renewed daily.

We are baptized by the Spirit into the Body of Christ at conversion. (*1 Corinthians 12:13*)

We are filled by the Spirit daily as we yield to His leading and empowerment for godly living. (*Ephesians 5:18*)

The evidence of “being filled” is the fruit of the Spirit. (*Galatians 5:22-23*) Jesus said that you will know a tree by its fruit. (*Matthew 7:16*)

ABOUT THE GIFT OF HEALING

God chooses to heal and sometimes does not, yet He is good always.

God continues to heal both naturally and supernaturally today.

If physically pained, we should ask Him for healing, and not be afraid to ask church Elders for assistance in anointing with oil in obedience to the Scriptures. (*James 5:14*)

God chooses to restrict certain healing until there is prayer and, sometimes, fasting. (*Mark 9:29*)

God can heal through the tools and expertise of modern medicine or through supernatural intervention.

At times, God allows suffering to persist without healing for His greater purposes, often including the redemptive good of the sufferer or those close to them. (*II Corinthians 1:3-4*)

ABOUT TONGUES

Some do and some don't.

The Bible seems to indicate two kinds of tongue gifts: one being speaking a foreign language not known to the speaker for the preaching of the gospel, and the other being ecstatic utterances that are “spiritual” or are a “prayer language.” (*Acts 2:5-8; 1 Corinthians 13:1*)

Tongues can be a powerful connector of a person's spirit to the Holy Spirit.

Like all other gifts, the gift of tongues is a gift not given to all. (*1 Corinthians 12:4-11*)

Speaking in tongues is not a sign of greater spiritual power or maturity.

Because of the size of our congregation, and how we see the gift of tongues modeled in Scripture, we currently do not feel led to exercise this gift in our weekly gatherings. Yet we do not frown upon using this gift personally or in smaller settings. (*1 Corinthians 14:27-28*)

ABOUT PROPHECY

Eagerly desire, but always test.

Prophecy is the act of receiving a God-given message and passing it on to others.

Scripture says to eagerly desire this gift (*1 Corinthians 14:1*) because its purpose is to edify individual members, as well as the church body.

Because prophecy can be flawed by our human imperfections, it must be delivered with humility and the encouragement to “test” to see whether it is from God. (*1 Thessalonians 5:20-21*)

Before any prophecy is shared with another, it should first be tested by Scripture, God’s character, and wise counsel. (*1 John 4:1*)

Prophecy should be shared in a way that is not attempting to claim God’s exact purpose or plan for someone. For example, say: *“I sense that God wants me to share this, though I’m not saying ‘thus says the Lord’.”*

We believe these encounters need to happen individually, and not corporately.

If there is a prophecy that is for the church at large, please notify any of the pastors or Elders so this can be discerned for public sharing.

IN SUMMARY

Our desire is that we provide an environment where our people can use their God-given gifts in a way that makes much of Jesus. May we continue to contend for unity in the midst of the beautiful diversity God has brought here to gracespring Bible Church!

