The Ministry Week 3

The Ministry

We believe in the ministries that Christ has set in His Church, namely, apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers and in the present operation of the manifold Gifts of the Holy Spirit according to the New Testament.

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We are not what theologians like to describe as "Cessationists"; that is that the gifts of the Holy Spirit, particularly the super-natural ones mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12 ceased in the first century.

We believe in the manifold gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Some say that there are 9, 12, 19, 21, 28, 100+ spiritual gifts

> *7Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 8To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 9to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, 10to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. 11All these are the work of*

one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines. 1 CORINTHIANS 12:7-11

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 1 Corinthians 12:7

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are the means and instruments of power to carry out successfully the operation and administration of God's work in His church. DAVID YONGI CHO

Without the right functioning of these gifts it is impossible for the local church, its leaders and members, to fulfil the high objectives God has planned for her in the world today.

He also writes; *"the church of God is a divine organism. It was never intended to be an organisation limited by human ability, operating by man's ingenuity and directed by hierarchies and committees. EDMUND HEDDLE.*

These Holy Spirit supernatural gifts are given because as human beings *we cannot* grow the church.

He gives them to each one, just as he determines. 1 Corinthians 12:11

> *It is not that man uses the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Rather, the Holy Spirit, who uses a person and manifests the gifts through him according to His own will, time and situation.* DAVID YONGI CHO

Natural abilities we have permanently and we decide whether we are going to use them or not. We take the initiative.

Holy Spirit gifts are given when needed, and it's God who takes the initiative.

The operation of these gifts depends upon us hearing God and responding to His prompting.

So you remember in Acts 3 Peter and John were going to the temple to pray and God tells Peter to pray for the lame man.

> *Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have I give thee, in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.* ACTS 3:6

Peter and John had probably passed that lame beggar hundreds of times before on the way to the temple for prayer. What was different that time? The Holy Spirit quickened him. God spoke to Peter go and pray for that chap and release the Gift of healing in Jesus' name.

This is a distinctive of the supernatural gifts - we need to hear God's voice and co-operate with what He is asking us to do.

Many don't recognise when God is speaking to them.

In John 12 Jesus is talking about his death.

> *"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.*
> *JOHN 12:23*

> *"Father, glorify your name!" Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again."*
> *JOHN 12:28*

Wow, a voice from heaven. You'd have thought nobody would have missed it, but most did.

> *Then the crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him."*
> *JOHN 12:29*

What does this tell me? It tells me that most people who hear God's voice, often put it down to something else.

In this instance – it's the weather – it's just a natural phenomenon. We can explain it away,

God can actually speak but there is a natural tendency to explain it away, and attribute God's voice to something else.

"Oh it was the pizza with all that cheese on it. I'm tired I'm not thinking rationally. It's just a coincidence."

In this passage that we just read from John. The voice of God was for the very people who explained it away.

We hear the voice of God but we often don't recognise it for what it is.

How do I know that it is God speaking? How do I know this is God and not me?

a) Is it the kind of thing the Holy Spirit would say?

Think about the fruit of the Spirit. Is this full of love, is it full of joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

So if believe God was giving you a prophetic word for someone, and the content was, "I believe that God would want to encourage you to rest in his arms and know the love and comfort of his embrace, knowing that you are loved, and he is caring for you."

You can see her that there is some love, there is some peace, there is kindness, goodness, there is gentleness, there is faithfulness.

But if you heard something which said: *The Lord has had enough of your sin, and he has come to the end of His tether with you. You are good for nothing. Fire and brimstone are going to fall on you at midnight.*

Well you know that is not the kind of thing that God would say. Your sin has been dealt with on the cross. He no longer treats you according to your sin, but according to Jesus. He's not come to the end of his tether, He's promised never to leave you nor forsake you. There is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus.

b) Is this the kind of thing that Jesus would do?

Does this draw someone nearer to Christ or push them away? Does it build them up or destroy them?

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. JOHN 10:10

Then ask yourself the question, "Am I acting in Love?"

Now we are all familiar with 1 Corinthians 13.

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-7

1 Corinthians 12 defines the spiritual gifts, 1 Corinthians 13 tells us they should be administered in love, 1 Corinthians 14 tells us how they should be managed in the church setting.

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.

If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-2

"Without love, the gifts are worthless." NIV LIFE APPLICATION BIBLE

The Word of knowledge

The word of knowledge is the supernatural revelation of facts about a person or situation, which is not learned through the efforts of the natural mind, but is a fragment of knowledge freely given by God, disclosing the truth which the Spirit wishes to be made known. JOHN WIMBER ADAPTED BY DAVID PYTCHES.

Biblical Examples

a) A revelation of some people to meet.

19 While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, 'Simon, three[a] men are looking for you. 20 So get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them.' ACTS 10:19-20

When Samuel caught sight of Saul, the LORD said to him, "This is the man I spoke to you about; he will govern my people." 1 SAMUEL 9:17

So how might we see this in operation today?

God may speak to you. You are going to me someone today that I want you to pray for. And when you catch sight of them, God confirms to your heart, "This is the person I want you to pray for or speak to. Ot this is the person for the job."

b) A revelation of something which was hidden.

So they enquired further of the Lord, 'Has the man come here yet?'

And the Lord said, 'Yes, he has hidden himself among the supplies.' 1 SAMUEL 10:22

God may give you revelation about where something may be found. May be you have lost something God gives your revelation.

I once knew someone who wrote computer code, and there was a buy in some software, and it was his job to find it. He described it as trying to find a needle in a haystack. We prayed for this chap at the early morning prayer meeting, and on the way out as he was putting his coat on, he said "God's just told me where to look".

c) A revelation about a person's situation that demonstrates love, and God's care.

The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.' JOHN 4:18

Now traditionally this is read as Jesus telling the woman off, but as I have said on a previous occasion this is a word of compassion. “I see the heartache that you have been through with losing 5 husbands and I see the fear of committing yourself again.” Jesus does not condemn.

And sometimes when we are talking to people or even in a church situation God will plant a word of knowledge in your mind.

“I just want you to know that God sees the sleepless nights and the heartache that you have been going through. He loves you, and wants you to know He has not deserted you.”

A word of love, a kind word, a gentle word, a word of encouragement. A word that builds up.

The Gift of the word of wisdom.

In the bible we find.

The wisdom of man. *Ecclesiastes 1:16-18*

The wisdom of the world. *1 Corinthians 2:6*

The wisdom of God. *1 Corinthians 2:6-7*

> *The word of wisdom is the sudden miraculous giving of wisdom to meet a given situation or answer a particular question. Dennis and Rita Bennet.*

The Pharisees ask Jesus whether it was right to pay the poll tax to Caesar or not. *(MATTHEW 22:15-22)*

Jesus full of wisdom responds: Whose image is on the back of the coin? Caesar's they replied.

Give to Caesar with is Caesar's give to God what is God's.

Then another example often quoted is when the two mothers are arguing about who a baby belongs to., Solomon said cut the child in two, and have half each. But, he knew the real mother would not allow their child to be killed. **1 KINGS 3:16-28**

> *The word of wisdom is needed, in our lives to enable us to share the other Gifts of the Spirit correctly. For example,* ***it is one thing to receive a word of prophecy, knowledge, faith, healing, etc., but it is entirely another thing to deliver that gift in such a way as to allow it to have its fullest impact.*** *Many people receive information and gifts in the Holy Spirit, but do not always know how to deliver, nor to whom. If we do not minister in God's wisdom we can make mistakes, cause disrespect to the gifts, show insensitivity to the person or people we are delivering the information to, and even cause offence. The gift may be right, but the manner of dispensing it may be wrong. The word of wisdom helps us to deliver it right - "the right application of knowledge."*

RODNEY FRANCIS.

If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. JAMES 1:5