



BACK 2 THE BASICS

Let's be a...

2:3 MINISTRIES

- Praying
- Word Devouring
- Confessional
- Serving
- Spirit-Led

Church.



Let's be a Praying Church

This a small sample of prayers from the Bible that we ran through on Sunday morning.

Luke 5:16 But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

Garden: Matthew 26-Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Harvest: Luke 10-The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.

Early Church: We see they devoted themselves to it...Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Prayer of Agur:

Proverbs 30:7-9 Two things I ask of you; deny them not to me before I die:
8 Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, 9 lest I be full and deny you and say, "Who is the Lord?" or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God.

Prayer of David

Psalms 51:1-2 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!

Prayer of Solomon

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1 Kings 8: 44 “When Your people go out to battle against their enemy, wherever You send them, and when they pray to the Lord toward the city which You have chosen and the temple which I have built for Your name, 45 then hear in heaven their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause.

Prayer of Apostles:

Acts 4:24 “Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them...29 grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, 30 while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.

Lord’s Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into
temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever.

Pray Earnestly

Luke 22:44 And being in agony (anguish), he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

Matthew 9:38 “therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

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Job 8:5 But if you will seek God earnestly and plead with the Almighty, 6 if you are pure and upright, even now he will rouse himself on your behalf and restore you to your prosperous state.

Mark 5:22-23

22 Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. 23 He pleaded earnestly with him, “My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live.”

Luke 7:4

When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him, “This man deserves to have you do this, 5 because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue.” 6 So Jesus went with them.

James 5:17

17 Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years.

Acts 12:5

So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him.

Hebrews 11:6

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Colossians 4:2

Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving.

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1 Thessalonians 3:10

Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.

Psalm 63:1

O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

2 Cor 7:11

Just see what this godly sorrow produced in you! Such earnestness, such concern to clear yourselves, such indignation, such alarm, such longing to see me, such zeal, and such a readiness to punish wrong. You showed that you have done everything necessary to make things right.

Let's be a Word devouring church.

These are notes that we preached on regarding the Word on Jan 14, 2024.

The Word is alive and active and sharper than any double edged sword. It lays open the soul and spirit, joints and marrow, the inmost recesses of the mind and intentions of the heart. Hebrews 4:12

Have you ever been in a church and you're like he's speaking right to me!?

Jesus used the word as profitable for teaching, correcting, rebuking, & training. 2 Timothy 3:16

The Word crushes powerfully the enemy (Matthew 4), convinces powerfully of who He is (Luke 24; convicts powerfully of who we are (Acts 2); comforts powerfully believers (Romans 15:4)

Jesus is the Word and the Word is Jesus. We must digest and satisfy our palettes with Him. John 1:24, John 6:51.

Is this why when I'm reading the Bible I often feel like the Bible is reading me?

The word is your weapon. Ephesians 6:17 "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."

Revelation 19:15: "From his mouth came a sharp sword to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron rod. He will release the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty, like juice flowing from a winepress."

Hebrews 4:12

12 For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

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AMP: For the word of God is living and active and full of power [making it operative, energizing, and effective]. It is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating as far as the division of the soul and spirit [the completeness of a person], and of both joints and marrow [the deepest parts of our nature], exposing and judging the very thoughts and intentions of the heart.

exposing and sifting and analyzing and judging the very thoughts and purposes of the heart.

discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

laying open the soul and spirit, joints and marrow, the inmost recesses of the mind

No creature has any cover from the sight of God; everything lies naked and exposed before the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

2 Tim 3:16

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

AMP: All Scripture is God-breathed [given by divine inspiration] and is profitable for instruction, for conviction [of sin], for correction [of error and restoration to obedience], for training in righteousness [learning to live in conformity to God's will, both publicly and privately—behaving honorably with personal integrity and moral courage];

Let's be a confessional church.

These are notes from our message on Jan 21, 2024 .

Confession is habitual.

Just like prayer and the Word, it must be a regular practice of a believing church.

None of us become a Christian if we don't confess; none of us grow if we don't confess; none of us continue to change if we don't confess.

Confession is central to a healthy body of believers. In fact, you essentially wouldn't say someone is a believer, unless they were confessional.

Jesus says, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." Matt 4:17

John the beloved disciple says 1 John 1:9 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

James the half-brother of Jesus says, James 5:16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

Peter the rock says "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Matthew 16:16. Oh don't worry, he denies. But then he weeps.

Paul the greatest convert in history says in 1 Cor 11:31 "if we judge ourselves we will not come under judgment." I have sinned. By Accusing ourselves, we prevent Satan's accusing.

Jesus tells the parable of the Lost (Prodigal) Son Luke 15:17

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17 “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! 18 I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”” 20 And he arose and came to his father.

The prodigal son charged himself with sin, before his father did. Confession must be voluntary.

God lets people go their way.

We think we can live it up.

We end up eating pig food.

We come to our senses.

We run back to the father.

He has wide open arms and doesn’t even let us finish our sentence.

We say we don’t deserve to be the best servant.

He gives us a feast and celebrates.

He shows his other grumbling son He wants all to repent...

Because we were lost but now found; dead but now alive.

Confession is healing.

We have joy even when we heavily address sin. The reality. The grips. The depravity. The weight.

Confession helps us recognize who we are. We often think our friends or family members are good people but none of us are good, not one. And we have to stop looking at these things as insults or negative self talk, it's the truth from the Bible. Confessing is addressing the negative so that we can address the nature of our hearts.

Confession is healthy.

Confession humbles us, reminds that the root within bears gall and wormwood, subscribes us as a hell-deserving sinner; gives vent to a troubled heart....but MAGNIFIES free Grace and love and admiration for what Jesus Christ did for us.

This is why confession is one of the greatest self-esteem boosts!

We can feel God's arms wide open.

We can worship more purely when we confess our sins.

Proverbs 28:13

He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, But he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion.

Acts 3:19 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.

Confession never stops.

No matter what, for the rest our lives, the battle between flesh and spirit will continue. (Romans 7:15). Jesus said the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.

Confession is turning (repenting). Not just tearful eyes; but a turning life.

Eventually we need to get to the point where we stop apologizing and actually CHANGE!

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“No man confessing with the heart that Jesus is Lord can commit iniquity deliberately—the two things are utterly incompatible.”

“It is an elementary principle in the true church, that all who become members of it should lead holy lives.”

2 Timothy 2:9 “The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.”

Acts 19:17-19

And fear fell upon them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor. 18 Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices. 19 And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all.

What in your life do you have to confess, divulge, and now BURN?!

Let's be a serving church

These are my notes from Sunday Jan 28, 2023.

Before we review today's story, let's talk priorities.

In business, Amber and I learned real quick that you have to focus on the people right in front of you. It's easy to get caught up in marketing to grow your business. But people who are already coming deserve your attention and intention. It's an art that's never mastered. Invite outsiders, but nurture insiders more.

Also, it's real easy to get caught up in "doing" because you think you are doing work for the Kingdom and it's all about growth—all the while your family is getting neglected on the back burner.

- Priority number 1: family first. We must be a group that pushes each other to meet the needs of our families first. Story of Charles Stanley getting divorced.
- Priority number 2: there are needs within your walls that should be addressed first. Quote from John MacArther about his church for the first three years, "Nothing was really happening but I look back and realize God was uniting and strengthening the core, then he started to add, and we were ready."

Today's Main passage

The early church experienced internal conflict. One group of Christians complained that their widows were not experiencing the same treatment as another group of Christian widows, both within the same church body who was now joined together. The leaders (the original 12 apostles) delegated the responsibility so they could stick to their gifts of prayer and ministry, and let others use their gifts to serve the basic needs of daily distributions.

Before we get to Acts 6, here's the context leading up to this point:

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- We're about a year into the church start up.
- Early in Acts 1 we see 120 in the upper room. Who do they wait on? The Holy Spirit.
- Peter then gives the first church sermon. Explosion begins.
- **Who adds?** "The Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." Acts 2:47
- Oh, but don't worry. The author of Acts, Luke, does not sugar coat. He doesn't only give you the highlight reel of amazing worship, production-filled service, 100's of baptisms, and dynamic speaking. He gives you the for real for real! He lays out the persecution. (External attacks). And then he lays out some serious internal attacks...
- Do you know the crazy story of the two who die when they lie to the Holy Spirit in Acts 5? The Lord works through Peter and drops them dead on the spot. **God subtracts** Annanias and Sapphira.
- And then he takes us into Acts 6 with an internal church complaint. Among Christians. Under the guidance of the most influential Christians who ever walked the face of this earth!

READ ACTS 6:1-7

What do we see?

#1. No church is perfect because humans are imperfect.

Unlike other organizations though, we are a Spiritual organism! Who is the Head? Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1:20-23 he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. 22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Therefore let's look at our leader:

Back to the Basics – 2:3 Ministries

- He came not to be served but to serve as a ransom for many. Matthew 20:28
- And he washes his disciple's feet telling them, John 13: 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. 16 Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.
- So if in the least bit we follow Christ's example, serve each other, get rid of the student is greater than the teacher mentality., we will be blessed.

#2. God appoints leaders.

- The Apostles were called into prayer and ministry. They stayed focused on their calling and instead of attending to a new service project, they delegate to others to use their gifts, skills, and calling to fulfill that responsibility.
- They said "it would not be right" to leave their calling. MASSIVE prayer, and teaching the WORD.
- They look for the character qualities in the new seven servers: mainly "full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom."
- They were wise to let the complaining group also become the problem solvers.
- "The proposal pleased the whole group."

#3. Operating within your gifting matters.

- The leaders of a ministry will get behind others to support them in their giftings.
- All gifts matter: 1 Corinthians 12:21 The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" 22 On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, 24 while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, 25 so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. 26 If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

#4. Conflict will happen, how you handle it is critical.

- God adds and subtracts, **who divides?** The enemy.
- We cannot let dissension happen. When a complaint arises, we don't assume and build up. We address and healthily get solution-focused.
- If we are a relentlessly praying, Word-devouring, confessional body, we will ward off any divisive tactics.
- What do we know? We are unified by One spirit, One baptism, One faith, One Lord, One Father, who is over all and through all and in all. Ephesians 4
- “The early church had problems but, according to Acts, it also had leaders who moved swiftly to ward off corruption and find solutions to internal conflicts, supported by people who listened to each other with open minds and responded with good will.”

RECAP:

When we submit to the head of the church...

When we operate out of a service oriented mindset...

When we ask what can we do instead of what can others do...

When we strengthen inwardly by operating within our gifts...

Who then multiplies? God.

Acts 6:7 “So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.”

Action step: we should unofficially officially appoint Elders.

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- Read Acts 20:17, From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church.
- Acts 20:28, Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, ^[a] which he bought with his own blood.^[b] ²⁹ I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. ³⁰ Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. ³¹ So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.
- 1 Timothy 3:1-13, **3** Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task. ² Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³ not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. ⁴ He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full^[a] respect. ⁵ (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) ⁶ He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. ⁷ He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.
- Titus 1:5-9, ⁵ The reason I left you in Crete was that you might put in order what was left unfinished and appoint^[a] elders in every town, as I directed you. ⁶ An elder must be blameless, faithful to his wife, a man whose children believe^[b] and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. ⁷ Since an overseer manages God's household, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. ⁸ Rather, he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. ⁹ He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

Let's be a Spirit-Led church

These are my notes from Sunday, February 11, 2024.

Main point of today: Understand as a Christian-you have Him!

What does Jesus say about the Holy Spirit?

Watch this: His names, why He comes, what He does, that He is a He...👉

- John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. (CSB)
- John 14:26 The Helper is the Holy Spirit. The Father will send Him in My place. He will teach you everything and help you remember everything I have told you.
- John 15:26 But when the Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Advocate, Intercessor, Strengtheners, Standby) comes, Whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of Truth Who comes (proceeds) from the Father, He [Himself] will testify regarding Me. (AMPC)
- John 16:7 But very truly I tell you, it is for your good (advantage, benefit, expedient) that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. (NIV)
- John 16:8-11 And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; 10 concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; 11 concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

◦ John 16:13-15 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. 14 He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

✓ **RECAP of what Jesus tells His disciples about the Holy Spirit:** He, not it. He will be with you forever. He will teach you and help you remember what I have told you. He will testify, witness, point to Me. It is to your advantage that I must GO. He will convict the world of sin, righteousness, & judgment. He will guide you into all truth, declare to you things that are to come, glorify Me.

Before you're a Christian, the Holy Spirit SURROUNDS you:

He's bringing you to the Lord...he's helping you SEE & HEAR differently...He's waking you up from the walking dead...

◦ Maybe you notice His Creation differently and you say to yourself, there's gotta be something more.

◦ Or for many of us—maybe it's hitting rock bottom. I'm lost. I'm confused. I'm addicted. I'm destroyed and destroying. I'm angry. I'm jealous. I'm dissatisfied even though I have everything that I need and want. Ecclesiastes tells us that eternity is set in our heart. All is vanity. It's a chasing after the wind and we can't grasp it. That yearning to fill that void is the HS guiding us to the only One who can. My way ain't working; I'm willing to try Yours. Job said I could HEAR you Lord but now I SEE you. Take everything away. Life doesn't make sense. I'm broken. But now you're so real; I feel your love more than ever; I'm ready to be rebuilt.

◦ There's a Convicting of sin because if we don't know we are sinners then we can't begin to fathom that we need a Savior.

✓ He's then helping you in your walk.

✓ He's always going to point to Jesus

✓ This is the Normal Christian life.

One baptism – many fillings!

- Billy Graham quote: “Some Christians have used the terms like the second baptism or the second blessing or a second work of grace. None of these terms are used in the Bible, but I realize for many people they are simply semantic equivalents for the “fullness of the Spirit. The name we give the experience is less important than that we actually be filled with the Spirit.”
- 1 Corinthians 6:19 do you not know?! (And Paul was he talking to sinful, infant Christians)
- John 7:38 “He who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’”
- Ephesians 1:13-14 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.
- John 14:17 “the Spirit of truth will be in you...”
- 1 Corinthians 3:16 “the Spirit of God dwells in you.”
- Romans 8:9 “You, however, are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to him.”

At the moment you become a Christian-the Holy Spirit is IN YOU

- It seems clear to me that at the moment of true regeneration, the HS is in you and we are called to yield to him continually, constantly, courageously, always.

Back to the Basics – 2:3 Ministries

- I just want to encourage and build confidence in y'all, have peace, rest, but it's also ok to wrestle. Just know, there is no need to AGONIZOMAI or pray a formula to "get the Spirit." We have received Him already, not as a result of our works or struggle so that none of us can boast, but as an unmerited, undeserved, gift of Grace!
- Also know, no one has any more of the Spirit than you. It's not about quantity. ***It's not how much of the Spirit we have, but how much the Spirit has of us.***



Why a Spirit-filled life?

- So that Christ might be glorified.

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- 2 Cor 5:15 And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.
- We probably wouldn't be waking around being boisterous about it. Nowhere do we see in the Bible people making the claim they are filled. What do we see? Others pointing it out!
- What is our motivation? What are we seeking after? Holiness.

Up next: Submitting, Yielding, and Walking in Faith to Obey the Holy Spirit.

Do not block Him.

These are my mere notes from Sunday February 18, 2024.

There is no formula. (Filled in Luke 3x)

- Luke 1:15 John the Baptist in Elizabeth's womb leaps with joy as he recognizes the way the truth the life.
- Luke 1:39 Elizabeth second person filled with the HS and in a loud voice exclaims, "Blessed are you among women...and bless is the child you will bear".
- Luke 1:67 Zechariah third person to be filled and he prophesies (testifies about Jesus).
- *The HS empowers them to show us that Jesus is the Christ.*

Submission/Yielding

#1. Do Not Grieve

Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

- Do not sadden, make unhappy, cause grief or sorrow.

Read context, When you look before and after Ephesians 4:30 Ephesians 4:29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.

REFLECT:

Back to the Basics – 2:3 Ministries

◦ Backbiting, impatience, unkindness, uncontrolled temper, unclean thoughts, road rage...abusing a gift He's giving us, desiring a gift for the wrong reason, desiring someone else's gifting.

1. Truth (John 14:17); so anything false, deceitful, or hypocritical grieves Him.

2. Faith (2 Cor. 4:13); so doubt, distrust, anxiety, and worry grieve Him.

3. Grace (Heb. 10:29); so whatever in us is hard, bitter, malicious, ungracious, unforgiving, or unloving grieves Him.

4. Holiness (Rom. 1:4); so anything unclean, defiling, or degrading grieves Him.

Who rules your life – self or Christ?

Instead of asking to be filled, ask for God to take total control of every aspect of our lives.

#2. Do Not Quench

1 Thess 5:19 Do not quench the Spirit (stifle, extinguish, put out, restrain, or stop the work).

◦ Think of the HS as fire; we don't want to put out the fire! We want to fuel it. Pray. Read. Serve. Gather. Build up. Listen. Believe. Obey.

◦ Read context of 1 Thess 5:19: give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 19 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not despise prophecies, 21 but test everything; hold fast what is good. 22 Abstain from every form of evil.

◦ don't miss this = use of time, use of \$\$, our lifestyle, our lack of using a gift He has given us.

Your filling/gifts (good thing you didn't quench Him):

- Justin leading worship
- Gina giving to feed hungry.
- Izzy turning around to visit Amber in hospital.
- Scott engaging clients in Gospel.
- Andrea sharing a dream.
- Dee Dee inviting neighbor to Christmas Eve.
- Gio confessing to friend and asking for forgiveness.
- Stout leaving his construction job.
- Some of you following when called to come here for church.

Recap: Billy Graham quote:

“Resist not His incomming; grieve not His indwelling; quench not His outgoing. Open to Him as the Incomer; please Him as the Indweller; obey Him as the Outgoer in His testimony of the things concerning Christ, whether through yourself or others.

Being Filled ain't always about a rosey-filled life.

- Stephen was full of the Spirit and also the first Christian martyr stoned to death at the end of His life.
- Jesus was full of the Spirit and also Crucified at the end of His life.
- Paul was full of the Spirit and also beaten, jailed, and beheaded at the end of his life.

Jesus does not necessarily fill us with His spirit to make our lives easier or better in the physical realm.

Up Next: Filled in Acts (5x)

- Acts 2:4 “And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

- Acts 4:8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders...”

- Acts 4:31 “And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.”

- Acts 9:17 “So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

- Acts 13:9 “But Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him and said, “You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all deceit and villainy, will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord?”

5 Things to know about being Filled

I'm looking through Acts for the Greek word *pimplemi* that Luke uses regarding being "Spirit-filled." Some cool takeaways pop out at me.

#1. Sometimes you have to wait.

#2. Sometimes you need to just open your mouth and speak.

#3. Sometimes you have to come back, and pray.

#4. Sometimes you need to lay hands on someone.

#5. Sometimes you need to just say it like it is.

Luke is the author of both the gospel of Luke and Acts. Before we talk about Acts, don't forget about the three instances he shares in the Christmas story.

3 People are Filled with the Spirit in Luke 1:15, 1:39, 1:67:

A baby in mother's womb, the baby's elderly mom, and an elderly priest – the baby's father.

John the Baptist in Elizabeth's womb leaps with joy as he recognizes the way the truth the life (Luke 1:15).

Elizabeth second person filled with the HS and in a loud voice exclaims, "Blessed are you among women...and bless is the child you will bear". (Luke 1:39)

Zechariah third person to be filled and he prophesies (testifies about Jesus, Luke 1:67).

There's a lot to extrapolate. But what's one thing we do see? God chose to fill them with his Holy Spirit to empower them to show us that Jesus is the Christ.

Now, about the 5 Fills in Acts (Acts 2:4, 4:8, 4:31, 9:17, 13:9):

First, what do we know about the 120 in the upper room in Acts 1 after Jesus's ascension to Heaven?

They were told to wait. They were fervently in prayer. They were NOT perfect. They were preparing to teach people about Christ.

What will we see? Repeated fillings. Not specifically asked to be filled but instead, to be used for a purpose.

#1. Sometimes you have to wait.

Some of us want to move swiftly & quickly. We sense urgency and want to act. I can often engage in knee-jerk responses, especially when I get excited about something. It's a good trait. But there will be situations when it's better to be patient, hold back, and wait for the Lord's promptings, nudges, and thrusts.

The apostles and disciples did wait, and then we see what happens in Acts 2:4: "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance."

Peter then gives the first mega church sermon to a huge crowd of unbelievers. Thousands in the crowd hear, are convicted, and convert on the spot.

Jesus said in John 16 that it was better that He go, so that He could send back his Helper (Holy Spirit). As we can see in Acts 2, sometimes it's better that we wait, so that we operate in His strength, not our own.

#2. Sometimes you need to just open your mouth and speak.

Have you ever felt unqualified?

It's not always easy to know what to say, especially if we're put on the spot. Sometimes we don't have the words and our emotions take over.

We see Peter again filled in Acts 4:8. Up to this point the apostles did signs and wonders. The church had grown to 5,000. Peter & John healed a man crippled from birth and the Jews were annoyed that they were proclaiming Jesus. So they brought them before the Sanhedrin to question them.

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers and elders of the people! If we are being questioned today for a good deed done for someone who was sick or to learn how this man was healed, you and all the people of Israel must understand that this man stands healthy before you because of the name of Jesus from Nazareth, whom you crucified, but whom God raised from the dead." (Acts 4:8-11)

The Sanhedrin rulers were shocked by their boldness as uneducated and untrained men. They recognized that they must have been with Jesus, so they let Peter and John go.

We must remember we won't always feel qualified. But now with Jesus, through the power of His Holy Spirit, we will be equipped. Regardless of how you feel, sometimes you just need to pause and push your insecurities to the side, open your mouth, and let His words flow out.

#3. Sometimes you have to come back, and pray.

Gameplans, strategies, and vision plans are all great things. But too much contemplation, analyzing, and prepping can prevent the Spirit from leading.

When Peter & John were released from the rulers, they went back and reported to their church. Together, they first grabbed a whiteboard; no they didn't. They searched the internet for the latest research; not that either. They thought about how other churches do it; not quite. They all raised their voices to God in prayer.

They shared their hearts and didn't ask to be filled by the Spirit but instead to what?

Acts 4:29 to "allow your servants to speak your word boldly."

Acts 4:31 "And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness."

I'm not against praying to be filled. But I'm wondering if instead we turn our hearts to the purpose for why we seek the filling. For example, may we make this a regular part of our prayers—"Lord, we pray for boldness to speak your Word, even to a hostile audience, just like the early church did."

#4. Sometimes you need to lay hands on someone.

I love the conversion story of Paul. He becomes the most powerful influence for Christianity. What piqued my interest when I first heard it is the man not many know the name of, who initiates his conversion.

Acts 9:17 "So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

Could you imagine being told by the Lord to go lay hands on someone like Hitler!?

Ananias even tried to back out. "But the Lord told him, "Go, because he's my chosen instrument to carry my name to unbelievers." Acts 9:15

I say there is no formula to be filled by the Spirit. Some may posit that certain people need to you lay hands on you to impart Him. I don't see that in scripture nor from experience. He can fill who, when, and where He wants. However, I also say if and when he does prompt us to lay hands on someone, let's obey and lay hands on them like Ananias did, and not worry about the outcome.

#5. Sometimes you need to just say it like it is.

We never hear of Ananias again in the Bible. But we won't stop hearing about Paul! Watch how he uses his ruthless demeanor to call out a false prophet and sorcerer. Make note: God will channel your personality traits to be used for Him once converted. Some of our flaws will actually become strengths.

This occult practitioner named Elymas was opposing Paul and Barnabas while they were on their first missionary journey to meet with the proconsul Sergius Paulus. "He tried to turn the proconsul away from the faith." Acts 13:8

"But Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him and said, "You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all deceit and villainy, will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord?" Acts 13:9

"When the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, because he was astonished at the Lord's teaching." Acts 13:12

We live in a soft culture. We're often afraid of hurting someone's feelings. Of course we need to pick and choose our battles. When it comes to someone preventing another from receiving the gospel, looks like that's one time for sure we need to step in and just say it like it is!

RECAP

Back to the Basics – 2:3 Ministries

Our desire at 2:3 Ministries is to openly dialogue how to cooperate with the Holy Spirit. As we can see from these five fillings in Acts, there are multiple ways. The apostles waited. Peter opened his mouth. The church prayed. Ananias laid hands. Paul was straight-forward.

We don't see any clear-cut manifesting that must or will always happen accordingly. However, we do see followers being filled in the presence of unbelievers. We see temporary, yet repeatable, empowering for purpose. We see fillings happening in order to share the testimony that Jesus is the Christ.

Don't forget what we talked about last week regarding being filled with the Spirit and not being drunk on wine (Ephesians 5:18-19).

Under the Influence Part 1

These are my notes from Sunday, February 25th.

Ephesians 5:18 (NIV) Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

Ephesians 5:18 (ISV) Stop getting drunk with wine, which leads to wild living, but keep on being filled with the Spirit.

From Ephesians 4:17 onwards the Apostle Paul describes the new life of the Christian. And he has been contrasting the new life of the Christian with the old life of the non-Christian.

What is he speaking to them about? (look what He says in chapter 5 leading up to “Do not get drunk”...)

(Live) Walk in Love: Ephesians 5:1 Therefore, be imitators of God as dearly loved children 2 and live in love, just as Christ also loved us and gave himself for us, a sacrificial and fragrant offering to God.

Back to the Basics – 2:3 Ministries

(Live) Walk in light): Ephesians 5:8 Live like children of light—⁹ for the fruit of the light^f consists in all goodness, righteousness, and truth—¹⁰ trying to learn^[o] what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but rather^[p] expose them.

Ephesians 5:15 Paul introduced a new thought, while repeating “Therefore” and “walk,” for the fifth time (cf. 4:1, 25; 5:1-2, 7-8). We can walk (live) wisely by letting the Holy Spirit control our lives.

(Live) Walk in Wisdom: (Therefore) So then, be careful how you walk (live), not as unwise people but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of your time (every opportunity), because the days are evil.

¹⁷ For this reason do not be foolish, but be wise by understanding^[x] what the Lord’s will is.

Wise people not only make the most of their time (v. 16), but they also seek to discover and do God’s will.

And then after our passage of the day, how many of you know the famous scripture about wives submitting to their husbands and husbands loving their wives like Christ loves the church?! That comes next in Paul’s exhortation to households.

Back to Ephesians 5:18 Do not get drunk...

Is Paul dealing with just drunkenness and intoxication? We don’t want to miss the bigger picture.

Back to the Basics – 2:3 Ministries

- He is emphasizing that Christians are to imitate God by being filled with the Spirit (that is the new life), and they must not get drunk with wine (that is the old life).
- Lloyd-Jones notes “that there was nothing which was more characteristic of the old life which these people had been living, and which their contemporaries were still living, than drunkenness and debauchery. The ancient world at the time when our Lord came into it was characterized by this very thing.” Paul’s point is that drunkenness is characteristic of the old life. Now it’s time for Christians in Ephesus to live the new life.
- It’s not so much about the amount of wine being consumed, as it is about those who become drunk with wine are in a condition of debauchery.

What in the world is debauchery? 🤔🤔

- Dissipation. Reckless living. Wild living. Squandering.
- ◦ Same word used about prodigal son. Wanted to leave all that was good for wild living. What he thought was the good life only led to destruction. He came back to his senses and thankfully back to the true Good Life!
- ◦ How many people have been there?
- ◦ Debauchery: excessive indulgence in sensual pleasures. Dissipation: squandering in a wasteful/foolish manner. Especially time, money, energy, resources, days, life.
- ◦ Paul is walking people out of the old life into the new one. Do not do this, do this instead.

Do not be afraid of do nots! How many of you needed some do nots in order to know what to do!?

- ◦ A skeptic agnostic friend says, “The Bible is filled with a lot of do nots.” Great! It’s also filled with a lot of to-dos!
- ◦ As health professionals, we walk people from the old life into the new one. Knowing what not to do helps our conscience know what to do. The worst place to be is thinking you’re doing everything right only to find out you’re not! What an ignorant squandering!
- ◦ Paul is not telling these guys in Ephesus that they don’t have the Spirit. He is saying you are sinning in spite of having the Spirit!
- ◦ We talked about Do Not Grieve, do not quench...do not get drunk (be controlled, live wildly, be under the influence of other stuff).
- ◦ We’re the first ones to tell people to have freedom. Stress doesn’t help. But here’s what I can’t put into words, the more freedom you feel in Christ, the less stress you feel about control, the more control you gain when you surrender, and the more changes you’ll end up making because He leads you, not the flesh nor condemnation.

Who or what influence are you under?

Paul is conveying that the drunken/intoxicated life leads to one thing, while the Spirit-filled life leads to the opposite.

The old life intoxicated with wine leads to an uncontrolled, disorderly life, full of utter disorder and disarray. The new Spirit filled life leads to a controlled, orderly life.

[Spirit filled life doesn’t mean you’ll lose control].

Quite the opposite, you’ll GAIN control. Paul isn’t using this as an example that just like when you’re drunk and out of control, you get loony and loopy when you’re under the spirit. Fruit of Spirit = Self-controlled life.

If you’re under the influence of the old wine-filled life it leads to unproductivity and wastefulness. The new Spirit filled life leads to making the best use of time and opportunities. You become productive not just busy. The prodigal son was impoverished in his squandering. He came back and gained quite the opposite.

The old life under the influence of _____, leads to negativity. Then new life leads to positivity.

The old life under the influence of such and such may feel like it's thrilling. It's such a false high. The new life being filled by the Spirit is a high you can't gain with a bottle, or needle, or entertainment, or even a full bank account.

The new life is joyful and exciting!

Who or what influence are you under? Let's fill in the blank...

- Substance
- Person
- Group
- Schedule (look what he says about time)
- Money
- Vice
- Is it the spirit of anger?
- Of your control not his?
- Fear?
- Jealousy?
- Insecurity?

How do you know if you're Spirit-filled?

Questions for reflection-From the book: "The Helper."

Have I any evidence of the Holy Spirit's work in my life? For instance, has the Spirit made Jesus real to me as a Person?

Am I beginning to be able to hear the inner Voice of the Spirit? Does He tell me what to do for small decisions or major ones?

Am I seeing in myself a new kind of love for other people? Is the Spirit giving me a tender concern and deep caring for persons whom I would ordinarily not choose as my friends?

Back to the Basics – 2:3 Ministries

Am I experiencing the Spirit's help in the always tricky area of communication? For instance, am I experiencing times when the Helper gives my words wings into the heart of someone in trouble?

Am I experiencing the power of the Spirit? For example, to communicate Jesus' life to others, to bring them also into the kingdom?

Am I receiving the Spirit's definite help in how to pray about my deepest concerns?

These are my notes for Sunday, March 3rd, 2024.

Part 2: Under the Influence

Major Recap about Being Filled by the Holy Spirit

(I love what Pastor Freddy Fritz from Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church says. Most of these bullet points are from him). There are several things that are not meant by being filled with the Spirit.:

- First, being filled with the Spirit is not a dramatic experience subsequent to salvation advancing a Christian into some higher state of spirituality.
- Second, being filled with the Spirit is not an act of the flesh which has God's approval.
- Third, being filled with the Spirit is not the same as possessing, or being indwelt by, the Holy Spirit, because he indwells every believer at the moment of salvation.
- Fourth, being filled with the Spirit does not describe a process of progressively receiving him by degrees or in doses.
- Fifth, being filled with the Spirit is not the same as the baptism of the Spirit, because every Christian receives the baptism of the Spirit at the moment of conversion.
- And finally, being filled with the Spirit is not the same as being sealed, or secured, by him. Christians are never commanded to be sealed, secured, indwelt, or baptized by the Spirit. They only command directed to Christians is to be filled with the Spirit.

So, what did Paul mean when he wrote, "...be filled with the Spirit"? Several things.

- First, being filled with the Spirit is a command. To be filled with the Spirit is obligatory, not optional.
- Second, being filled with the Spirit is in the plural form. That is, it is addressed to the entire body of Christ. None of us is to get drunk; all of us are to be filled with the Spirit.
- Third, while we've been learning that there are things for us to DO, mainly to get ourselves out of the way, there is no technique to learn and no formula to recite. Essentially, Paul is saying, "Let the Holy Spirit fill you."
- And fourth, to be filled with the Spirit is in the present tense. We need to be continuously filled with the Spirit.
We do this by trusting and obeying the Lord as His Word directs.
-

Today's main: Results of Being Spirit-Filled Ephesians 5:19-21

“addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.”

#1. Address (recite, speak) to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs

Look at the meaning this line provides for corporate gatherings.

Cross reference 1 Corinthians 14:26 What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.

Cross reference Colossians 3:16- says, “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.”

Psalms cry out to God; Hymns honor and direct praise to God; Spiritual songs point to God, not ourselves.

Edify the body: Hebrews 10:25 we do not neglect meeting together, as is the habit of some, but encourage (spur) on one another.

#2. Sing and make melody (music) to the Lord with your hearts.

Where’s your heart at? Should be directed to the Lord, not yourself. This goes both ways, whether you sing good or bad! Affection of heart and tongue.

Twang it. Could literally mean worship with instruments. Barnes Commentary says it like this: “It is not certain, however, that the apostle here had reference to what is properly called “melody.” The word which he uses -psallō – means to touch, twitch, pluck – as the hair, the beard; and then to twitch a string – to “twang” it – as the string of a bow, and then the string of an instrument of music.

Reminder, in a group setting everyone worships differently.

#3. Gives thanks always to God the Father for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus.

Can you be Spirit-Filled and ungrateful at the same time?

Cross reference 1 Thessalonians 5:16 Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Cross reference James 1:2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

#4. Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ?

Don't get stuck on words. Time to understand what this means biblically. Does mutual "support" help your mind better than the word submission? It's a good word though, don't be afraid of it.

Does not mean dominate another person.

Does not take someone away from following the will of God.

Is not one-sided. (Love and respect cycle example from Ephesians 5:33)

Look at 2:3 Ministries guiding verse from Philippians 2:3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus...

Lesson 1: Top 10 Things You Need To Know About Spiritual Gifts

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1 CORINTHIANS 12:7-10
EPHESIANS 4:11
ROMANS 12:6-8
1 PETER 4:10-11

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BUT TO EACH ONE IS GIVEN THE MANIFESTATION OF THE SPIRIT FOR THE COMMON GOOD. FOR TO ONE IS GIVEN THE WORD OF WISDOM THROUGH THE SPIRIT, AND TO ANOTHER THE WORD OF KNOWLEDGE ACCORDING TO THE SAME SPIRIT; TO ANOTHER FAITH BY THE SAME SPIRIT, AND TO ANOTHER GIFTS OF HEALING BY THE ONE SPIRIT, AND TO ANOTHER THE EFFECTING OF MIRACLES, AND TO ANOTHER PROPHECY, AND TO ANOTHER THE DISTINGUISHING OF SPIRITS, TO ANOTHER VARIOUS KINDS OF TONGUES, AND TO ANOTHER THE

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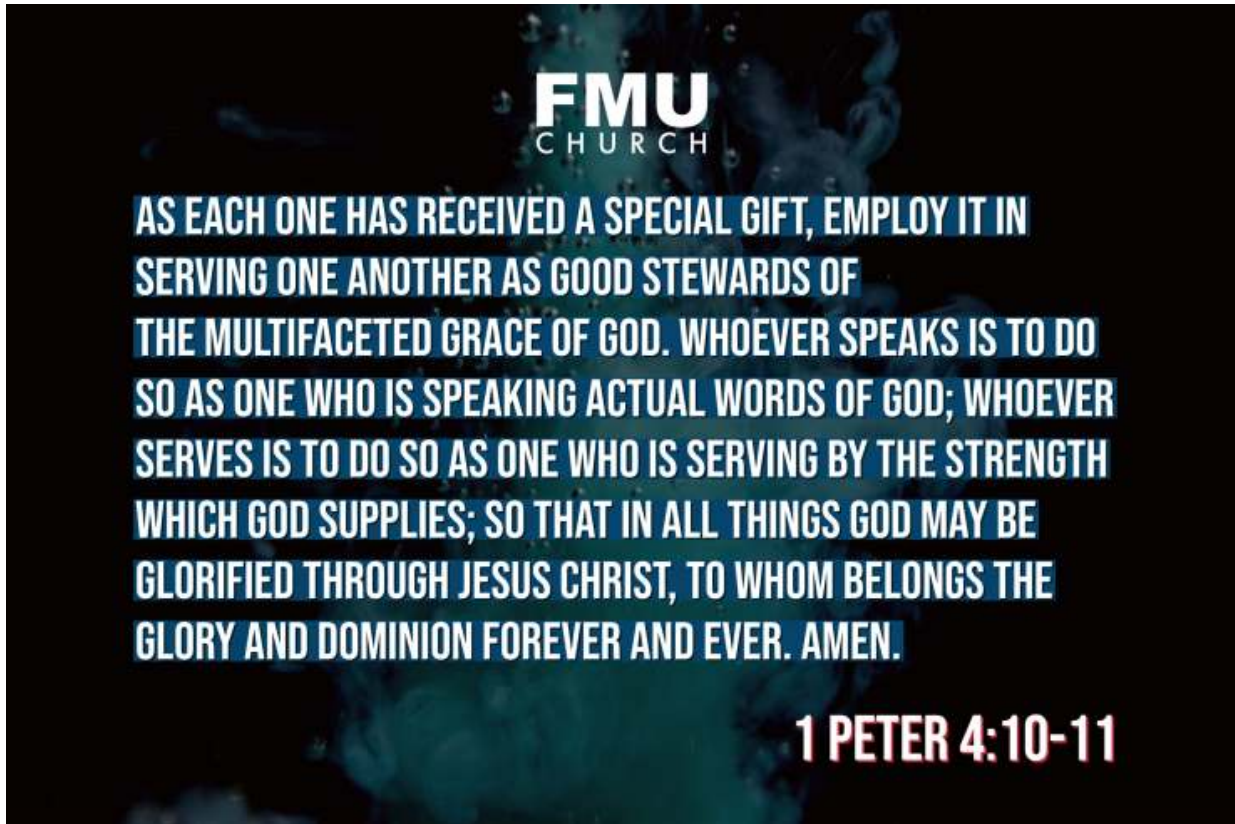
**AND HE GAVE SOME AS APOSTLES, SOME AS PROPHETS, SOME AS
EVANGELISTS, SOME AS PASTORS AND TEACHERS,**

EPHESIANS 4:11

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**HOWEVER, SINCE WE HAVE GIFTS THAT DIFFER ACCORDING TO
THE GRACE GIVEN TO US, EACH OF US IS TO USE THEM PROPERLY:
IF PROPHECY, IN PROPORTION TO ONE'S FAITH; IF SERVICE, IN
THE ACT OF SERVING; OR THE ONE WHO TEACHES, IN THE ACT OF
TEACHING; OR THE ONE WHO EXHORTS, IN THE WORK OF
EXHORTATION; THE ONE WHO GIVES, WITH GENEROSITY; THE ONE
WHO IS IN LEADERSHIP, WITH DILIGENCE; THE ONE WHO SHOWS
MERCY, WITH CHEERFULNESS.**

ROMANS 12:6-8



Lesson 1 Sermon Recap PODCAST

<https://theoamberpodcast.simplecast.com/episodes/top-ten-things-you-need-to-know-about-spiritual-gifts>

Lesson 2: How do you know if it's the Holy Spirit



Lesson 2 Sermon Recap PODCAST

<https://theoamberpodcast.simplecast.com/episodes/how-do-you-know-if-its-the-holy-spirit-lesson-2>

Lesson 3: Spiritual Gift Descriptions Below

[Spiritual-Gifts-Descriptions PDF DOWNLOAD](#)Download

Lesson 3: Exercise your spiritual gifts PODCAST

<https://theoamberpodcast.simplecast.com/episodes/exercise-your-spiritual-gifts-lesson-3>

Lesson 4: Why does Jesus gift the 5-fold ministry and what are we supposed to do about it

2:3 Ministries
Ephesians 4 what I was supposed to say about gifts lesson 4 | THE FMU
FAITH FITNESS FARM (simplecast.com)
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Lesson 5: There's a way to practice gifts (modern day prophecy and tongues)

There's a way to practice gifts lesson 5 | THE FMU FAITH FITNESS FARM
(simplecast.com)

PROPHECY:

1 TIM 4:14

ACTS 11

ACTS 21

ACTS 2

TONGUES:

ACTS 2

ACTS 10

ACTS 19

1 COR 12-14

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE

Lesson 6: Can Jesus use you to heal today? 10 questions answered [podcast]

<https://theoamberpodcast.simplecast.com/episodes/can-jesus-use-you-to-heal-today-10-questions-answered>

See all the scripture here: [The Healing Ministry of Jesus](#)

Visit 2:3 Ministries