

Pine Knoll Sabbath School Study Notes

First Quarter 2017: *The Holy Spirit and Spirituality*

Lesson 8 “The Holy Spirit *and the Gifts of the Spirit*”

Read for this week’s study

1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 11; Ephesians 4:7; 1 Corinthians 12:14-31; Romans 12:3-8; 1 John 4:1-3.

Memory Text

“There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all” (1 Corinthians 12:4-6, NKJV).

Lesson Outline from Adult Sabbath School Study Guide

- I. Introduction
- II. The Fruit of Spirit and the Gifts of the Spirit
- III. God, the Sovereign Giver of the Spiritual Gifts
- IV. The Purpose of the Spiritual Gifts
- V. The Gift, Then and Now
- VI. The Holy Spirit and the Gift of Discernment
- VII. Further Study

Questions and Notes for Consideration

Facilitator: Jon Paulien

1. Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-6. Even among believers, there are many differences. What do these differences tell us about God? How is it possible to have unity when we think, believe and act so differently? (Sabbath afternoon)
2. Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 11. What is the essence of what Paul is teaching in these verses? Read verses 8-10. These provide a very important list. Why would the authors of a worldwide Bible study guide leave these out of a lesson on 1 Corinthians 12? Read verse 11 again. If the gifts of the Spirit are given at the Spirit’s discretion, how do you explain 12:31 and 14:1? (Sunday’s lesson)
3. Read 1 Corinthians 13, Romans 12:9-10, and Ephesians 4:11-13. Why do you think love is mentioned in the context of all three passages on the gifts of the Spirit? In what way does love empower the gifts? (Sunday’s lesson)
4. Read Ephesians 4:7. Where do the gifts of the Spirit originate? Read 1 Corinthians 12:14-31. What does Paul tell his readers in this passage about the distribution of the gifts? How does 1 Corinthians 12 help to encourage humility in us? For those familiar with their work, which gifts of the Spirit do you think Graham Maxwell and Ellen White had? (Monday’s lesson)
5. Read Romans 12:3-8 and Ephesians 4:8-12. What is the purpose of the spiritual gifts? What do you think Paul means in Romans 12 when he talks about “prophecy in

proportion to your faith?” How does a diversity of gifts build unity in a church community? Can spiritual gifts be a source of division in the church? (Tuesday’s lesson)

6. Read 1 Corinthians 14:1 in the light of 1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12, and Ephesians 4. Were these gifts given only to New Testament believers or are they still available today? Does Ephesians 4:13-15 help us to answer this question? (Wednesday’s lesson)
7. Read 1 Corinthians 12:10, 14:29, and 1 John 4:1-3. Why is the gift of discernment important? Why is it necessary to distinguish between the “spirits?” Which of the gifts are most likely to be counterfeited? How do we know who has discernment and who does not? How do you become a discerning person? What role do miracles play in validating truth and true servants of God? (Thursday’s lesson)
8. Why don’t we see as many miracles and spectacular healings as were seen in Bible times? Why are miracles and healings not a safe guide for determining truth? (Friday’s lesson)
9. Read Romans 12:3. What does it mean that everyone has been “dealt” (given, assigned, distributed) a measure of faith? (Friday’s lesson)

Thoughts from Graham Maxwell

So now, as God’s wandering children, many of us on this planet have been won back to trust in God. None of us can spread the good news alone; we all want to share in this to get the job done. Some of us can do one thing better than another. Some have the gift to practice the healing arts. Others of us just can’t do that, we can do other things. I can think of an individual who might be the most competent physician in the world, and I would run to him with ailments, but he would rather die than get up on the platform and say anything. That has just not been his gift or it’s not the one he’s cultivated. I’m glad he cultivated the other one because when I go to him with a pain I don’t want a speech. I want him to get on with the work of healing. I can think of a physician who was a better speaker than a physician. We want people to develop and practice their own gifts. {Graham Maxwell. Excerpt from the audio series Romans, chapter 12, recorded January, 1978, Loma Linda, California} *To listen to the entire audio of the above reference, click on the following direct links:*

<http://pkp.cc/23MMROMANS66> (Part 1) <http://pkp.cc/24MMROMANS66> (Part 2)

Take a place like Ephesians 4:11; it’s so specific, as to the whole purpose of the church. Start with verse 11:

His gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, [by the way, the punctuation there puts pastors and teachers together. It’s not pastors, comma, and teachers. These are pastoring teachers or

teaching pastors, the thought being there's no such thing as a good pastor who doesn't teach, and there's no such thing as a teacher who doesn't have pastoral concern for his pupils. They go together. Now, why have we been given these gifts?] For the equipment of the saints, for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ [that's the symbol of the church], until [and here's the goal—we talked about the athlete who has a goal and a purpose, which makes obedience seem so reasonable and worthwhile] until we all attain [what translation do you have? I like to use such words as 'until we all attain through the unity that is inherent in our faith.' That is, we all trust and worship the same God] and in our knowledge of the Son of God, and reach mature manhood to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children. [I thought we were supposed to stay little children. Only after rebirth is it alright to be a little child.] so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine [was Job tossed to and fro and carried about by every wind of doctrine? See he was grown up], by the cunning of men, by their craftiness and deceitful wiles. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ."

{Graham Maxwell. Excerpt from the audio series, Faith, Righteousness and Salvation, #4 "What is Christian Perfection" Part 1, recorded February, 1975, Lynwood, California} *To listen to the entire audio of the above reference, click on the following direct links:*

<http://pkp.cc/7MMFRS> (Part 1) <http://pkp.cc/8MMFRS> (Part 2)

I do believe that the spiritual gifts have been misunderstood, and will be more and more as the end approaches. And that may be a reason for making a statement on this, because the abuse of the spiritual gifts has given many religious movements and many religious leaders authority, based on claims to spiritual gifts. Whereas some of us looking on think they don't bear the earmarks of genuineness at all. And don't you anticipate that when Satan comes as Christ, he'll come with all the spiritual gifts; gifts of healing and all of that, and the world, not having learned how to discern the truth and the false, will be readily deceived. So it seems to me that as the end approaches, number 16 is more important than ever.

We need to be very clear on spiritual gifts. And especially clear, perhaps, on the gift of prophecy, which has a separate lesson for next time. Perhaps in another age we might have arranged them differently. It seems most appropriate now that we should consider spiritual gifts, and how to discern the counterfeit from the true. Remember, Jesus said many a false prophet shall arise; false christs will arise. John says test all the spirits, for not all the spirits have come from God. Much warning of that, Old Testament and New, all the way through, beware lest people come claiming spiritual gifts and they're actually a fraud. {Graham Maxwell. Excerpt from the audio presentation, God Reveals His Love (Doctrines II) Sabbath School series,

4th Quarter 1988, #3, "Spiritual Gifts" recorded September, 1988, Loma Linda, California} *To listen to the entire audio of the above reference, click on the following direct link:*
http://pkp.cc/3MM88_4

Further Study with Ellen White

God has different ways of working, and He has different workmen to whom He entrusts varied gifts. One worker may be a ready speaker; another a ready writer; another may have the gift of sincere, earnest, fervent prayer; another the gift of singing; another may have special power to explain the word of God with clearness. And each gift is to become a power for God, because He works with the laborer. To one God gives the word of wisdom, to another knowledge, to another faith; but all are to work under the same Head. The diversity of gifts leads to a diversity of operations; but "it is the same God which worketh all in all." [1 Corinthians 12:6.]
{GW 483.1}

All men do not receive the same gifts, but to every servant of the Master some gift of the Spirit is promised. {FLB 292.3}

God will today endow men and women with power from above, as He endowed those who on the day of Pentecost heard the word of salvation. At this very hour His Spirit and His grace are for all who need them and will take Him at His word. {FLB 292.7}

The gifts are already ours in Christ, but their actual possession depends upon our reception of the Spirit of God. . . . {FLB 292.8}

In all the Lord's arrangements, there is nothing more beautiful than His plan of giving to men and women a diversity of gifts. The church is His garden, adorned with a variety of trees, plants, and flowers. He does not expect the hyssop to assume the proportions of the cedar, nor the olive to reach the height of the stately palm. Many have received but a limited religious and intellectual training, but God has a work for this class to do if they will labor in humility, trusting in Him.—Letter 122, 1902. {Ev 98.3}

From the endless variety of plants and flowers, we may learn an important lesson. All blossoms are not the same in form or color. Some possess healing virtues. Some are always fragrant. There are professing Christians who think it their duty to make every Christian like themselves. This is man's plan, not the plan of God. In the church of God there is room for characters as varied as are the flowers in a garden. In His spiritual garden there are many varieties of flowers.—Letter 95, 1902. {Ev 99.1}

Unity in diversity is God's plan. Among the followers of Christ there is to be the blending of diverse elements, one adapted to the other, and each to do its special work for God. Every individual has his place in the filling up of one great plan bearing the stamp of Christ's image. . . . One is fitted to do a certain work, another has a different work for which he is adapted, another has a still different line; but each is to be the complement of the others. . . . The Spirit

of God, working in and through the diverse elements, will produce harmony of action. . . . There is to be only one master spirit—the Spirit of Him who is infinite in wisdom, and in whom all the diverse elements meet in beautiful, matchless unity. . . . {OHC 169.2}

Even the work of the Holy Spirit upon the heart is to be tested by the Word of God. The Spirit which inspired the Scriptures, always leads to the Scriptures.—*General Conference Daily Bulletin*, April 13, 1891. {1SM 43.2}

The Holy Spirit will not compel men to take a certain course of action. We are free moral agents; and when sufficient evidence has been given us as to our duty it is left with us to decide our course. {RH, July 17, 1888 par. 4}

Faith in a lie will not have a sanctifying influence upon the life or character. No error is truth, or can be made truth by repetition, or by faith in it. Sincerity will never save a soul from the consequences of believing an error. Without sincerity there is no true religion, but sincerity in a false religion will never save a man. I may be perfectly sincere in following a wrong road, but that will not make it the right road, or bring me to the place I wished to reach. The Lord does not want us to have a blind credulity, and call that the faith that sanctifies. The truth is the principle that sanctifies, and therefore it becomes us to know what is truth. We must compare spiritual things with spiritual. We must prove all things, but hold fast only that which is good, that which bears the divine credentials, which lays before us the true motives and principles which should prompt us to action.—Letter 12, 1890. {2SM 56.1}

I am afraid of anything that would have a tendency to turn the mind away from the solid evidences of the truth as revealed in God's Word. I am afraid of it; I am afraid of it. We must bring our minds within the bounds of reason, lest the enemy so come in as to set everything in a disorderly way. {2SM 43.2}

The last great delusion is soon to open before us. Antichrist is to perform his marvelous works in our sight. So closely will the counterfeit resemble the true, that it will be impossible to distinguish between them except by the Holy Scriptures. By their testimony every statement and every miracle must be tested. {4SP 411.1}

Impressions alone are not a safe guide to duty. The enemy often persuades men to believe that it is God who is guiding them, when in reality they are following only human impulse. {AA 279.2}

We must study the truth for ourselves. No man should be relied upon to think for us. No matter who he is, or in what position he may be placed, we are not to look upon any man as a criterion for us. We are to counsel together, and to be subject one to another; but at the same time we are to exercise the ability God has given us, in order to learn what is truth. Each one of us must look to God for divine enlightenment. We must individually develop a character that will stand the test in the day of God. {TM 109.4}

Every human being, created in the image of God, is endowed with a power akin to that of the Creator—individuality, power to think and to do. The men in whom this power is developed are the men who bear responsibilities, who are leaders in enterprise, and who influence character. It is the work of true education to develop this power, to train the youth to be thinkers, and not mere reflectors of other men's thought. Instead of confining their study to that which men have said or written, let students be directed to the sources of truth, to the vast fields opened for research in nature and revelation. Let them contemplate the great facts of duty and destiny, and the mind will expand and strengthen. Instead of educated weaklings, institutions of learning may send forth men strong to think and to act, men who are masters and not slaves of circumstances, men who possess breadth of mind, clearness of thought, and the courage of their convictions. {Ed 17.2}

All whom God has blessed with reasoning powers are to become intellectual Christians. They are not requested to believe without evidence; therefore Jesus has enjoined upon all to search the Scriptures. Let the ingenious inquirer, and the one who would know for himself what is truth, exert his mental powers to search out the truth as it is in Jesus. Any neglect here is at the peril of the soul. We must know individually the prescribed conditions of entering into eternal life. . . . We cannot allow these questions to be settled for us by another's mind, or another's judgment. . . . We cannot trust the salvation of our souls to ministers, to idle traditions, to human authorities, or to pretensions. . . . {RH, March 8, 1887 par. 1}

The Bible with its precious gems of truth was not written for the scholar alone. On the contrary, it was designed for the common people; and the interpretation given by the common people, when aided by the Holy Spirit, accords best with the truth as it is in Jesus. The great truths necessary for salvation are made clear as the noonday, and none will mistake and lose their way except those who follow their own judgment instead of the plainly revealed will of God. {5T 331.2}

Go to God for yourselves, pray for divine enlightenment, that you may know that you do know what is truth, that when the wonderful miracle-working power of Satan shall be displayed, and the enemy shall come as an angel of light, you may distinguish between the genuine work of God and the imitative work of the powers of darkness. Ministers may do a great work for God if Jesus abides in the heart by faith. "Without me," says Christ, "ye can do nothing." I would that I had the power to present before you your sacred, solemn responsibility. {RH, December 24, 1889 par. 11}