

Class 12 – Life in the Spirit

2024–2025

Daniel Baker

Cornerstone Fellowship Church

I. Hello! Introduction

Salvation is not just thinking the right things about God or trusting Christ. It is also about experiencing God! When we talk about experiencing God in various ways, we're often talking about LIFE IN THE SPIRIT.

II. Life in the Spirit in the Old Testament

Old Testaments are saved in the same way we are! Through the redemptive work of Christ.

But the work of Christ is applied to them just like it's applied to us—through the work of the Holy Spirit.

Other ways the Spirit works in the OT:

Empowers obedience:

Then 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 of hosts. (Zech 4:6)

Empowers ministry:

Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah. (1 Sam 16:13)

The Old Testament anticipates a coming age of the Spirit:

28 "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. 29 Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit. 30 "And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. 31 The sun

shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. 32 And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. (Joel 2:28–32a)

III. The Christ and Pentecost

Jesus is the forerunner and the one who will bring about a new Age of the Spirit:

John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. (Luke 3:16)

32 And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. 33 I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ (John 1:32-33)

Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. (Acts 2:33)

Pentecost marks a new Age of the Spirit. We’ll see more on this below.

IV. Spiritual Gifts

God is the Giver of ALL spiritual gifts:

4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; 5 and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; 6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. (1 Cor 12:4-6)

Note, they’re called “GIFTS”...because they’re “GIFTS”! Given by Someone good and generous, and they are something good and desirable.

They’re given to ALL believers and thus to EACH believer:

But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift. (Eph 4:7)

They’re given according to God’s sovereign design:

All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills. (1 Cor 12:11)

They're given to glorify God and build up the church:

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. (1 Cor 14:26)

10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: 11 whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. (1 Pet 4:10-11)

V. A Look at Some of the Gifts in the New Testament

The gift lists are not comprehensive, but they are suggestive of what God can do among us—Rom 12:3–8; 1 Cor 12:4–11; 12:28–30; Eph 4:7–11; 1 Peter 4:10–11

A. Apostles (1 Cor 12:28; Eph 4:11)

What all apostles are involved in doing is laying the foundation of churches throughout the world.

B. Prophets (1 Cor 12:28; Eph 4:11) and prophecy (Rom 12:6; 1 Cor 12:10)

D.A. Carson's definition is a good one to capture the way prophecy is modelled in the Bible: "**Prophecy** is the reception and subsequent transmission of spontaneous, divinely originating revelation."⁴⁴

C. Teachers (1 Cor 12:28; Eph 4:11) and teaching (Rom 12:7)

"Teaching" is the spiritual gift where a person skillfully and faithfully communicates God's truth to God's people.

⁴⁴ D. A. Carson, *Showing the Spirit* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1987), 93–94.

D. Evangelists (Eph 4:11)

An “evangelist” is someone especially gifted to “evangelize,” which means to preach the “evangel” (the “good news”).

E. “Shepherds and teachers” (Eph 4:11)

“Pastors” (shepherd-teachers) are the ones specially gifted and called by God to govern and teach a local and committed gathering of God’s people (Acts 14:23; Phil 1:1).

F. Service (Rom 12:7; 1 Peter 4:11)

The spiritual gift of service is the unique ability to bring aid in a timely and effective fashion to those in various places of need.

G. Exhortation (Rom 12:8)

The spiritual gift of exhortation is the unique ability to discern the state of a person or group of people and then speak words that will bring fresh courage and faith.

H. Giving (Rom 12:8)

The spiritual gift of “giving” is taking our resources and generously giving them to others when a need is identified.

I. Leadership (Rom 12:8)

The spiritual gift of leadership is a God-given skill in bringing a group of Christians together and bringing them along in the unique purposes God has for them.

J. Mercy (Rom 12:8)

The spiritual gift of showing **mercy** means a unique ability to extend the very mercy and kindness of God to others.

K. “The Utterance of Wisdom” (1 Cor 12:8) and “The Utterance of Knowledge” (1 Cor 12:8)

“The utterance of wisdom” is the ability to speak with unusual insight about how a person should think or act in a given situation, and “the utterance of knowledge” is having factual knowledge about a person or group that is matched with a spoken word from the Lord in light of this knowledge.

L. Faith (1 Cor 12:9)

The spiritual gift of faith is faith to pray for and expect from God manifestations of his power and answers to prayer in a variety of different ways.

It's the faith that moves mountains!

M. Gifts of Healings (1 Cor 12:9)

That's not a typ-o! Both words are plural. There's a variety of expressions of this gift.

The gift of healing is the unusual ability to pray for and see healing from sicknesses of the body and soul.

N. Working of Miracles (1 Cor 12:10)

The spiritual gift of the "working of miracles" means the ability with some regularity to pray for miraculous events to occur with visible success.

O. Distinguishing between spirits (1 Cor 12:10)

The spiritual gift of "distinguishing between spirits," then, means the ability to discern whether some activity is occurring through the influence of a person's spirit, an angel, or a demon.

P. Speaking in tongues (1 Cor 12:10) and the Interpretation of tongues (1 Cor 12:10)

Speaking in tongues is a gift of God which enables the speaker to speak to God in a language he and any listener does not know and which can be done in corporate worship (if there is an interpretation) or in private prayer.

Gordon Fee has an excellent summary about "speaking in tongues" as it is presented in 1 Corinthians 12–14.⁴⁵

⁴⁵ Fee, *God's Empowering Presence*, 172–73.

First, tongues is “a Spirit-inspired utterance,” clear from 1 Corinthians 12:7, 11; 14:2. In other words, it is not natural speech like that utilized where the speaker or hearer simply know multiple languages.

Second, because of the directives in 1 Corinthians 14:27–28, it is clear “the speaker is not in ‘ecstasy’ or ‘out of control.’” The spiritual gift does not “come upon” someone like the Spirit came on Saul when he prophesied (1 Sam 10:10).

Third, “it is essentially unintelligible speech both to the speaker (14:14) and to others (14:16).” The unintelligibility is why the need for the complementary gift of “the interpretation of tongues.”

Fourth, “it is speech directed basically toward God (14:2, 14–15, 28).” Where prophecy is primarily a message from God to us, tongues is an inspirational or timely message from us to God. There is a confirmation of this idea even in Acts 2 where what was heard was said to be “the mighty works of God” (Acts 2:11).

VI. Continuationism

Continuationism has different varieties. The one I defend is that all the gifts and offices (including apostles) in the New Testament continue throughout the church age until Christ returns and there is the possibility of Spirit baptism occurring after conversion.

A good place to turn to defend these ideas is Ephesians 4:7–13, “the Pauline Pentecost”:

7 But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift.
 8 Therefore it says, “When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.” 9 (In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? 10 He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) 11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, (Eph 4:7-13)

Also 1 Corinthians 13:8–13:

8 Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. 11 When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. 12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. 13 So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love. (1 Cor 13:8-13)

VII. The Spirit and Sanctification

The Spirit saves and also sanctifies (makes us more holy):

25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. 26 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. (Ezek 36:25-27)

VIII. Walking by the Spirit

If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. (Gal 5:25)

Andreas Köstenberger:

“Walking” in (or “living” by) the Spirit—a Semitism—envisions a believer’s way of life as guided by the Spirit (thus fulfilling the law’s requirements; Rom 8:4); being “led” by the Spirit may build on the prophetic vision of God’s writing his law on people’s hearts (Jer 31:33; Ezek 36:27; 2 Cor 3:2–6). To “keep in step” means “being aligned with” in the sense of “walking in another’s footsteps” or “living in accordance with a certain standard” (Gal 6:16; Phil 3:16). Thus, Paul here encourages believers who claim to be controlled by and submitted to the Spirit to

furnish evidence that this is in fact the case by the way they live, that is, by exhibiting the “fruit of the Spirit” (Gal 5:22–23).⁴⁶

IX. Conclusion – Pray!

If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” (Luke 11:13)

⁴⁶ Allison and Köstenberger, *The Holy Spirit*, 110.