

House Group Notes

5th September 2017



Ichthus Values, Characteristics & Distinctives Session 19:

Distinctives: What Makes Ichthus Unique

Part 4 of 7: Charismatic

Introduction

In this series we have looked at how we believe in the Holy Spirit as he forms part of the Trinity. We also discussed spirit-led humility, seeking to let the Spirit guide us in our decisions as we serve the Lord. This week we are going to look at what it means to be “Charismatic”.

By “Charismatic” we do not mean someone who has a charming and interesting character. “Charismatic” is a term used by the church to mean believing in and using the gifts of the Spirit given to us as a gracious gift (“Charis” means grace in Greek) from God.

First read the following passages in quick succession as one story: John 14:16-17, Acts 1:4-5, Acts 2:1-4 & Acts 2:32-33 & 2:38-42

Here we see Jesus promising that the Father will send someone else to be with His people, and that is The Holy Spirit. He then pours out His spirit on the disciples and others on the day of Pentecost where people are baptized/filled (baptize = to immerse/saturate) by the Holy Spirit. This is something for us today and we should all be baptized by water and by the Spirit.

The Gifts of The Spirit

Besides having the presence of God with us always living inside us, there are a number of gifts that the Spirit of God can give us to help serve God.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

Question: What gifts of the Spirit are listed in this passage? Can you name nine?

Go through each gift and give a brief definition allowing time to discuss them where appropriate. Please also feel free to share from your own experiences of them if it seems relevant.

1. Words of wisdom – Wisdom given by The Spirit to help with a situation that may seem impossible to get through in the natural.
2. Words of knowledge – A piece of information given by The Spirit about a person or situation that wasn’t and couldn’t possibly be known.
3. Faith – The ability to see breakthrough and the Lord change a situation where there is no possibility without God.
4. Gifts of healing – The ability to pray for people by the power of the Spirit and see them get healed.
5. Gifts of miracles – The ability to pray for something that is impossible and see it instantly

happen. e.g. instant healing or feeding of 5,000 etc.)

6. Prophecy – The gift of speaking out messages from God. This may take the form of words, pictures, dreams etc.
7. Distinguishing / discerning of spirits – The ability of telling what kind of a Spirit a person has and whether they have come to do good or harm. Also, knowing if someone is lying or not.
8. Tongues – Being able to speak in heavenly languages and occasionally other earthly languages that haven't been learnt. Heavenly tongues. Or they can be prophetic messages from God requiring interpretation.
9. Interpretation of tongues – The ability to interpret the heavenly language so that all listeners understand the message spoken out in tongues.

These are what we would call gifts of The Spirit as opposed to spiritual gifting such as service, teaching, exhortation, giving, leadership, mercy, helps and administration which are all found in Romans 12:6-8 or 1 Corinthians 12:28.

Questions:

- What one thing do you notice these 9 all have in common as opposed to the spiritual giftings listed above? (They are all supernatural and can't be done without The Spirit)
- What is the purpose of these gifts? (note verse 7)
- Have you ever used any of these gifts? If so, which ones?
- Paul talks about desiring the gifts of the Spirit, which of these gifts would you like to grow in?

Unfortunately there are churches today that lessen the role of the Spirit, or even don't believe that the Spirit is for us today. We know from the bible and experience that the Spirit of God is active and moving through the church today if we invite him in and are willing to serve the Lord. Let's keep seeking to see more of the Spirit of God released in our lives.

Pray to finish

- Pray for that each person in the group receives the gift(s) they desire
- Pray for a greater release of the Spirit in Ichthus Lee Green and that the Spiritual Gifts will flourish