



The Way, The Truth, and The Life Christian Center, Inc.

SERMON NOTES

“The Gifts of the Holy Spirit”

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: 1 Corinthians 12: 1- 11

Apostle Ulysses Tuff

February 12, 2025

Summary

The sermon centered on the gifts of the Holy Spirit, drawing from 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 to explore the various manifestations of the Spirit, including wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discernment, speaking in tongues, and the interpretation of tongues. Apostle Tuff emphasized the profound role of the Holy Spirit in revealing God’s power through signs and wonders. He urged the congregation to engage in deeper spiritual practices, highlighting the Spirit's role in glorifying Jesus. He also stressed the necessity for believers to understand and actively practice these gifts, particularly the "greater gifts" of wisdom, faith, and prophecy. Moreover, he distinguished between the gift of prophecy and the office of the prophet, underscoring the authority and significance of these more pivotal gifts in the life of the church.

Scripture References

- 1 Corinthians 12:7-11
- 1 Corinthians 14
- John 14: 16, 26
- Psalm 34: 8-10

The Role of the Holy Spirit in Demonstrating God's Power

- Apostle Tuff discussed the vital significance of the Holy Spirit in demonstrating God's power through signs, wonders, and miracles.
- He emphasized that the church should not just be about sharing the word of God, but also actively engaging in more experiential, Spirit-led activities that would allow the power of God to be demonstrated.
- Apostle Tuff reviewed the three categories of spiritual gifts - those that say something (like prophecy), those that do something (like healing), and those that show something (like miracles). He stressed that the purpose of these gifts are “supernatural manifestations of God’s power” with the purpose of bringing glory and honor to Jesus Christ, rather than to draw attention to an individual.
- The best gifts in each category are the word of wisdom, prophecy, and faith.

- Apostle Tuff underscored the crucial role of the Holy Spirit in manifesting God's power and presence in the lives of believers, urging the audience to seek a deeper intimacy with the Spirit so that they can be effective conduits of God's supernatural work.
- Apostle Tuff emphasized the need for believers to understand and practice the gifts of the Holy Spirit and encouraged the audience to seek the Holy Spirit's guidance in using the gifts and to avoid relying on feelings or assumptions.

The Importance of Prophecy and the Order of Spiritual Gifts

- Apostle Tuff highlights the distinction between the gift of prophecy and the office of the prophet—they are not the same. The gift of prophecy is used for edification, comfort, and exhortation. Prophecy is considered the more excellent gift because it does not require the interpretation of tongues.
- Speaking in tongues and interpretation of tongues must work together for the message to be understood.
- When someone speaks in tongues publicly, there must be an interpretation, either by another person or by the speaker themselves.
- Speaking in tongues should not be chaotic; there should be order, and the congregation should recognize the moment when an interpretation is needed.
- Prophecy, unlike tongues, is immediately understandable because it is spoken in a known language.
- The purpose of prophecy is to bring conviction and revelation to the hearer, helping them recognize God's presence in their life.
- Prophecy is not preaching; rather, it is God directly speaking to someone through a known language.
- If a church gathering consists only of people speaking in tongues without interpretation, it may cause confusion rather than edification.

The Authority and Weight of the Greater Gifts

- Apostle Tuff further explains the significance of the “best gifts” or “greater gifts” (i.e. word of wisdom, faith, and prophecy)
- See 1 Corinthians 12:8 -10, 1 Corinthians 12:31, 1 Corinthians 14:1 - 4, Hebrews 11: 6
- Word of Wisdom, Prophecy, and Faith—are considered the “best gifts” because they have the most direct impact on the believer's understanding, spiritual growth, and supernatural empowerment.
- They Provide Clarity and Direction – Unlike tongues, which require interpretation, prophecy and the word of wisdom offer direct, understandable revelation from God. They guide believers and bring conviction, making them more effective in building the church.

- They Are Essential for Leadership and Decision-Making – The word of wisdom helps leaders and individuals discern God’s will in difficult situations, ensuring that decisions align with His purpose. Gifts like healing and miracles are powerful, but wisdom ensures they are used appropriately.
- They Strengthen and Activate the Power of Other Gifts – Faith is the foundation for all supernatural manifestations. Without faith, healing, miracles, and even prophecy wouldn’t function effectively. Faith empowers believers to operate in boldness and confidence.
- They Transform Both Individuals and the Church – While gifts like tongues and interpretation are valuable, they primarily serve the believer’s spiritual communication with God. Prophecy, wisdom, and faith edify the entire church, bringing revelation, instruction, and supernatural confidence to those who hear.

The Role of the Holy Spirit in Guiding and Leading Believers

- The audience is encouraged to seek the Holy Spirit's guidance and to be prepared to use the gifts when needed with a heart of worship and gratitude, to put the Lord above everything and everyone and, to seek the Lord diligently; seeking the Lord will lead to a fulfilling and abundant spiritual life.

Key Take Aways

- The Holy Spirit's power should be clearly seen and experienced in the lives of believers and the church. Signs, wonders, and demonstrations of God's power should be evident
- It's crucial to properly understand and use the best spiritual gifts, like word of wisdom, faith, and prophecy to edify the Body of Christ. We need to be led by the Holy Spirit, not just going by our own feelings or assumptions.
- The whole purpose of the spiritual gifts is to bring glory and honor to Jesus Christ, not ourselves. Everything we do should be focused on exalting and lifting up Jesus above all else.

Reflection Questions

- Apostle Tuff talked about the difference between the gift of prophecy and the office of the prophet. Can you explain this distinction and why it's important to understand?
- Why are the gifts of the word of wisdom, prophesy, and faith considered the best gifts in their categories (gifts that reveal something, say something, do something)? How do they uniquely impact the church today? Which is most needed in the world, why?
- Apostle Tuff stressed the need for believers to spend time with God and be led by the Holy Spirit when exercising spiritual gifts. What are some practical ways we can develop this kind of intimacy with the Holy Spirit?
- How can the church encourage and create opportunities for members to safely practice and grow in the use of their spiritual gifts? What safeguards should be in place?
- Apostle Tuff warned against using spiritual gifts out of selfish motives or without the leading of the Holy Spirit. What are some signs that a person may be operating in the flesh rather than the Spirit?