

Spiritual Gifts and God's Comfort ~ Hand out ~

The Work of God's Holy Spirit... God's Spirit is active, powerful, and essential in the life of every believer. Scripture shows that the Spirit:

- **Leads rather than compels** — guiding our minds and choices with gentle direction.
- **Enables spiritual understanding** — making God's truth clear and meaningful.
- **Empowers overcoming** — strengthening us to put away sinful habits and live transformed lives.
- **Convicts and corrects** — working with our conscience to reveal sin and prompt repentance.
- **Produces godly fruit** — love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.
- **Comforts and assures** — giving encouragement, hope, and confidence in God's purpose.

God's Holy Spirit is described as a Helper and Comforter, giving encouragement and assurance that God works all things for good."

Three Categories of Spiritual Gifts... The New Testament lists spiritual gifts in **1 Corinthians 12**, **Romans 12**, and **Ephesians 4**. Together, these form **Three major groups**:

- 1. Sign Gifts (5)** 1. Discerning of spirits 2. Working of miracles 3. Healings
4. Speaking in tongues (languages) 5. Interpretation of tongues (languages)
- 2. Service Gifts (8)**... 1. Administration 2. Leadership 3. Exhortation 4. Faith 5. Giving
6. Helps 7. Service 8. Showing mercy
- 3. Perfecting Gifts (9)** 1. Apostleship 2. Prophecy 3. Evangelism 4. Pastor-Shepherd
5. Teacher 6. Wisdom 7. Knowledge 8. Ministry 9. Exhortation

Why These Gifts Matter

- God places each member in the Body **for a purpose**.
- Gifts are given **"for the edification of the Body of Christ."**
- We are encouraged to **"earnestly desire the best gifts"**—those that most benefit others.
- Spiritual gifts and comfort are **linked**: *"That I may impart unto you some spiritual gift... that I may be comforted together with you."* (Romans 1:11–12)

Our Response

- Ask God to **reveal the gifts He has placed** within you.
- **Receive** them **with gratitude**, not fear.
- **Use them faithfully** to serve, strengthen, and comfort others.
- **Encourage** one another by **recognizing and affirming gifts** in the Body.

"God intends to equip every one of us through His generous Spirit—and He wants us to receive those gifts with confidence and gratitude."

Pentecost Focus... As we continue on from Pentecost—the day God poured out His Spirit—let us **be mindful** in the weeks ahead and **pause and reflect** each Sabbath **to**:

- **Open our hearts** to the gifts God gives.
- **Trust that Christ** leads His Church today.
- **Step forward** in faith, **strengthened** by His **Spirit and comfort**.

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." — Philippians 4:13