

1 Corinthians 14 (NKJV)
Prophecy and Tongues

14 Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.



PAUL TEACHES US TO CONTINUALLY ASK FOR THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT TO BE IN OPERATION IN OUR LIVES

A. “Follow the way of love and eagerly desire the gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy.” (1 Corinthians 14:1)

B. This applies to evangelism

i. Every day we should be asking “Lord today, as I go out into the community, would you empower me in a fresh way?”

a. “Lord, let me move in the gifts of the Spirit.”

b. “Empower me to move in healing.”

c. “Empower me to move in the prophetic gifts.”

d. “Empower me to move in the discerning of spirits.”

ii. Then believe that God is going to do just that.

C. The gifts of the Spirit are like a motor in a car

i. You might see a 1969 pearl blue Mustang with a for-sale sign in the window

ii. As the owner allows you to sit in the front seat, you hear the Elvis Christmas album coming from the 8-track cassette player in the dash

iii. A disco ball is hanging from the rear view mirror

iv. This baby has 21,304 original miles

v. The owner gives you a price and you are shocked at the low number.

vi. You ask to take it for a test drive and the owner replies, “There is only one problem. She doesn’t have a motor.”

a. How many know this is a problem?



THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT ARE A CRUCIAL ASPECT OF THE PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

A. The gospel wasn’t preached in word only, it came in power. i. We see the gifts in operation in the life of Jesus

ii. We see the gifts in operation in the life of Peter

iii. We see the gifts in operation in the life of Paul

B. Just as we see the gifts active in the lives of the apostolic Fathers, the gifts of the Spirit should accompany our witness today as well.



JESUS GIVES US AN EXAMPLE OF MOVING IN THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

WHILE ORCHESTRATING A ONE ON ONE EVANGELISTIC ENCOUNTER

John 4:5-9 NKJV

5 So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. 6 Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

7 A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." 8 For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.

9 Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.

- A. Jesus evangelized on purpose
 - i. He intentionally engaged with the Samaritan woman
 - ii. He also humbled himself in approaching her (Ma'am, could you give me something to drink?)
 - b. We need to make sure that we approach others through humility (James 4:6)
 - c. Humility releases God's grace upon a conversation
- B. Jesus didn't let cultural divides stop him from evangelizing
 - i. She acknowledged the racial barrier
 - ii. She most likely was not used to being approached by a Jewish man being a Samaritan woman.
- C. Jesus didn't allow the awkwardness of the situation to deter him.
 - i. The woman most likely felt awkward
 - a. This is good news for us
 - b. If Jesus could not get around a conversation starting out feeling somewhat awkward, neither can we.
 - c. We need to trust God to move us through the initial awkwardness and into a productive conversation
- D. Jesus relied on the Holy Spirit to guide the conversation
 - i. The woman asked Jesus a direct question
 - ii. Jesus turned the tables on her and spoke to her in a way that sparked her curiosity
 - iii. She asked him another question (John 4:12)
- E. The woman's soul was at stake
 - i. Jesus kept the conversation on track
 - a. A key component to evangelism is spiritual warfare
 - b. Jesus has a plan for the conversation, but so does the Devil
 - c. Often questions are asked to get us off track
 - d. Have you ever been asked an impossible question?
 - e. Even if you answered it, did you find that the individual simply asked another impossible question?
 - f. The divisiveness between the Jews and the Samaritans was not the issue Jesus needed to address
 - g. He also oddly ignored her second question



JESUS USED A WORD OF KNOWLEDGE TO EVANGELIZE

- A. As the conversation progressed, Jesus asked her another question, “Go, call your husband and come back” (John 4:16). She replied by giving Jesus a deceptive answer, “I don’t have a husband” (John 4:17).
 - i. She replied by using a smoke screen
 - ii. Jesus revealed the truth about her condition through a word of knowledge (John 4:16-18)
- B. This was a pivotal moment when everything changed.
- C. The gifts of the Spirit began to operate through Jesus
- D. She knew she was not talking to an ordinary man (John 4:19)



THE SAMARITAN WOMAN BECAME THE FIRST EVANGELIST

- A. She understood Jesus to be the Messiah and gave her life to him.
- B. She returned to her village where she was known as an immoral woman and evangelized her community
- C. She was completely transformed



THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT ARE STILL IN OPERATION TODAY

- A. These gifts are given to impact the lives of people and bring them to a saving knowledge of Christ
- B. The Holy Spirit wants to empower you in the gifts while you evangelize
 - i. Paul reminds us to earnestly pray for the gifts
 - a. Pray that while you are in Walmart you will receive a word of knowledge for the cashier
 - b. Pray that while you are on an airplane, you will move in healing gifts as you pray for the person next to you
 - c. Pray for a prophetic word for someone while you are at the zoo
- C. As you earnestly seek the gifts of the Spirit, you will be emboldened to share the gospel, the gifts will be in operation, and you will see people saved.