

Holy Spirit - The Gift Giver Pastor Ron Carpenter, Jr.

Message Summary: The Gift Giver

Coming off a powerful Sunday where hundreds were baptized in the Holy Spirit and received a personal prayer language, Pastor Ron taught that this experience is meant to launch believers into a daily, ongoing dialogue with the Holy Spirit. From there, he began exploring the gifts of the Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12 - revelation gifts, power gifts, and vocal gifts - emphasizing that these gifts manifest as God wills and always for the benefit of others. They are not earned, not for self-promotion, and not confined to church settings. They represent God stepping into time and space with divine assistance, divine exemption, and supernatural empowerment. Pastor Ron challenged us to understand the nature of favor, the purpose of spiritual gifts, and the reality that God often uses ordinary believers in everyday places to reveal His extraordinary power.

Discussion Questions

Warm-Up

- 1. What stood out to you the most from last week's Holy Spirit baptism moment?
- 2. How have you sensed or noticed the Holy Spirit differently this week?

Understanding the Message

- 3. Pastor Ron said our relationship with God is a "dialogue, not a monologue." What does that look like in your daily life?
- 4. Why do you think the gifts of the Spirit are given "for the profit of all" and not for the individual who receives them?
- 5. Which category of gifts revelation, power, or vocal do you feel most drawn toward or curious about?
- 6. The sermon stressed that most miracles in Jesus' ministry happened outside the temple. How does that shift your perspective on where God wants to use spiritual gifts today?

Digging Deeper

- 7. What does it mean that spiritual gifts are distributed "as He wills"? How does that challenge our expectations?
- 8. Pastor Ron described favor as bringing divine assistance and divine exemption. Can you recall a time when you saw God help you in a way that went beyond your ability?
- 9. The sermon warned against using gifts for self-promotion. What are some signs someone is using a spiritual gift correctly and incorrectly?
- 10. Have you ever felt the Holy Spirit tug at you to pray for someone, share a word, or step out in boldness? What happened?

Application

- 11. Who in your everyday life might God want to touch through you?
- 12. Which spiritual gift do you believe God may be awakening or stirring in you right now?

Personal Challenge

This week, intentionally practice the "dialogue" Pastor Ron talked about.

Talk with the Holy Spirit throughout your day - simple moments like walking, driving, working, or dealing with decisions. Ask Him to make you aware of opportunities to serve or encourage someone and be ready to step out in obedience when you sense His leading.

Group Challenge

Together as a group, pray and ask the Holy Spirit to stir and activate spiritual gifts for the benefit of others. Choose one day this week where each person will intentionally look for opportunities outside of church - at work, home, school, or in public - to be used by God in a way that encourages, strengthens, or blesses someone. Next week, share what happened.