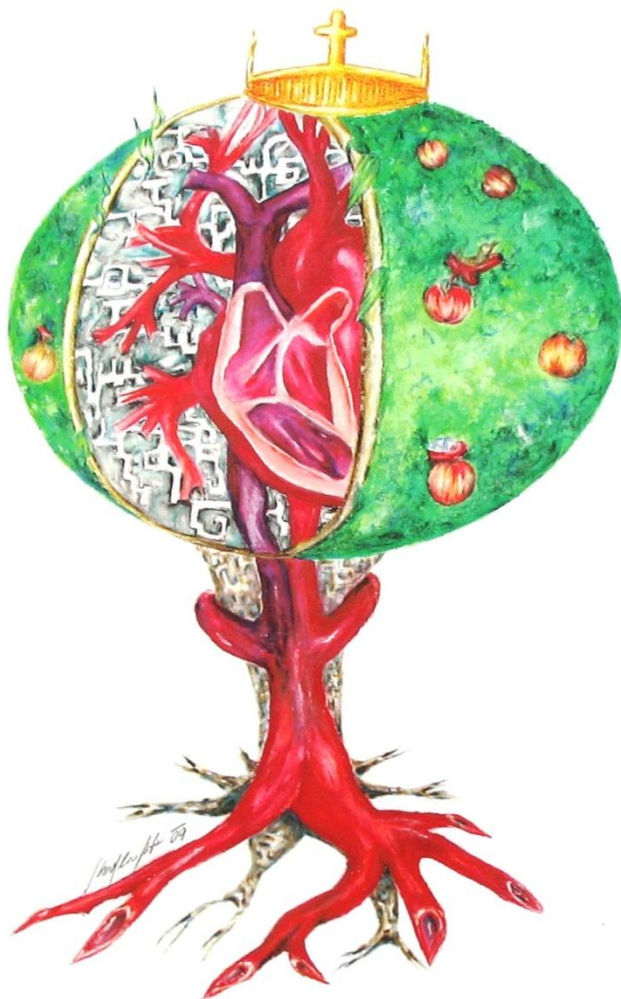


# **Fruit of the Spirit Gifts of Spirit**



**JOSEF KNOFLÍČEK**



# Fruit of the Spirit Gifts of Spirit

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For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!*

Ephes.3:14-21

# Fruit of the Spirit

As Christians we often move from one barrier to an other. And it also often happens, that we get beyond the borderlines of our „playground.“ It means we get away from what the Bible teaches, away from the example of Jesus and from leading of the Holy Spirit. When we do not recognize truth about what had happened to us, once we were born again. On one side we know, we are free from sin, but on the other we still see our sinfulness and hopelessness of not getting out of the bad stuff. We are able to create the wildest excuses, why is that so. We sometime make new false teachings of those excuses, to give reasons for our disabilities. But it cannot lead us to spiritual maturity and fullness of God's love in us.

I mentioned God's love and I would like to take it as an other example. I know, that God's love is poured out in to our hearts through the Holy Spirit, still I do not have this love towards others. Our Christianity is just a theory, sitting on the Sunday services, but not living it in our everyday lives. It became just the letter we read. Empty words. Hypocrisy. In the moment, I start to realize this, I am getting under pressure.

I try to live a Christian life with my own strength and I see how I fail, or I hope that love, faith, peace, faithfulness and other things will fall from heaven and I will be able to act in perfect love. Both is wrong. Both ways sooner or later lead to finding, that it doesn't work, to depressions, condemnations and faith lose.

„The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.“ Gal. 5:19-21

When I have read those words in the beginning of my Christian journey, I was thinking this: „Pavel couldn't write this to Christians. These cannot be things Christians do, this must be for non-Christians.“ Later I found, that these words were addressed to the Church. When we started to travel to Slovakia, we were so excited from the Roma churches in the colony. After we took the churches over, my first road led to a situation that had to deal with hatred and fights between the people in the colony. Among people from the church. And they fought almost to death. Armed police commando had to come stay for two days. It is repeating time to time and it destroys the church. The easiest is to blame the devil. Of course the demonic powers are behind that all, but it is the Christians who gave him the room in their lives, and still giving. Why? Because they did not understand how to reach the fullness of Jesus Christ. They can't believe, that they are able to live in holiness.

## What has happened to us

In the moment we believed, that Jesus is the Son of God, that He is our personal Savior, who took our sins on His cross, when we confessed with our mouth that He is our Lord and gave Him our lives, we were taken from death to life.

„For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.“ Colos 1, 13-14

In other words, we could say, that He has carried us from the power of Satan to the power of Jesus, from the power of sin to freedom. It's written in the 13th verse „from the dominion of darkness“. However we might feel, even though we are believers for a long time, that it is not like that. Our lives are

full of sin and we can 't get rid of it. We feel like the darkness rules over us.

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener... I am the vine, you are the brenches. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.” (John 15)

Paul writes, „...if the root is holy, so are the branches.

If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root, <sup>18</sup> do not consider yourself to be superior to those other branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you.“ Rom. 11:16-18

There are two roots. Two trunks. One sinful leading to death, other righteous leading to life.

First root is from Adam:

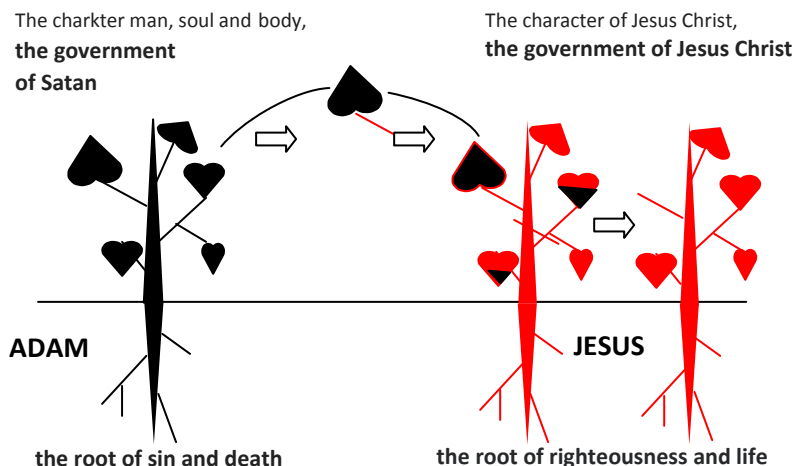
„Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned.“ Rom. 5:12

## The other root

„For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ! Rom. 5:17

Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. Rim 5:18

We have grown on the trunk, that comes out from the root of sin and death (Adam). Then we were cut out from that trunk and grafted into the root of righteousness, on the trunk of life (Jesus). We were crafted, it does NOT mean, that we have immediately changed into the shape of that trunk.



The picture shows this process. We are set free from death and from the power of sin. We are put under different government. Satan has no power over us, but we still bring that old nature with us – the old character. We have to be stripping, putting down the old man and recieving the God's character instead. This is happening throug the Holy Spirit, Paul calls it the fruit of the Spirit. It means to grow into the God's character. We are not able to grow without the Holy Spirit, because He is the one who grows in us. But of course it doesn 't work without doing our part. Our part is to daily decide to obey the Holy Spirit, who is leading us to situations, where we can train our listening and obeying so He can be growing us . We must learn to obey. It won't happen over night. The same way we can train our faith (as we learn to walk in it), we learn to obey. Jesus is our example, when He

walked on earth, He had to learn it as well. It is written in Hebrews 5: „Even though He was the Son, He learned to obey by what He suffered.“ Jesus did not come as someone who was programmed to obey, He had to go through everything. The same chapter writes about it: „Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.“ (Luk 2:51-52) He was not smart and kind immediately, but He was becoming such, He was growing in it. He was learning. He was getting ready. Until He was ready. So how much more must we be working on it.

For meditation and encouragement:

We all surely know the story about the sower, who has sown the seed on the road, into the bush and at the end into the good soil. I have experienced, that I often compare my self to that barren ground. After many years I have discovered, that it's not true. The seed was sown into the good ground, otherwise I wouldn't be here where I am day. The seed fell into the good soil and my heart believed. I would like to encourage you, that if you read this book, you have believed and you are searching for the way and that means you are the good soil. You will see what kind of crop the seed will bring.

## Why does it not work?

We have answered this question already. The only problem is, that we want to see changes immediately and without effort. Or without any hard decision or sacrifice.

1. We don't grow without changes
  - a. We don't have wisdom (Prov. 19:12, 2.Pet.1:5-6, Prov.17:27, Prov.1:29)

b. Disbelief in God's word – disobedience, distrust

(Mark 16:11-14, Luk.8:12)

c. We don't rule over our instincts, emotions and will. They rule over us. We have big expectations towards others. We are not able to keep our word. We change our mind as we like. We aren't loyal and we cannot trust others. We are not able to respect others, show them kindness. For selfishness, for our unbelief, big expectations, we are not able to be merciful. We are not able wait, be devoted to something long term and not give up when it's hard. We want and we expect everything from God immediately. And it brings unrest, steals our joy and instead of love we experience depression or we try to find someone to blame for our failures.

Finally we end up blaming God.

Let's name the areas of our failures.

## 2. Growth

a. Holy Spirit is leading us to all truth (1.Kor.8:3, John 16:13, John 14:24)

b. Trust and obedience to God's word.

c. We subject our selves under the power of the Spirit – growing of the fruit of the Spirit.

# HOLY SPIRIT

There is a need of a separate teaching about the Holy Spirit. But we will just remind some basic truths:

1. Holy Spirit is God. It is the third person of the Trinity.
2. He is equal in His power and glory with Father and Son.
3. He was sent to us an equal agent for Jesus, who sits at the right hand of God.
4. Without His presence in life of a Christian, life becomes hard and it's impossible to achieve fullness of God's love in us. Life gets under legalism.

5. He came to:

teach us everything

to remind us Jesus' words (what have we read in the Word)

to comfort us

to strengthen us,

to encourage us,

to bring us to fullness of Christ's love

(so His fruit would grow in us)

To give us spiritual gifts.

To lead us from victory to victory,

To raise us to life.

6. Through the Holy Spirit God dwells in us and we dwell in Him.

7. We should be doing everything through Him (not by might, not by power, but by my Spirit..." )

## FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

I had a chance to meet several artists through my lifetime. Musicians, singers, actors or painters. Many of them had great talents. Not all of them however achieved success. They had a huge gift from God, but it wasn't enough. Those who succeeded and are famous today, are those who had to develop many other abilities in order to use their gift in fullness.

Let's say singers. They know, it is not enough to have a good voice. They need to know the notes, they need to learn techniques, how to move on stage or even how to dance... Some singers after years of singing decide to study at conservatory. And then they reap the harvest of their effort. They developed their gift into to the maximum. And still keep working on it.

If we believed, we have been given one of the greatest gifts ever, gift of the Holy Spirit. God decided to give Himself to men. In order to fulfill His promise to bring us into Christ likeness. We think sometimes, that after we receive the Holy Spirit, we change through the night. Suddenly be loving people even our enemies, stop lying, start to be patient, abseminous. After some time we discover that no real change has happened, or just for a short while. And it brings disappointment to our relationship with God. We expected to be changed in a blink of an eye.

God wants to change us into the likeness (character) of Jesus, but it is happening inside of us. Holy Spirit begins the process and apostol Paul compares it to fruit growing. It is a process.

We have been given everything we need for a godly life, but many character issues must grow in. It needs time and cooperation with the Holy Spirit. Our own power must die out, our desire to make it all with own strength and wisdom. We need to learn to give space to Holy Spirit. He is teaching us

through all kinds of situations, often through people we don't like. So we learn patience, selfcontrol, gentleness, kindness, love and trust. This all is part of Jesus' character. We must go through it all, in order to be able to make a change. We must decrease so the Holy Spirit has space.

You might be aware of a fact, how far you have gone. And it is the best leaving point, so the Holy Spirit can start His work in you.

We read about the fruit of the Spirit in the Gal.5:22-23 „But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.“ We often stay at love, joy and peace. We constantly ask them to be seen in our lives. We don't realise that their growth depends on growing of other fruit – patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, selfcontrol . Growing of these bring us peace and joy and all together create fullness of love (1.Kor. 13,4-7).

Don't ask for what you already have, let it grow in you. Make a space for it to grow.

Let's look at these features. Words of apostol Peter inspire us to let the fruit grow one after the other (Pet.1:4-10). I believe this is led by the Spirit and I wish you a God transformation in all areas, so you can truly reflect the picture Jesus Christ.

## **1. Self-control**

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. (Gal.5:22)

Self- control talks clearly of who should be in charge.

We are not able to show love. Self control is the first stone on which the trust is built in every relationship. Selfcontrol is the first building rock where we build our love relationships. We cannot approach someone with so called love and not use selfcontrol. The same applies to our personal lives and ministry. Why? Every day I meet Christians, who cannot control their emotions, thier instincts nor will. The result of it is constant fighting, quarrels and lives of sin. People stop going to church, cause they are ashamed. They pray for love, many of them put it all down already. They gave it up. However they could have been controlling their emotions in first place. To have temperance, when someone says something that is hurtful. Or if he is gossiping about their children. And it is not only about offending. Many people might have not left the church, if we would be better controlling our words and anger. So much less hurt people would be in our churches if we would restraint our comments about their ministry, their lives or families. Instead of praying we are talking and revile. So many marriages would be happier and avoiding divorces. It is all because of our disability to control our sefls. To restraint. We are even so audacious, that we blame the Holy Spirit for our disability to control our emotions, instincts and will. But the Holy Spirit wants to lead us to freedome in the first place. It does not mean that we are going to be doing what we want, what our soul or feelings just want and need. The freedom is based in conscious control of them. To hold them back, if they could be hurting other people, or the Kingdome. If we talk about the fruit of the Spirit in us, then it is a conscious submiting under the Spirit in us. Under the power of Christ. That makes us free. Then we are not controled by emotions anymore, but we are able to rule them. There is nothing bad about emotions or instincts, if they are under the rule of the spirit. If they rule, they can be the instruments that devil uses to decieve us. Through them he is destroying us, oppressing us, luring and enslaving us. If we let the fruit of selfcontrol grow, we strip him of this dangerous weapon. And then freedome can come.

## How can the fruit of selfcontrol grow?

It is the fruit of the Holy Spirit. It means we have to receive the Holy Spirit into our lives. If I believed in Jesus Christ and genuinely made Him a Lord of our lives, then we have to invite the Holy Spirit. (Come Holy Spirit and become a part of my being and lead me. ) Holy Spirit is a person. Person from the Holy Trinity. Through Him God abides in us (John 14:16-17,26)

-Holy Spirit leads us to the truth (John 16:13). You need to see the truth. To see how you are ruled by your emotions and instincts, instead of ruling them. If they won't be ruled by the Spirit together with you, devil will be more than glad to take this role.

-If you know the truth, call on Jesus for help. Ask Holy Spirit to change you in this area. He will always be reminding you of situations, in name of Jesus to put your emotions and instincts under the rule of the Spirit, so they not rule over you..

-When you pray in the morning, submit your emotions, instincts and will under the power of the Holy Spirit. Command them to be submitted and not take over.

Sometimes you will see results immediately. Other times it might take weeks or months but hold on. Before the fruit grows, bud and a flower must come first. Holy Spirit will be leading you to situations, where you can find, how grown is your fruit.

Example:

Let's imagine, you have a gift of healing. Your brother breaks his hand and you pray for the healing. Later we start arguing and I cannot control myself and I happen to break his other hand. Why is my gift of healing for?

## 2. Gentleness

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Gal. 5:22)

To be gentle. What does it really mean? We might connect it with peace, but it doesn't cohere as much. Paul wouldn't mention this word in verse 22. We use this word as gentle work, gentle features, gentle approach, gentle person. Some other translations use the word tame. Tame horse does not demand much of his rider or stable. Even handicapped people can ride the tame horse. Or beginner riders. The horse does not throw them down. We have once put our grandson upon such horse. No one had to hold him, cause the horse was tame. Less tame is the horse, more demanding he is of his environment. I would never entrust my grandson to a horse who would be wild like volcano. (Sometimes horse can hide its temper with selfcontrol. But gentleness doesn't have to be hiding behind anything, it's just tame)-

It's the same with people. The person without gentleness needs people who are stronger around him. Strong and mature. The weak ones he could easily overrun. Life around such person is like being in a constant danger, full of changes and fears of what else to expect. On the other hand, it is easy to live and serve around gentle people. Relationships are not so difficult. They are able to control their feelings, instincts and will. We don't have to face steep hills or valleys. We can feel safe around such people and can be easily walking along without scary backsets.

Gentleness comes with maturing of our selfcontrol. Eventhough selfcontrol is not enough, they cannot be one without the other.

If we want people to walk along us, to have relationships, we cannot be demanding. It often happens, that we want much more of other than from ourselves, or our family members. We must have a law „brim of demandingness“ towards others. We could be growing with them even without noticing. In terms of relationships and ministry.

Gentleness enables us to receive other person the way he is. Without conditions.

Gentleness in us as fruit of the Spirit - is praising (Psalm 18:36). It can stop great sins (Eccl.10,4). There is a need for gentleness when we exhort (Gal.6,1) and it is important in loving each other (Ef.4,2).

Sometimes we demand too much of ourselves and then we constantly condemn us. But we have to receive us the way we are.

Gentleness might go together with mildness. We have to know and have it experienced, that our gentleness should lead others to their uplifting and not condemning. Without gentleness we are not able to submit to one and other (Ef.5:21).

Let's go little deeper:

It is a sin to despise one's neighbor...(Prov.14,21) To let the fruit of gentleness grow, God must deal with our pride. With other words, it is a picture of victory over pride. As the gentleness grows, the pride is getting smaller. It is a long process, cause it is very easy to fall into evil's traps. He traps us in comparing with others, playing who is better game. Then we look down on people. It is not just about the ministry, skills, talents, but it could be about the kids and their school grades comparing with other kids, or how good they behave compare to the pastor's kids...

It is written that Moses was the most humble person on earth. It does not mean, he wasn't talking, but it means he was gentle. Gentleness leads us to humble life.

I can pray: „Lord make me humble. God make my heart humble“, but we do not realise, God will not do it by sending a package of humility from heaven., but He starts putting us into situations, where we find our pride. (Holy Spirit will convict us about our prideful approach. Without this conviction we wouldn't learn about our pride). Through those situations that seem so hard many times, our fruit of gentleness can grow. The humility.

### **How to let it grow?**

1. We must realize that all we have is not from us, but by the grace of God (intelligence that enabled me to study, diligence that helped my carrier, my skills that make my living that is admired by others, my generosity, wisdom, obedience, good life for my children, or my holiness, ministry, understanding of the Word, faith, spiritual gifts and growth, all this is only by the Grace of God). 1.Cor. 4:7, Jukub 1:17, Fil.2:13)
2. Thank Him for that. Then confess the sin of looking down on others. When you thought too much of your self. Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you the gifts and skills He gave you, so that you don't need them to be admired, but so you could be serving implicitly and effectively.
3. Through the Holy Spirit we need to find out the real state: of our judging of brothers, sisters and others around us (do not forget, that by the measure of your judgment you will be judged). If your measure is high, it says a lot about valuing yourself too high and that leads to pride.

Ask Holy Spirit to convict you of such behaviours. To show you the concrete situations and people and write it all down. Confess it as a sin (all those things you have written down) and ask for forgiveness. Also ask Him to remind you, when you fail and to strengthen you not to do so anymore.

Practical advice. When Holy Spirit tells you that you are doing something wrong, you can command to your soul and mind not to judge others in the name of Jesus. Start to bless and change your mind flow with reading Scripture or singing praises.

4. You need to experience, what really means what Paul says: „I am exhorting you through the quietness and gentleness of Christ“(2.Cor.10:1). Without this gentleness of Christ no one would be saved. Ask the Holy Spirit to let you know and experience the „gentleness of Christ“.

Write down the times, when your expectations of people were high and then led to judgement. Ask the Holy Spirit to convict you of putting the bar too high towards others and towards yourself. And then repent.

When you pray in the morning command your mind to think of others in the Spirit of gentleness. Do it long-term.

Remember, if you will always have higher expectations then they are able to fill, you can lead them under the curse of the law - when they will want to handle it with their own strength. People (believers) grow around you by the grace of God and through dealing of the Holy Spirit. **AND ALSO IN YOUR OWN LIFE AND YOUR VIEW OF YOU!**

To think about:

How can selfcontrol fasten the growth of gentleness in my life and lead to humility?

### 3. Faithfulness

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Gal. 5:22)

Faithful love. What love it would be, if it doesn 't stand on faithfulness?

God is faithful. Bible repeats it many times. I have chosen three passages: „He is faithful God and no evil is in Him. He is just and right.“ (De.31,4) „No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.“(1.Cor.10,13) „May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.“ (1.Tes.5:23-24)

Even though people were constantly failing and still fail in faithfulness towards God, He stays faithful to His promise and sends His Son on earth and on to the cross. People always wanted to do things their way and without God, He stayed faithful and sent His Holy Spirit on earth. Though our heart is evil, He wants to give us a new heart. Not from stone but of flesh if we are faithless,....he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself.– God's, faithful.“ (2.Tim.2:13)

What His faithfulness stands on? It stands on constancy. On stability. On keeping His word and promise. If the person is faithful, he is reliable. I can rely on him, on my good friend.

Often I have heard conversations, where one person said one thing and in a presence of an other person said different thing. This is not faithfulness, nor reliability. With such person I can rely on one thing, that he is not reliable. We know the situations, where we are able to change our speech, when we see that people don't like what we say, or don't agree. We are like a pinwheel that turns with the wind. There is a saying about such people: „Where the wind blows, there the coat flows.“ I suppose, many of us fail in faithfulness. What a love is that, when I cannot rely on a person, even though he says, he loves me. Our unfaithfulness takes trustworthiness from everything we say, from each word. How can we preach the Gospel, talk about Jesus, when all people know that they cannot rely on us. Will they believe our words? Faithfulness makes us whole. Trustworthiness. Faithfulness helps us to be the ones, who merely not hearing the word but doing it.

Faithfulness towards others. Our faithfulness does not throw people across the board, even though we don't get along. Faithfulness follows them in troubles, it does not turn its face when they wear the coat of shame or if they are dragged in the mud. When others scream and throw the filth, it stays firm behind the faithful. On such person we can always count. We will stay and support, won't leave, because we are faithful. Our faithfulness helps other people stand up again on their feet and follow Christ.

We can count on God's faithfulness as we trust in God's word. Faithfulness cannot fail itself. We cannot deny who we are, deny who we belong to, who we rely upon and whom our lives stand on. Faithfulness is not able to deny Christ. It makes our yes – yes and our no – no.

So what to do with our unfaithfulness? With our unfaithful heart? God wants to create a new heart through the Holy Spirit in us. How is He doing it? He takes the old and puts new in? No. We know this is not about a human organ, but about our substance, about our inner being. It is a sum of our character, conscience. Metaphorically said, God takes our old stoned heart (character, conscience) and gives us one of the flesh. It means that the Holy Spirit starts to deal with our character.

He starts to change our inner man. Holy Spirit starts to tutor us and lead us to eternity. Step by step. He starts with showing us our unfaithfulness. And He also puts a desire to change inside of us. With His help we start to stand on His word, even if would have to lose something. We find out, that we first have to know if we can keep our promises. Step by step we are taught by faithfulness and our inner man becomes more reliable and stable. Our hearts are becoming new, unfaithful to faithful.

- Holy Spirit show me your picture of me. How unfaithful is my heart.
- Forgive me the sin of my unfaithful heart and put a desire of faithfulness in me.
- Lead me every day please and convict me, when I start to act unfaithfully. Hold me up in such situations, so that I remain faithful.

We constantly need to have the control of the Holy Spirit over our lives. We need to yield to Him and rejoice when He convicts us. He is not doing it to pull us down, but to bring us up to image of Christ and to fullness of His love. And this is reason to rejoice.

## 4. Goodness

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Gal. 5:22)

If we make selfcontrol, gentleness and faithfulness the main building rocks of love, then the goodness would be the taste of love. We often wish to be loved by others, because we have the need to experience someones good heart. Their goodness towards us. If we taste God's goodness, then we do not want anything else, we wish only one thing - to stay at this full table of God's good things.

Goodness does not mean that I am good, great, special or perfect. Only God is. Goodness is an expression of good deeds. Love needs deeds to be real.

„For God so loved (love) the world that he gave (deed) his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish (good deed for people) but have eternal life. (good for people)

God in His Son did the good deed for people and this way He showed His love. (Efes.2) The sacrifice of Jesus Christ was the revelation of His goodness.

„Don't you know that God's goodness leads to repentance?“ (Rom.2,4) God in His goodness gave His Son to put all the evil of the sinful people to himself, to change their destiny, to change their hard hearts to. God's goodness brings people to God's kingdom. Fullness of Christ's love is showed by our acts.

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Efes.2,10)

If we smelled the scent of God, the scent of Christ to life, or we are like the vinegar or the sand between our teeth instead. We need to realize that goodness is the fruit of the Holy Spirit - it is God's, God's goodness in us, his deeds through us. It is not in our power to do real and genuine good deeds. We are always influenced by our selfishness, our emotions, although they may seem good at first sight, they are all bad because they are based on a bad foundation. The selfish ME.

The more is the fruit of self-control, mildness and fidelity grows in our lives, our self is diminishing more and we give room for the will of God. In order to be able to see, hear, and above all to perform and live the good deeds God has prepared for us. And all the more we are ready to be the instrument of God's love in us.

Jesus, forgive me that I was trying to push myself and do my deeds, that I did not ask you what to do.

Please, Father, let me enter into good works you prepared for me. That I do not miss even one. Please close the door so that I do not open it if I want to do things according to myself and open the ones you want me to go through.

Holy Spirit, please lead me along your paths, places and situations in which God's goodness can be shown through me. Be the one who points out and tells me the truth about my deeds. Who will encourage me if I fall in this area.

## **5. Kindness**

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Gal. 5:22)

When I compared goodness to the taste of love, I can compare the kindness to its smell. It is like the smell of flowers that attract bees from miles away to come and take the blessing. To believers in whom fruit of kindness grows, people are attracted to.

It is nice to be with someone who is kind and affectionate. Why? Kindness is not expressed in greasy words, subtle words splitting, praise, as some think and act, but it is a noble affection and respect towards the others. Kindness is a manifestation of favor. People around the kind people feel better, more special, more important, but above all, their dignity is being restored. Especially when someone who is authority has a kind a personality and is being kind to us. Nothing, however, can replace the grace - God's kindness to us. His mercy. God by showing us his goodness in sacrificing the Son for our sake, for ME, has shown me His kindness and mercy. His kindness is shown in His blessings in Christ. His kindness has returned our dignity and our position as God's children. God has given us His grace in His kindness.

Kind heart - we can also call it the heart of mercy. Kindness does not count evil (forgives, does not count for injustice), does not seek its favor, is not assumptive, and does not boast. Kindness is the smell of love, when it comes out of the Holy Spirit in us. In order to become God's kind fragrance, we must be transformed by the Holy Spirit. Let this fruit of the Spirit grow on us. Without this kindness, love is just dry deeds. Person does not always realizes, that good things done by God for him are pleasant at the moment. It is usually just the opposite. Sometimes even the good things hurt or feel not pleasant. And it is kindness that can lead us through. It is sometimes like a healing tape on the wound. Kind approach is very visible, Jesus said, By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:35). And Paul writes, „Kindly love each other with brother love, showing respect to each other.“

*Jesus, please, deal with my heart, with my prejudices that prevent me from respecting my brothers and sisters. I am confessing you my bad attitudes towards them, and I ask for forgiveness.*

*Holy Spirit teach me and make kindness grow in my life.*

*Guard my heart, my mind and my mouth so that I can see, think and talk with people with respect and kind attitude. So I can see and deal with myself.*

## **6. Forbearance**

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Gal. 5:22)

God is love and the attribute of love is that it is patient. That is why the Holy Spirit makes patience grow in us. Without patience we could not love people around us and we could not love ourselves. Just as the proof of faith is the deed of faith, one of the proofs of love is patience. Any fruit that has grown in us so far loses its meaning if we were not sufficiently patient. Patience is the fruit we need so that every previous fruit of the Spirit may grow. Patience is important to reach the goal. To get into the kingdom of God. To stop right at the winning spot is not enough, it means we are impatient and we do not win the prize. Patience brings victory.

End of negotiations is better than their beginning. Patience is better than haughtiness (Accl 7,8)

... so we do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised."(Hebrews 6:12)

More and more I am overwhelmed by God's patience with me, but also with us, his children. When they see how we behave, how we think, how we betray ourselves, how impatient we are, how we condemn each other and ourselves. There are so many bad things we still need to put away from our lives. God sees it and patiently waits, even though we keep doing the same mistakes. We lack patience, that is leading us to God's kingdom. Lord's patience means salvation (2.Petr.3:15)

Our patience should come from the Holy Spirit. It should be the same as God's. Nevertheless, it is limited. Yet God's patience should grow in us as the fruit of the Holy Spirit. One of the reasons why it does not grow, is our limitedness. Our patience is sometimes limited by our finances. Patience is often associated with constant financial, material assistance. If I see that the resources are thinner, the thinner is my patience. At other times it is limited by our time. Being patient often brings a time sacrifice. And time is important to us. We can get things back, but not the time. We want to see the result, we make deadlines. People give us deadlines. Another limitation of our patience is the pressure from the environment. The opinion of our loved ones, co-workers, family, churches. It was Christians that had enforced the law of "three times and enough". This meant that if someone was punished for the third time, he would get the life sentence. If God would apply the same rule to our sinfulness, what would happen ...?

An other important limitation is tiredness. I know from my experience, that when I am tired, impatience is one of the first things to appear. The very first thing is my crankiness. The reason to be tired could be the never ending waiting for the change of situations. Or from loss of hope, that nothing can ever change. It brings disturbance, losing of joy and it can turn into hatred towards people or situations. There is no other option, than to immerse yourself in prayer, praise and thank giving.

Before that, person has to be separated from the world and the people, spending time alone with the Lord. Our patience

comes from the Holy Spirit. Only by him can be strengthened and restored. Only his presence in us gives us strength to be patient.

Let's try to name our limitations. Patience goes beyond these limitations. If I know the limit, then I can deal with it. My patience can exist without my finances even without a time limit, without pressure from the environment. We set these limits all by ourselves. Patience does not have limits, otherwise it stops being patient. Thank God that his patience has no limit. I would probably never get into God's kingdom. I would probably never get where I am now. The fruit of God's patience in me brings hope to people that I will not give up on them before the changes begin to manifest. Thanks to patience I can make disciples.

And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. (1.Tes.5:14)

With patience, God's love in my life becomes more real and full day after day.

*Thank you, Holy Spirit, that your patience can grow me. I give you space and I do not want to restrict it.*

## **7. Peace**

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Gal. 5:22)

„Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.“ (John 14:27)

Jesus does not leave us some worldly peace - working with our feet on the table and our heads in clouds, dreaming about everything possible. His peace brings rest from worries and fear. His peace is secure. He is our secured justification:

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Rom 5:1)

The justification from sin brings peace. As long as we have something to hide, while hiding our sins, our bad thoughts are constantly under pressure, which brings turmoil. We need to open before God and bring everything to His light. Everything. Declare these hidden sins and iniquities, ask for forgiveness and turn away from them.

Turning away from sin is connected with the growth of fruit of the Spirit within us. He shows the hidden truth about us. Brings to surface what we tried to hide, even things we weren't able to see. Then it is up to us to come back to His peace by confessing and turning away from these things.

Holy Spirit brings us into situations that reveal the truth. If we deal with it, our peace deepens and grows. Getting more permanent and lasting.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Isaiah 9:6

One of the names of Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace. In Him "justice kisses the peace" (Psalm 85).

Christ brings peace to all who accept Him as their Savior, who listen to his words and fulfill them. But those who turn away from Him, His Peace also turns away.

"Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword." Math.10:34

"When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house.' <sup>6</sup> If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you.

Luke 10: 5-6

Our task is to bring peace and bless with peace, which we have in ourselves through Jesus Christ. It's not up to us to distinguish who is worthy, who is not. We should try to be in peace with everyone, if it is possible.

If we have peace in ourselves, we can bring this justice into the situation. The peace caused by our justification, by our certainty that we are heirs of God's kingdom, gives us the boldness and courage to act fairly. Where there is peace, there is no fear. If we have this peace within us and it grows in us, then we are able to act with the Lord in situations where we would never have courage to act.

The peace is not sitting with a good book, drinking tea, but it is a peace in the relationship with God, which is then transmitted through us to the situations in which we find ourselves.

Come before Jesus with all that the Holy Spirit shows you as a sin in your life. Give it to Him and ask for forgiveness. He is faithful and righteous, forgives you, and cleanses you from all unrighteousness. (Jan 1)

Forgive yourself. When God forgave you (and DID forgive you) it is a sin if you can not forgive yourself. You are not more than God!

Ask the Holy Spirit, that you may experience this forgiveness, your righteousness in Christ. You need to have this revealed experience of the Spirit.

We are the heirs of the blessing and we have to bless people. And ourselves. Bless not only the other people but also your spirit, soul, mind, and body in Christ's peace. It brings justice and peace to your life and body.

## 8. Joy

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Gal. 5:22)

"Rejoice in the Lord always, I say again: rejoice!" (Philippians 4: 4) These are the words of Apostle Paul. We should rejoice. Rejoice in the Lord. To dwell in His joy. It's not about laughing at all costs, but enjoying the joy of God's presence in our life.

Like many others, we also go through various life situations: pressures because of lack of finances, family deaths, betrayal, open or hidden hatred, disappointment, spiritual attacks, etc. They are not enjoyable situations at all.

Yet, as we go before the Lord, praise Him, giving Him glory and thanksgiving, peace and joy comes into our lives. It is not possible to describe how joy comes, but it was a joy that permeates our whole being. By entering through praise, worship and thanksgiving to the presence of the Lord, we also enter His peace and joy.

Joy as the fruit of the Spirit is the joy - the joy of our Lord.

You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy. (Hebrews 1: 9)

Joy is in everything that Christ brings: a joyful message to the humble, a bundle of broken hearts, a proclamation to the captives and to the prisoners opening of the prison, the

proclamation of the year of the LORD, and the day of the vengeance of our God: the pleasure of all the mourners, headband of provision instead of ashes, the oil of joy, instead of the spirit of despondence .-- Isaiah 61

This should be the source of our joy. In Christ we have become God's children, could there be anything more? Is it not a reason for joy? We have become the heirs of God's kingdom together with Christ, and we are seated with Him on the throne, why would we be sad?

We are sad when our eyes cease to cling to Jesus, our hope, and we begin to wander around this world and his offers. When we begin to look for hope in worldly things.

“ Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”  
Nehem.8:10

The joy of the Lord, the joy of the presence of Christ and the Holy Spirit in our lives, the joy of our hope in the inheritance of the Lord's servants gives us strength for the future days. Strength in difficult situations, new pressures and spiritual struggles. The Holy Spirit wants our joy to stand on His presence so that our joy is a light for people around us. Light and peace that attracts to Christ. It is not us, but the Holy Spirit and his joy and peace that does it. But let us give Him space in our lives so that His fruit can grow and the fruit of our selfs can be reduced and disappear from our lives. It is often the case that the Spirit floods us with huge waves of joy before the difficult situations come.

*Holy Spirit, I ask You, that I could be reduced, and on the contrary, Christ, my Lord, could grow.*

## 9. Love

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Gal. 5:22)

There is much written about love. Both in the Bible and the secular poetry or novels. Many movies, musicals, and productions have been filmed about it. Yet it is hard to express love in words. It's rather impossible. Unless I use the Word of God.

Most people think, that love is a feeling. Emotional expression of the relationship. However, each expression comes with some deed. Without it the feeling is hidden, no one would know about it. Actually, love without the manifestation is not real. It's just dreaming.

Apostle Paul needs one whole chapter in the Bible (1 Corinthians 13) to express it. When we read it carefully, we find that love is the sum of many different manifestations and traits. The true love of God is the sum of the attributes of the Holy Spirit. So, as fruit grows - these qualities, manifestations - I would say the character of the Holy Spirit within us - the love of God is growing and fulfilling us.

God is love. The Holy Spirit that has been given to us is love in us.

What does it mean? First of all, that we do not have to constantly be asking for more love. If we have accepted the Holy Spirit, then we have His love in us, as well. There is no greater love than this.

It is Christ's love in us. You have, we have the love of God. What we have to do is to let it grow into the fullness. It means to let the fruit of the Holy Spirit grow in us. Summary of all His features.

The more we allow it, the more and faster it will grow and the love in us will be fulfilled. The "sharper" are the features of the

fruit, the more passionate is the expression. The fruit of the Spirit (the character of God) grows in us only if we diminish. The less of me, the more of Him - that is love. By this we become more like Jesus, who is glorified in our lives and the Holy Spirit in us and through us.

*Father, thank you for the gift of the Holy Ghost.*

AT THE END:

We all call on God. For love for others or for love for us. We experience God's presence, we are filled with His love, His peace, His joy comes into our lives. We enjoy such moments, we testify about them. But it's only about us and God. That would be kind of "selfish".

God wants us to be His witnesses and ambassadors here on earth. We can only do that if we reflect Him, His peace, His joy and His love. It is not enough to just be enjoying God's presence from "above". It must come out of us. The presence of the Holy Spirit in us helps us to realize that we are more like Jesus every day. His work in us transforms us, and we can actually begin to live what we have just been talking about.

The fruit of the Holy Spirit in us is not only a gift of God for us, but also a gift for other people around us. It is God's act through us to people. It could be enough just to experience God's presence, but God wants more for us:

Jesus approached and spoke to them, "All authority was given to me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Ghost, and teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you all the days until the end of this age. Amen.

# Gifts of Spirit

1st Timothy 4: 4 For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving.

When I first read the twelfth chapter of the 1st Corinthians, I was excited about the gift God gave to His children. While listening to lectures from this chapter, I was convinced that Christians are people who have enormous supernatural power. When I later read the Old Testament stories I noticed people who have done such supernatural deeds that I have never seen in lives of my older brothers and sisters in the Church. I began to wonder why is that so. I have been taught that we are to do greater works. But I just cannot see them.

I know there are still many believers today who are in the dark as far as spiritual gifts are concerned. They are often dazed because of the way the gifts are used (or rather, by the people who use them). Also from the way, how is this fruit enforced by some self-appointed prophets, apostles, etc. However, negative experiences should not make us ignorant of the spiritual gifts and their use (1 Corinthians 12,1: Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed.

## About Spiritual Gifts

The Apostle Paul speaks about the gifts as the work of the Holy Spirit. This work of the Holy Spirit through man is not only associated with New Testament believers, but we can observe it throughout the human history. And the name of the LORD began to be worshipped, and Henoah was so close to God that God took him as Elias. Ancestors as Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were prophets of their time, through whom God made wonders (they had dreams, revelations, prophesied, had the right to plead for nations). Moses opened the sea with his, made water stream from the rock, proclaimed the judgments

of Egypt. Joshua because of his obedience, saw the fall of Jericho's walls. Samson, filled with supernatural power, defeated the enemy. David full of the Spirit was victorious over the enemies of Israel, he was the author of Psalms and a prophet. Many more of God's prophets of that time were God's instruments of the Holy Spirit on earth. Jesus was the greatest example. Read the stories of these people, including the great and small prophets, and think about the action of the Holy Ghost on earth through them in Old testament. Holy Spirit was doing countless miracles through them. But it is written about Jesus, that even if all the deeds would be written down, the books of that time would not be enough to contain it.

It is written that we will be doing greater works than Jesus because He went to the Father to heaven. Jesus did not mean more quality-power, for He is perfect in everything but rather more in numbers. He was doing his ministry just for three years. We need to realize the fact that "disciple is not above his master".

God gives people different gifts. Since creation. And He does not take them back. However, there is a difference between the gift I receive and use as I wish and the work of the Holy Spirit that does as He wishes.

For example, a beautiful voice, intelligence, skillfull hands, creativity, eloquence ... Those who have such gifts, can use them as they wish. They can improve them by exercising, or let them shrink, we can use them for money, fame, to make career, for the celebration of demons... Or we can use them for joy and to help others, for the glory of Jesus... It's up to us. We still keep having them. We are often proud of them. But we don't have them because we deserve them. We did not buy them, nor created them. We have just received them from God. Maybe we have worked on them, trained them, were diligent, and took advantage of them to the maximum. But also the fact that we were diligent is by the grace of God. Let us not despise others, do not rise above those who did not have such grace.

Spiritual gifts - the work of the Holy Spirit is something completely different. Spiritual gifts are directed by the Holy Spirit and have a clear purpose:

1. Celebrate Jesus Christ.
2. Demonstrate the power of God's kingdom (not only over people, but above spiritual powers).
3. The common good, the preparation of God's people, the building of Christ's body.

In Old Testament, the manifestations of the Holy Spirit were demonstrated through chosen individuals (Old Testament prophets, some kings, individuals whom God chose). Today, in the time of grace, the Holy Spirit uses these gifts and manifestations through God's people - the Church. Everyone who believed and gave his life to Jesus has the right to become God's child and to receive the power of the Holy Spirit, which then manifests through them. Someone can say, "He give spiritual gifts."

Do you feel entitled to have any of the spiritual gifts? Why?

I have recently been very strongly aware of the difference between those who believe that God is with them through the Holy Spirit and those believers who have received the power of the Holy Spirit into their lives. This is what Jesus says in the fourteenth chapter of John:

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments; and I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Intercessor to be with you forever - the Spirit of truth the world can not accept because he does not see him or know him. You know him, for he stays with you and he is in you. "

The difference is whether He stays with us or is in us. The difference is whether I have received the power of the Holy Spirit into my life or just believe He can come help me. I try to see God working through me or I am directly using the power of the Holy Spirit that is in me for something to happen, change, stop, break, tie up or untied, etc. To accept the power from above is to receive the power of the Holy Spirit so He can

manifest through us. To allow the Holy Spirit by faith to manifest as He wants.

(At the end of this teachings about the fruit of the Spirit, I talked about accepting God's presence, power, love, peace, joy from above, and "enjoying it", letting us sink in it. But we also have the presence of the Holy Spirit that is gradually transforming our character, and His work is not always so enjoyable because the character is being built through various tests.)

In both cases, something is happening. Jesus says that if we pray in His Name, He will do it, and elsewhere it is written that when we untie something, it will be untied. Yes, this way we can see miracles, get wise counsel from God, see healing and God's power.

That is why, where there is no teaching on spiritual gifts and baptism by the Holy Spirit in Church, many healings and other miracles can happen.

It is not about salvation as many teach: If you do not speak the languages, you do not have the Spirit and you can not be saved. We are saved by the grace, by faith in Jesus Christ. We can not come to Christ unless it is given to us by the Father. How? Only through the Holy Spirit. If we condition salvation to the manifestations of the Holy Spirit, then we would deny all the claims of Jesus Christ in the New Testament that we are saved by believing in him. Salvation is by faith, and we can not change it. How could then John 3:16 apply? How can I say "Jesus is the Lord," only by of the Holy Spirit. Any conditioning of salvation is human thinking that closes people's way to salvation.

Although we pray with those who believed that the Holy Spirit was given to them, we do not always see the manifestations-gifts of the Holy Spirit on those we pray for. In the course of time, we can see that fruit of the Spirit is rising, but we rarely see manifestations of the power of the Spirit. They usually appear during a common service. I believed and grew up in the church, where the proof of acceptance of the Holy Spirit was when someone started talking in tongues. After time, I

found out that this was not a manifestation of the Spirit, but of a soul. Some people wanted to speak in languages at all costs just to prove to be baptized in the Holy Spirit.

Others, when they were pushed to start talking, felt guilty of not being filled with the Spirit. That they are not worthy, good enough, etc. There were also those who stopped attending the church. On the other hand, I must say that it is good to speak in spiritual languages. (Learn more about language lessons.)

Today it's not as hard then it was in times when I have believed. Yet I realize that many leaders of the Charismatic and Pentecostal Churches still feel that way, even though they do not speak loud about it.

We need to realize what Paul writes at the beginning of the 12th chapter 1. Corinthians:

1. There are differences in gifts of grace, but the same Spirit,
2. There are differences in ministries, but the same Lord,
3. there are differences in works, but the same God.

We see that there are three things. Gifts, services, and works. Sometimes we cannot distinguish them and we mix them together nameing them all as spiritual gifts. We will give more attention to solve this issue in following chapters.

Now, I'd love if we realized one important thing. Holy Spirit manifests through us in different ways, as He wishes. The gifts He gives are different in each one of us.

I will give an example: someone always binds the powers, throws demons out, another proclaims freedom in the name of Jesus and the Word of God, someone is urged by the Spirit to shout, another to be silent, someone has special manifestations (crying, groaning, laughter ...).

Some attack the spiritual doors in the power of the Spirit and bringing down the walls. Another one waits and walks through the open door. Some have interpretations in pictures, another brings the litteral meaning, etc. The Holy Spirit uses His children in very different manifestations. We can not say that there is just one way. But we must learn to distinguish

between the manifestation of the Spirit and the manifestation of the soul or body. (Teaching about the word of knowledge.) I would like to finish this introductory part with the verses which the Lord Jesus declared about Himself:

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,  
because he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners  
and recovery of sight for the blind,  
to set the oppressed free,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

Is not that similar to what Jesus tells us? Luke 24:49,  
I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but  
stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on  
high.”

Let us try to confess with all humility over our lives that:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me .... because this is what  
Jesus tells us to do. Luke 4: 18-19

## Distribution and their effects

If I wanted to express the difference between the fruit of the Holy Spirit and the gifts, I would say this in the simplest way:  
The fruit of the Holy Spirit is the building of a servant’s character and the gifts of the Holy Spirit is a supernatural tool given by God to His servants.

But both should grow alongside, otherwise the tool in a believer’s hand can become dangerous both to people around and to the Church, and it does not bring glory to God nor the Kingdom, but rather has an opposite effect (like a car in the

hands of a man who can not drive, or a butcher's knife in the hands of a mad butcher)

Why do God's servants need such supernatural instruments?  
There are at least two reasons:

- To make it obvious that it is the work of God,

We do not fight against the flesh and the blood, but against the spiritual powers of evil in the heavenly realms (Eph 6) - that is why we also need supernatural-spiritual weapons for this battle.

God has given many gifts to His children for use, but these nine, that are listed in 1. Corinthians chapter 12, are a real demonstration of God's supernatural behavior. They are seen at believers who have accepted the power of God in their lives, by power from the above

- baptism by the Holy Spirit. (Luke 24, Acts 1)

Jesus had breathed His Spirit on them even before (John20), but now it is the power - supernatural God's instrument from above. Sometimes these two situations happen at the same time when believer is born again (giving himself to Christ), and he is baptized by the Holy Spirit (he is clothed with power from above). At other times it can be few days, weeks and even years after his conversion.

And sometimes never. (Acts19)

This "baptism" can be received right from God to one who prays, or by praying and putting hands of an other servant. Sometimes by evangelizing and preaching the Word of God. God does it the way He wishes.

There are nine gifts described in chapter 12 of 1 Corinthians:  
To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to

another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

I divided them into three groups. Over time, I found out that they are given to believers in these groups. If one of those three gifts appears at the believer, Holy Spirit gives the two other ones too, even if he does not use them, or not know about them. (If they realize this, they can discover them and start using them too.)

It is my own theory and it is based only on my experience during my walk with the Lord.

## Groups dividing:

### **The word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, the distinction of spirits,**

(they have a common understanding, a vision to get solutions).

### **Faith, gifts of healing, gifts for miracles,**

(the common denominator is the power of God to create miracles).

### **Prophecy, speaking in tongues, tongues interpretation.**

(instantaneous withdrawal of a living Word of God).

This division is not any kind of rule. The Holy Spirit is giving His gifts as He wants in to different situations and ministries. And God adds more gifts. Gifts can be quenched with changing the ministry, but they will never die out, nor be taken back.

Sometimes we make the mistake of stopping using one of the gifts because we think we don't need it anymore, or we do not use spiritual gifts in a certain denomination.

God would not give us anything that is unnecessary. If He gives a gift, He wants us to use it. We only need to learn how (and to distinguish when I use a spiritual gift or I just act upon myself) and when. I will not learn it unless I start using it. The

more I use it, more I'm learning it. (I will not learn to be a carpenter until I grab the a saw or a chisel.)

## THE WORD OF WISDOM, WORD OF KNOWLEGE, DISTINQUISHING BETWEEN THE SPIRITS

We often perceive wisdom as a need for someone who leads the Church, but it is not so. We all need wisdom for our lives. Even for very practical things. God likes to give wisdom to those who ask for it. Read Exodus 31, you will find that the wisdom and rationality are also necessary for craft and artistic skills.

Why do we need God's wisdom:

- ☐ for salvation through faith (2 Timothy 3:15)
- ☐ for strengthening (Ecc. 7:19)
- ☐ against enemies, in persecution (Luke 21:15, Acts 6:10)
- ☐ to acquire the skills (Exodus 36.2)
- ☐ to explain spiritual things (1 Corinthians 2:13)
- ☐ mutual instruction and admonition (Kolosky 3.9)
- ☐ through the Church, to the powers and rulers in the heavenlies should be God's wisdom revealed.

How can I recognize God's wisdom and knowledge of God from the human's? (Knowlege and wisdom go hand in hand, even in the Scripture.)

But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.(James 3:17).

It comes from Christ - Christ the power of God and God's wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:24).

It is based on Scripture - the Lord's testimony is reliable, it gives wisdom to ordinary people (Psalm 19: 8).

The Holy Spirit in you will confirm that it is God's wisdom (1 Corinthians 2: 11-16).

How can we gain God's wisdom and knowledge?

The wisdom is given by the Lord, knowledge and understanding come from his mouth (Proverbs 2.6).

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. (Proverbs 9:10).

If any of you lack wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. (James 1: 5).

The Holy Spirit gives as He wants, but it is also written that we should seek His gifts.

Wisdom and knowledge, as I have already written, goes hand in hand. In other words God's knowledge is God's analysis of the situation: where we are, how we do things, how it all looks. Looking at the situation and condition with God's eyes and the wisdom of God is His solution and His way.

It is God's revelation of the situation and revelation of how to deal with it.

It is similar with distinguishing of spirits. We first need to know the basic thing:

Whether it is a matter of the Holy Spirit, or of a different spirit. Sometimes we try to discuss specifically what kind of spirit it is, but it is not important. Important is to deal with this spirit (to

bind, to expose, to forbid, to expel ...). It is similar to knowledge and wisdom. Sometimes the Holy Spirit gives us the revelation of what particular spirit it is, but if we do not know it, never mind. Every spirit must obey the authority of the name of Jesus.

I could write a whole book about this topic, but it is not necessary in this lesson.

Read Acts 15 and see how God's knowledge and God's wisdom functioned. Also distinguishing of the spirits.

## FAITH, GIFTS OF HEALING, GIFTS OF MIRACLES

In the past lesson we talked about the fact that we all need wisdom from God, knowledge and distinguishing of the spirits. Likewise, we all need faith, we can pray for the healing of others, and each of us can use the Holy Spirit to do powerful deeds.

Some of believers, however, are gifted more in these areas, and then serve with these gifts outside of the church. But they should be regularly serving in the Church. Still, the Holy Spirit uses who He wants and how. Depending on what type of ministry God calls you to, He will arm you with His instruments-spiritual gifts. Spiritual gifts, or rather their action through you, can vary according to how and where you serve. It does not mean that the gift you received a few years ago God will take, after you change your ministry, and give you another instead. No, God does not take back His gifts. The new gift will have to be used more and the one you already have can subside or the way of using it will change. The fact that different people have different gifts leads us to serve

together as one body. If we are still in spiritual puberty and we are immature, we try to serve alone without the help of others.

Example of mutual need:

Gift of prophecy: eloquent prophecy

Gift of knowledge: it has a confirmation of whether it is from God or not.

Gift of wisdom: knows how to use the prophecy in the life of the Church.

In this section we will deal with the second group. The common denominator is the revelation of God's power. And these gifts insinuate sometimes and it is harder to tell which one is in action at the time. (similarly to the other two groups).

FAITH - it is the supernatural faith of God. It is a Faith that God puts into man's heart to pray-(James 5:15) It is a prayer that has tremendous power because it does not come out of our needs, our feelings and desires, but of God Himself. It is not only about healing, but about praying into different situations.

It doesn't need to be just a prayer, but this faith works in us, so that we can talk about things, they are to happen, and act upon this faith without wavering. This is not the faith we use every day, even if we would really wish to. I have experienced this kind of faith. I have stood against the circumstances, that have shouted: "It's over." Against the opinions of brothers and sisters at church, that have been telling me: "It's over!" However, faith was claiming something else. It was God given. I fixed my words and my deeds firmly upon this faith and I have seen a great God's victory.

It's not just about healing or powerful deeds, but we might also need it at some manifestations of prophecy. This belief brings absolute certainty in fulfilling His promises. It does not have any doubt.

It often happens in prayers for healing that the person is not healed. Many times I heard from praying men saying to the man, "You have a little faith. You must believe more ". But they do not tell him how. Note that faith is not the fruit of the Holy Spirit. It is a gift of grace! Everyone has a different measure of faith from God. By blaming a person for lack of faith, we get him under pressure, which forces him to push the faith with his own power. To believe emotionally. We all need faith that is not from us, which is not a product of our minds and emotions, but the faith that is embedded by God Himself.

„Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you" Romans 12.3

Do not force others to believe just the way you do. We can have disciples, that can gain the same gifts of grace from the Spirit just as we do or even more, but we cannot force anyone to have more faith than he has now or to blame him for having smaller than others have.

## **GIFTS OF HEALING**

It seems that we also need a gift of faith for these gifts. But the truth is little different, and soon we will find out.

I would like to note the words "gifts". It is in plural. It means that in healing, it is possible to have more gifts. Why?

*"... they all came to hear him and be healed of all their illnesses. Even those who were troubled by unclean spirits were healed. "Luke 9:18*

*When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases". (Luke 9: 1)*

In Scripture, healing means - healing of the whole person. Not only the body but also the soul and spirit. Among the gifts we find the recognition of spirits, but there is no casting out spirits. Why? Because this also belongs to the healing of a whole man. His soul and spirit. (For example, fear can cause many diseases - stomach problems, heart pounding, but also skin diseases and other much worse illnesses)

We can therefore divide the healing gifts to:

**1. Healing the actual body diseases** (viral and infectious diseases, fever, internal organs diseases, toothache, etc.) I sometimes hear that all health problems are from evil. That there is some spiritual power behind everything. We humans have often problem of accepting the opinion of majority without thinking about it. There are many things that are caused or they are the consequences of injuries in sports, clumsiness, accidents, etc.. Or there are illnesses that have arisen from our own stupidity - over-estimation of our strength, overworking, the stress from wanting pleaseing people, etc. Even the blind from birth was ready for the revelation of the glory of God.

When Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law from the fever, he did not expel any demons. When you pray for a broken hand, you will not bind the powers.

**2. Delivering man from the spiritual powers and addiction.** As I have written, many diseases are caused by being bound up (or occupied) by a spiritual power. And that can manifest as a mental and psychiatric illnesses which can effect the physical body.

Why is it important to realize this dividing? In the first case, we can all pray, in the other we need authority from God (giving them power over all demons). Again there are several gifts. Discerning of spirits and one of the healing gifts.

I would like to return to faith. But healing (physical illness) is not conditioned to our faith as much. It's more about obedience to begin praying, putting hands on, etc. Other is up to God, not us. I have prayed many times for the healing, but I didn't have faith. For example, people and children have come to me with toothache and gingivitis. I myself have no teeth of my own, so I took their requests for the healing as a God's joke with me. However the opposite had happened. Everyone was healed and immediately. Even without my faith. Obedience was important. Trust in the gift then grows as a servant sees God acting. What he sees (a particular kind of healing) gives him assurance that God has given him authority - that God has chosen to do these deeds through him. Then his faith grows. Jesus' disciples saw what He was doing. Then He gave them authority, and they went and healed. You also need to see what is Jesus really doing through you, to take authority, which God gave you (the time of discipleship).

It's really more about obedience. Some say, "I will pray, I have faith" - and nothing happens. It's about God. In the gift of healing we need to see what God wants to do.

How do I know the gift of healing in that first case?

The first sign is great compassion with the sick man. Feeling urgency to pray for healing. People are healed after the prayer.

It is a difference to have a healing church assembly and to pray in a small circle, or one on one. The manifestation of this gift usually varies depending if it is in assembly and in private.

At a bigger meeting, the Holy Spirit can speak:

- Who is sick,
- what diseases does God want to heal at that time,
- it may happen that you feel the pain in places where God wants to heal someone
- you can see the image of the illness by internal sight,
- other ways that the Holy Spirit can give you,

but it's always about giving an anonymous challenge and you're waiting for someone to come. Even if you know who he is, you do not call him by name, you do not go to him, it is up the Holy Spirit to address him, so that he comes.

Of course, if the Holy Spirit guides you to follow him, then you have to go, however in very few cases he namely leads to call out the person. In all the cases I experienced, it was made by servants who did not know that person. God gave them their name before they called them in front of the congregation. To make it clear that it is God's work.

But it is different, when we are outside of the church. Often, the Holy Spirit will lead you into the house, to a particular person, and you will pray for a particular healing.

Putting the hands on the sick - if a man prays for a woman, he only puts his hand on her head or shoulders. If he feels that he should lay his hand on the sick place, let him call another sister who puts his hand there and then he puts his hand on the sister's hand. If the sister prays for the brother, it is the same process. If there is a need to pray for intimate things, sisters pray for sisters and brothers for brothers.

How do we pray for healing:

- we can pray in tongues (unless the Spirit shows us how to pray)
- we can bless the body and organs that are sick, inviting healing in the name of Jesus,
- we can curse illness and order it to go away,
- we may sometimes want the sick to do some act of faith (squats, walking, etc.). Beware, here we have to be sure to do it so that the illness does not get worse,
- just bless,
- Put your hands on the sick (but not necessarily)
- In other ways the Holy Spirit guides us, but this is never something against the man nor the Scripture. We also do not have to hurry, we wait for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. If we do not know how to pray, we just bless the healing in the Name of Jesus.

All this should be under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. In no way we imitate some way the well-known servant prayed. Even the apostles never spit on the ground to make mud for blind eyes, as Jesus did.

In the other case, it is necessary for those people who have truly received authority from God to serve - and they should not serve by themselves. They should be accompanied with some other brother or sister. He is better in the group. If God sends us to pray for the sick or to bound up evil spirits, we must first discuss with the church corps and the elders. Here we need the recognition of spirits and wisdom to act.

It is very irresponsible to say: "So, let it cast out of him immediately". It is God's power that does it.

Let us remember the words of the Scripture in Jude:

Yet Michael, one of the mightiest of the angels, when he was arguing with Satan about Moses' body, did not dare to accuse even Satan, or jeer at him, but simply said, "The Lord rebuke you." But these men mock and curse at anything they do not understand, and like animals, they do whatever they feel like, thereby ruining their souls.

This teaching is not about illness or health, it is a separate and a different chapter of Christianity.

Every spiritual gift is growing and is being cleansed into the purity of obedience.

## **POWER FOR MAKING MIRACLES**

This gift is often associated with healing gifts and the gift of prophecy (especially in Testament prophets). Most examples of miraculous acts are found in the Old Testament. Holy Spirit had given His gifts to servants of God in Old Testament as well.

In the New Testament, we see Jesus as He raises the dead, silences the storm, walks on the water, dries the fig tree, multiplies food. Jesus tells us:

"He who believes in me will also do the works that I do, and will do even more works than these, for I go to the Father."  
John 14: 12

We must realize that we can not do more than Jesus did. The disciple is not above his master. But because we have more time than he had when he walked on this earth, we will do much more of his deeds than He did. It means more deeds in number.

Unlike the healing gifts, we must have faith from God to carry out these deeds.

Jesus said to them:

If you only have faith in God—this is the absolute truth—you can say to this Mount of Olives, ‘Rise up and fall into the Mediterranean,’ and your command will be obeyed. All that’s required is that you really believe and have no doubt.

Together with the gift of prophecy, it is faith in the power of God’s word that the prophet speaks.

This gift is largely missing in the Church. It usually manifests itself in moments when there are walls that prevent us to break through. The walls could be the attitudes of people around us, financial situation, but also death, missing organs in the body, limbs that have never grown, eyes that have never seen, etc. Through this gift there are great break throughs in the life of the Church and the personal lives of people. God is being glorified and reveals His great power of God to the Church and also to the world, through the Church.

## PROPHECIES, SPEAKING IN TONGUES, INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES

This group is connected to the word of God, the Holy Spirit communicates to people. The prophetic word is often associated with the gift of making powerful deeds, through which the spoken word releases situations and things. These days, however, the current prophecy is limping, which is very sad.

I am convinced that even today the Holy Spirit wants to do powerful acts through the prophetic word. (In other words, all gifts can be and are often interconnected).

## **PROPHECY**

Believers have a very different approach to the word of prophecy, it rises different concepts and contexts in them. People who are focused more on the Old Testament, think about prophecy in means of God's judgments over people and Israelites. For others prophesy is revelation of their future, their paths, etc. Then there are those for whom prophesy means reaching certain authority or influence in Christian circles. But there is much more to prophesy than what we mentioned. All of these ideas and associations come from the human attitude towards the word of prophecy (and to all that is associated with that word). They prove the ignorance of the Lord, the ignorance of God and whom God is.

We say according to Scripture, "God is love," but we are unable to grasp this sentence in our lives. The prophecy is above all a proof and demonstration of the Father's love towards man. It is the word of the Father to his children, who speaks with love, patience, goodness, so that He transforms, supports and restores them through the Word. Freeing us to the processes which changes us to likeness of His Son. Interpreting God's Word without realizing this thing is not a real prophecy. This is also true about reading the Bible and a prophetic word. Both can be used with no power, or can be full of life and God's power. It either becomes a cliché or a real life. It's not about the accuracy of words, but The Spirit of God in them.

It is there or it is not. If the word is not motivated by God's love, God is not in it. Someone can now worry over my statement, that "it's not about the accuracy of the words". Each of us have a different idea of what words express. How often we don't understand because someone means something

different under the same sentence. Therefore the most important is the Spirit who can make it all clear. It can also happen that in another time, we get a new knowledge from the same word we have read a year or a month ago. By the way, we have several kinds of translations of Scripture, but it is the Spirit that gives meaning and life to the content.

It is true that God's word, which is often a prophecy is like a two-edged sword and divides the truth from lies. This can often lead to division among believers, but division is not God's purpose. The goal is to free and purify His children with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Because the truth is Christ and in Christ.

How does prophecy work? In many ways.

□ One of them is that God touches man and begins to speak through him. We can not influence it and we wonder what we are saying. As if we were beside ourselves and just listening to what we are saying. The word can be a spoken or sung.

□ Another way is that God gives us space to see things, people, situations with His eyes. We suddenly see what God sees and we just describe it. Sometimes He gives us insight into what He wants to do in the situation. Instead of verbal description, we can express it with pictures, dances, songs. But it is not as common as word expression. We are identified with God's sight.

□ Another way in which prophecy works is that God, through the Holy Spirit, speaks to us. He tells us in advance what we should say or write to someone. Sometimes we talk to God about it, about the person or situation. But sometimes it's just a form of announcement of what God wants to do, what will

happen. Then comes the moment when we meet the person or we come to the situation and we start talking. The words are not usually exactly the same as when God talked to us, but the same content and the Spirit is in them. Sometimes the word gets wider, because the situation moved further or the person has changed for better or the worse. Although the Lord knows in advance about the change, He does not tell us to confuse us. Especially with people and situations we know or we are somehow involved.

Also because we are prone to quick judgements. We do not have to talk to people only. We can also talk to situations.

□ He can also speak to us in the form of various "images" that we see around us and which He uses as an example - river flow, wind, storm, trees, minerals, professions ... these images represent specific people, church, community, etc. Such word is usually for people (nations) who have something in common with what the Lord is talking about. He can speak to someone specifically or to people who have a similar character, way of life, or belong to the same group.

□ There are many other ways - dreams, images, vision, etc. Besides the first way, prophecy is always associated with the person through which it is expressed. Almost always, this person has an influence on how is the prophecy interpreted. The way of telling the prophecy is effected by the momentary mood and concerns of the prophecy giver, and also the relationship with whom it is sent to. Therefore, the one whom God entrusts responsibility for the words, he must have the same attitude as God has. Above all with the attitude of love to man.

Sometimes it is necessary to wait before the word is passed, until the messenger aligns his own feelings, soul, thoughts, and submit them to the power of the Holy Spirit.

There are two big mistakes, that people with the gift of prophecy do, when they are beginners and doing their first steps (But I have met even those who made the same mistake, even though they were in the prophetic ministry for longer time). The thing is, that often when people come in front to the altar to ask for a prayer, people with a prophetic gift try to have a word for them, because it is expected. But we must be careful. When God says nothing, I say nothing. I don't have to say something, even though I hear nothing. It is usually the case of words from the flesh. But we have to realize that our words are powerful, even though they are not from the Lord. They can influence the life of a person and also lead them astray. I have met several people who were given some "prophecy". They held on to it for dear life, but it was never fulfilled. Some of those people haven't recovered to this day.

An other mistake is very similar. People often come to those who are known for having a gift of prophesy, and ask them for a word from God. But God's giving His word right to the hearts of his people. There is no need to ask for a word through someone else.

Lord is not pleased by that. In the Old Testament people used to go to prophets for a word from God . Today, however, the Lord has sent the Holy Spirit, through whom every believer can have a personal relationship with God. It is better to bring people to this relationship than to be a mediator. In most cases people will not listen when they receive the word second-hand. Why? Because if God wants to say something, He will tell them by Himself. He puts it in their hearts or thoughts. It's just about whether people like it and want to obey. If they don't like it, they are looking for a confirmation of their own will and they avoid people with a prophetic gift. Of course, not all of them are like this. Many people are looking for confirmation of the word they got, to make sure it is from the Lord. But I personally do not consider it to be the best form, because the Lord has His own ways of confirmation. (But it's just my personal opinion and experience.) There are many people who say they cannot hear anything, so they look

for the people with this gifting. People with the gift need to devote themselves to be helping others to come into such relationship with the Holy Spirit so that they can understand how Lord speaks.

In the beginning, I wrote that the prophetic word releases events and influences situation. Therefore, it is important for it to be spoken. There are things God does without saying or announcing. However, there are situations and processes that will never happen until we speak a word of the Lord to them. It is the responsibility of the one to whom the Lord speaks. People with a prophetic gift must learn how to use such word. If we miss the timing or for whatever reason we do not say the revealed word, some things will never happen. Even after we understand it, it is no longer possible to do anything. "The river is flowing further, and there is another water flowing where we stand."

Is there any condition for us to prophesy? No, there isn't. The prophecy is from the Lord. If this gift is given by the Holy Spirit, then it is upon Him. If we find out that we have this gift, we do not have to worry about it. If we are sincere before the Lord and approach the people and the Church with Christ's love, then we do not have to worry. If we have failed in something, then it is necessary to come honestly to the Lord for solution. He can turn our mistake into a blessing. We have to be honest with the Lord and those we serve.

In conclusion, it is necessary to say that it would be the best if everything was done in the prophetic spirit - preaching, teaching, sharing, pastoral care, etc. 1. Corinthians 14.1. But the reality is different. The Lord certainly knows why is that so.

## **DIFFERENT TONGUES**

Spiritual tongues/languages of the Holy Spirit (and He speaks not only all the human languages, but thousands and thousands of spiritual languages as well). Several times I have

heard from more traditional churches that it includes only human languages. People have different level of ability to learn foreign languages. But it is not a spiritual gift.

It's something else when a servant needs to speak a language, so he can reach out to the local people, and he starts to speak their language from night to day. This is not a spiritual language, but rather a miracle.

Let's go back to spiritual tongues. The Scripture says that the Holy Spirit speaks this way through us. I have once read that the prophecy is the word from heaven to men, and the tongues are words from earth to heaven. I think this is one part of reality. And it is in two cases:

□ When we worship and praise (singing, worshipping). Colossians 3:16 in this verse, Paul distinguishes praise and spiritual songs. Today we consider all as spiritual songs. I think even the worship songs and hymns are meant to be under the guidance of the Spirit that glorifies Christ. But what are spiritual songs? I believe that it is the singing of the Holy Spirit by the mouth of a man (whether as a prophecy or in the spiritual tongues and their interpretation). But it's just my opinion.

□ When the Holy Spirit intercedes for us. Romans 8:26 If there is no interpretation, then they are secrets that only God knows. In 1 Corinthians in Chapter 14, Paul reveals us truths about tongues. If I do not have an interpretation that tells me the God's words, then the tongues are for me personally. They are building me up. Like Paul says, I want everyone to speak tongues. Why?

□ When I pray in tongues, it is the Holy Spirit who intercedes for me to the Father in things I would never admit, or did not want to change, or would not bear yet.

□ While I pray in tongues, the Spirit of God changes something in my inner being. Prayer in tongues transforms our spirit.

□ If I do not know how to pray for people, I will begin to pray in tongues because the Holy Spirit always knows how to pray. Many times it is for our good not to know what to pray for. Other times He will put certain words in our heart what to pray for.

This gift, like other gifts (except in case of prophecy where God uses us without being able to influence it), every believer has in his power to use it or not.

Gifts are given by the Holy Spirit as He wants, and this often becomes an excuse for those who do not speak in tongues. I think this gift is for everyone, but not everyone wants to accept it. Someone has a block in his mind that he can not speak nonsense he does not understand. It can be a good foundation for learning how to obey the Holy Spirit without having to discuss why we should do it. Speaking tongues can help us here.

When I pray with some brothers or sisters, I sense how the Holy Spirit "blows" in them and wants the tongue to come out. But he has his mouths locked from the inside.

If I do not start talking, I can not let this gift manifest. We can do nothing about the fact, that the manifestation of this gift is saying words that no one understands.

However, I want to emphasize that if I do not speak the spiritual tongues, it is not a sign that I am not baptized by the Holy Spirit !!!!

## INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES

Bošakara di našetola dina roots. Karese's on it. Laespero, non, nona buchta di.

(The kindness and mercy of God may be with you, God will give you everything above your expectations, both in grace and in gifts.)

You see, it is not only possible to speak in tongues, but to write as well. It is useless though, if there is no interpretation. I believe that in a community where people speak in spiritual tongues, there is also a gift of interpretation. It is not given enough space for it though.

One of the great mistakes for finding the gift of interpretation is the church-wide loud prayers in tongues. In such a multitude of tongues sounding one over the other, it is difficult to see if I have an interpretation. The man needs to pray one tongue and then wait for someone to come up with an interpretation. Sometimes the praying person gets an interpretation. Then another one can pray, and so on. Otherwise, we will never know if there is a gift of interpretation in the church. Just as with prophecy, it is necessary for the Church to learn to distinguish, whether it is of the Spirit or man.

There are different ways of interpretation that I have personally experienced:

- Verbatim translation (just like I wrote at the beginning).
- Sometimes the tongue is a one long tone, sometimes it is like a machine gun. In such cases, the interpretation is rather a description of what the Spirit gives you during prayers.
- It is a description of an image that comes to you during the prayers.

- Another that I do not know yet.

How to interpret:

- It is always the work of the Holy Spirit in the one who prays and at the same time in the one who interprets. If it is from God, then these two are in harmony.

- For the verbatim interpretation, it works the same way as it is with regular translation. The sentence is said, and then it is interpreted. Sentence after sentence. It is important to really start talking even though I only know the first word. Then more sentences will come.

For other cases of interpretation, it is necessary to wait until the prayer ends. When the prayer is long, you need to make notes. Mostly, however, if we pray in tongues ahead with an expectation of interpretation, the prayers are not so long to forget it. (The Spirit causes unity.)

It's always about obedience and courage to open your mouth!!!

No one has fallen educated from the sky. We are learning all our lives, and we can make mistakes. That's why we have community to be able to distinguish in love, what is from God and what is not. If we are against everything, then the Church will lose great things of God and lose the spiritual tools for ministry. If we are eager for spiritual gifts, but we will not want anyone else to judge whether we have been wrong or not, then sooner or later we will be spiritually "out of order" and do more harm than good.

Things from God are not afraid to be judged.

## MINISTRY IN THE CHURCH - OFFICES

God did not give only these spiritual gifts to His childer, but many others. We can find at least some of them in the Scripture. Some of them are part of the group of gifts, some stand alone. However, there is one specific group of God's gifts for the Church and the ministry:

Some of us have been given special ability as apostles; to others he has given the gift of being able to preach well; some have special ability in winning people to Christ, helping them to trust Him as their Savior; others have a gift for caring for God's people as a shepherd cares of his sheep, leading and teaching them in the ways of God. Why is it that He gives us these special abilities to do certain things best? It is that God's people will be equipped to do better work for him, building up the Church, the body of Christ, to a position of strength and maturity; until finally we all believe alike about our salvation and about our Savior, God's Son, and all become full-grown in the Lord—yes, to the point of being filled full with Christ.

The first thing we need to realize here is that these ministries are not from people, but they are established and given by God. So it is not people to people, as we often think in the Church. But it is God through the people - authorities establish ministires/offices in the Church.

What does this mean? Person who believes that God has appointed him to some kind of ministry can not come before the congregation and say, "God has established me to be an apostle, so I am your apostle from now on (or prophet, evangelist, teacher, shepherd). No, it does not work like that. How can you be an apostle when you never planted a church, never raised any servants, you do not bring new revelations to the Church, and you have no confirmation in yourself through the power of God.

When no one follows you, God didn't make you an authority. If your character does not reflect the character of Christ. And above all, your ministry gifts must be tested.

1. It must be obvious that God uses the specific gift through you :

- a) people around you can see that,
- b) it is also revealed to the authority over you.

2. It must be seen that:

- a) Your character is transformed into Christ likeness so that your gift becomes pure and its used for building others and the Church and not for destroying.
- b) You do not push yourself forward, but you wait for God to do it. It is not your gift but God's.
- c) You are submitted to your authority in the Church,
- d) Even if God uses your gift, you are willing to submit it under the order of the Church,

Only after these conditions your gift can be publicly accepted by the Church.

There are many children of God, who are very gifted, but were never willing to be tested, to be refined by the fire. They use their gift as an excuse for not wanting to submit under the authority in the Church. Their gifts start not to build, but to destroy. Everything should be in order. If I do not want to submit, I cannot serve.

Even the apostles had to be accountable in their lives, as well as the first apostles to each other (to the congregations, etc.).

Paul was accountable to the Church in Antioch, from which he started his first missionary journey, and later to the Apostles in Jerusalem.

Without being accountable to the Church, gifts will sooner or later become a tree that brings less and less good fruit.

Ministries that God has given to the Church are to be built.

Sometimes, when there is a gift of the evangelist in Church, other people think that sharing the gospel is only up to him. That's not so. We all have to share the gospel. The evangelist is to encourage us, to show different ways of evangelizations, to organize them, to be an example, but also to build other evangelists.

This also applies to other ministries, prophets and pastors.

Sometimes we are glad for people who do these ministries, because we assume that they will do everything. Even the work, God has prepared for us. We must realize that each of us can prophesy even though we aren't a prophet. Each one of us can pray and see the healing ... because it is not from us but of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit can give someone more grace in a particular area, BUT ALSO MORE RESPONSIBILITIES.

### **Apostle:**

1. One of the apostolic assumptions was to be in the team throughout Jesus' stay on earth. This condition can no longer be fulfilled. But it does not mean that there are not other apostles.

2. Apostles of Paul's type. Paul brought the Gospel to the Gentiles almost all over the Roman Empire. He founded many churches, raised and appointed many servants, disciples and followers. His apostleship (though he did not walk with Jesus) was confirmed by wonders and miracles, healings, and the liberation of many people from spiritual captivity that had an effect on their physical or mental health. Paul is considered to be the Apostle of the Gentiles. The Apostle of Paul's type should have all five offices.

Paul's apostleship was so strong and visible that he was accepted as the apostle by the other churches he did not plant.

3. Apostleship based on volunteer submission. When one of the church leaders is given God's wisdom to lead the church and not only the one he is part of but also the church in general, or in a certain country, region, etc. This wisdom and knowledge are furthermore underpinned by the power and authority of the Spirit and the character of such a servant is perceived by all as the character that reflects Christ the most. If such a servant is willing to wash the feet of other leaders, people might be turning to him as to authority and to the one who has knowledge. If it is constant, he becomes servant for other leaders (bishops) and becomes their apostle. They voluntarily submit under his authority. Such apostleship is supradenominational.

I'm not sure though, if there is any Christian personality in the Czech Republic or the Slovak Republic that could become an apostle for others.

### **Prophet:**

Every church leader should have a prophetic gift, but above all he should have a prophet standing beside him. The Prophet is not a good leader.

Therefore, God did not call the Prophets to be leader (except for exceptions) in Israel, however the leader (like Moses) could prophesy. The Judges - except the Deborah and Samuel - were primarily commanders who resolved disputes, they summoned and united the tribes to defend themselves. Kings were commanders, like Saul, David, they people who had wisdom from God, like Solomon. The prophets stood beside them, though each of them prophesied, as well.

Every leader has it difficult and needs someone who tells him thoughts from God, even though they are not pleasant and will bring encouragement from the Lord, support him but not be demanding of the leader to do what he said. Such "kind" of prophet is very rare.

The prophet is not the leader, but he brings a message from God. He does not have to understand it at all, but the leader should know how to handle such prophecy.

That is why it is important that the prophet in the congregation primarily educates new prophets, teaches how to handle what the Lord announces, how to propel his own thoughts and words from the prophecy ...

The Prophet is certainly not the fortune teller of the church, for the people to follow him. Also, it is stupid to walk in the time of grace and go to a prophet to hear a word from God. God wants to announce things right to you. Rather it is necessary to ask the prophets to teach you how to obey the Holy Spirit.

If God wants to tell you something through the prophet, the prophet will come to you.

### **Evangelist:**

is a gift to the Church in being able to encourage people to make personal and street evangelism. He is endowed with the

ability to share the Gospel to people outside the Church the way they understand it. People are attracted to him. His word is often accompanied by miracles and healing, casting out demons.

He organizes outreaches, builds evangelistic teams, and educates evangelists.

### **Shepherd:**

is the one who cares about the flock.. He does not need to evangelize, teach, nor prophesy, but he needs to know peoples needs, pain and injuries, their joys. Their failures and triumphs. Shepherd must know their life. Comfort them with encouragement and God's word. Cry with them.

Jesus says, the sheep know the voice of their shepherd. Also, people who are pastorally cared for will know where they belong. Care is based on the long-term spiritual support and guidance of believers.

But it can occur, especially in the social sphere, that the pastor can be leading an unbelieving congregation. If the pastoral care is to be successful, it leads to a deeper life and deeper relationship with God, and the first condition is that the congregations believes in God and Scripture. Otherwise it is not pastoral care, but evangelism. If the person does not get born again, it is better to find some other way of mental support.

### **Teacher:**

is a ministry which, can communicate the truths of God intelligibly, simply and directly. Teacher must be able to teach the people of God, it is not enough to pass on information.

He can set up precise boundaries for God's people, which can often be expanded or narrowed in other ministries. Teacher

takes care that they remain unmoved and are recognizable by teaching about them comprehensibly. He can name things the way people can take them and use them for their lives. They teach God's people to learn. He seeks and educates new teachers.

It can be assumed that the initiating church will not have all the ministries, but sooner or later the healthy one should have them all. More the church grows, the more ministries grow and the managing of all of them grows.

For example:

The shepherd will lead the pastoral team and each member of this team will take care of several people in the church.

The teacher will lead a group of teachers who will teach children, adults, youth, homeless people ...

The evangelist will build evangelistic teams.

The prophet will have a local prophetic group.

The leader (cause we cannot find much apostles) will always have a disciple around him.

That's the ideal layout.

## **WORLD MINISTRY**

Matthew 28: 18-20:

Jesus approached and spoke to them, "All authority was given to me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the

Father, and the Son and the Holy Ghost, and teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you all the days until the end of this age. Amen."

When Jesus watched the people around Him, He was sorry for them. He spoke of them as they are sheep without a shepherd. When He saw the multitudes, He was deeply moved because they were mournful and afflicted like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to His disciples, "The fields are great, but the laborers are few. Just ask the Lord of the harvest, to send laborers to his harvest." (Matthew 9: 36-38)

He was pleading for us, as well. For us - the workers for the day of harvest. Everyone should work on this field of Jesus. He also gave us a simple description of how we should do it:

1. Go among the nations (and to ours).
2. Make disciples (not only proclaim the gospel, but live with people, teach them to live as Christ - to have relationships with them, cause the master takes care of his disciples).
3. Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit-that is, lead them to a real decision to die (symbol of immersion) for themselves and for the world, and then live only for Christ (symbol of emergence).
4. Pass on the way to live.

Many of us may be afraid of having to stand on the street and proclaim the gospel to everyone. If you are one of us, I want you to make sure that you do not have to worry. Not everyone is so gifted. Many can build relationships and then bring people to someone who has a gift of evangelism - to one who can explain the gospel in a clear and powerful way.

You may not be able to express the gospel so well, but you can listen, recognize the need and advise with words from the Scripture. Or just encourage and strengthen. Or you are the one who can help those who serve so they do not have to worry about practical things. Perhaps you are one of those who can handle the finances so that others can prepare for evangelization ...

There's a lot you can do, but above all, try to find your place. Sometimes we need to see the need and then open our eyes to where the Lord wants us to.

At other times, He wants us to go through all the ministries, so we can go to nations and make disciples. But He also might want you to be a prayer intercessor in your local church. There are many places where God can build you, and we should not limit it by our imagination. Rather, we must listen and be obedient.

If we wanted to describe all the options, it would probably be few more books, but it is not the subject of this book.

However, you need to have the main assumption:

"When he saw the crowds, he was deeply moved upon them ..."

I wish you, so that all you have learned and discovered, you will be able to pass on to many other disciples.

With the love of Christ

Josef Knoflíček



