

I Will Build My Church
PART 2: THE CHURCH AT WORK
Acts 2

God's gifts are not given capriciously; neither are they given in such a way that the option for their use is left with us. As the gifts are discovered they are to be developed and used to the full in His service and to His glory. God distributes His gifts for His purposes and for the good of His people.

-Jay Adams

I. Bearing Good Fruit

II. Blessing the Body

Into the Bible:

1. Although the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit have eternally worked together in the trinity, the Old Testament period highlights the influence and activity of God the Father, the Gospels record the earthly ministry of the Son, and the Church age which begins at Pentecost is marked by the work of the Holy Spirit. While we are familiar with the concept of the gifts of the Spirit, how do the following passages describe the coming of the Holy Spirit? (Luke 11:13, Acts 2:28-29, John 14:16-17)

2. The Holy Spirit is not a mysterious force but a personal being. How do the following verse show that the gifts of the Spirit cannot be manifest apart from His presence in the life of believers? (Acts 8:14-22)
Should we pursue the blessing of specific gifts of the Spirit for ourselves? (I Corinthians 12:4-19)

Application:

3. What is the chief purpose of the spiritual gifts—from the dramatic to the more everyday giftings? How does this set the goal for the individual exercise of our own giftings of the Spirit? (Hebrews 2:3-4, Acts 5:12-16)

4. The apostle Peter who denies Christ, and initially refuses to believe that Jesus has been raised from the dead, in Acts 2 powerfully preaches the Gospel. Quite a turnaround! The fruits of the Spirit described in Galatians 5 are anything but natural qualities and activities for us in our fallen human state. How then can we get past our very human tendencies to anxiety, fear, timidity, anger, etc.? (Zechariah 4:6, II Timothy 1:7, Romans 15:13)

For Families:

5. Talk with your children about the presence of God in your life.