

I. Introduction and Ministry Announcement

While you are turning there, I want to tell you something. I want you to mark your calendars for August 7th. Somebody may ask, "What is so important about August 7th?" Well, if you are a history buff, who knows what happened on August 7th many, many, many years ago? We dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima. So mark that on your calendar and pray for the folks in Hiroshima.

That is going to be our designated Kids' Sunday this month, really for next month. We are going to move it back a week and we are going to put it on August 7th. Normally, we have all of our kids come in the last Sunday of the month. We are going to move it back one week because that Sunday is going to be dedicated to our kids. I am going to show you a new ministry we are going to launch out of our church. It is absolutely going to be one of the greatest outreach ministries we have ever probably done. It is something that I want you to see firsthand here. It is already in progress and it is already working. I have just not said anything about it, but I wanted to get a chance to get it down and get it running.

That day, we are going to get introduced to it. When we come back the following week, I am going to talk to you about how we are going to implement this into our church. If you want a ministry where you can get involved with kids and then have an outreach to their parents, I have something you are going to really be excited about. It is going to require some of you to be part of this team to go out, and it is going to be a fun time. So come August 7th, and I will be talking about it, but bring your kids. We are going to kind of change the dynamics here a little bit and put all the kids up on the floor here and just let them be right down front because it is going to be their day. It is going to be a really exciting time for them, but it is going to be something that you adults can get into that we will talk about, and it will be very exciting. So put that on your calendar.

II. The Bible as Final Authority

Today, we are about to study a section of the book of 1 Corinthians, and that is what we have been coming through. We have been coming through the Bible, dealing with every book of the Bible, how Christ is portrayed in each book, and it has been an invaluable lesson for me. I have learned so much from just putting it all together, and it has really helped you guys begin to get a handle on your Bible. Now we are doing the Bible Basics, which even helps you more to get it more in the concept, and it is really going to be a good thing for us that you learn the Bible.

We have had so many new people come into our church in the last year, and they are still coming in, that we want to have a time when everybody gets up to speed when it comes to the Bible because that is the most important thing in our church. Having you understand it is key, and I will do whatever I have to do, however long it takes, whatever it takes to help you attain that if

that is what you want in your life, and it can be done. If God can teach this idiot the Word of God, He can certainly teach you, no question about it.

The church at Corinth is completely messed up on the subject we are going to talk about today, and yet every church and every Christian today that I know is messed up on this subject. I have never seen, and I know that there are a lot of subjects, it seems redundant week after week when I teach something, I always say that nobody, it just shows you how messed up Christianity is today. We are going to talk about the issue of spiritual gifts today. We are going to define that. By the end of our next three or four weeks, you are completely going to understand that. This will be an excellent opportunity for you to get the Bible understanding of this subject. We do not worry about what this guy says or what that guy said or whose seminar or whose book said. We just take what the Bible says, and that is where we are at. That is all the farther we go.

It was a while back where a great pastor in this country by the name of Rick Warren wrote a book on *The Purpose Driven Life* that outsold the Bible. A guy asked me one time after it came out if I had ever read the book, *The Purpose Driven Life*, to which I said, "Yes, many, many times." He said, "Well, I only read through it once." He says, "How many times have you been through it?" I said, "Well, I have been through it since I got saved for the last 35, 40 years." He said, "Well, the book was not written back then." I said, "We must not be talking about the same book. The book I am talking about is this book." There will be no book that man writes that will be better than the book that God wrote on the purpose-driven life, and that is where we are at today because this book is everything that you need. The idea that a book that man wrote to teach you how to have a purpose-driven life outselling the book that God wrote shows you where Bible Christianity is at.

Now I say that not to make you mad, though I am not against that. I say that because I want you to know where we are coming from today because we are coming from the Bible. We are not interested in popular opinion. We are not interested in what the big preaching guys across this country believe or what they teach. We believe the Bible, and we believe when they teach contrary to the Word of God, they are just as screwed up as anybody else on planet Earth. This book is our final authority, the Word of God. That is what we stand on, and we do not make any apology for it. So when it comes to spiritual gifts, we are not interested in what man thinks. We are not interested in what other churches teach. We are going to go back to the Bible, and this will be an absolute excellent opportunity for you to get the Bible's defining of it as is found in 1 Corinthians 12, 13, and 14. You are going to see in these three chapters, just like we saw in 1 Corinthians 7, how the Bible defined marriage, divorce, and remarriage.

III. God's Purpose for Salvation and New Life

God saves you to do a job. Most of God's people do not even know that basic element. God saved you for a purpose, and I am not talking about the ramifications of how God saved you or all the things in your life that led you to salvation, but I am telling you this: God saved you for a purpose. If you think that God saved you so you could just continue on in a lifestyle you were already in, you are probably not even saved. You might be, but the point is that God saved you to

do a job, and from that point on, your life should be about one thing, and that one thing is fulfilling that mission that God has saved you for.

Now I understand we get the idea that Christians do not have any fun. You hang out with us for a while, you will find out what fun really is. You see, the problem is you have been spelling fun wrong. You have been spelling fun S-I-N, and fun is spelled F-U-N. You do not even know what fun is. We get the idea that when you become a Christian, you cannot do anything fun anymore. You cannot laugh. You have got to walk around like you have been baptized in dill pickle juice. You do not have any fun. You cannot laugh. You cannot tell any jokes. You cannot say anything funny. You cannot laugh in church. That is not Bible Christianity. Bible Christianity brings with it a joy. Joy brings with it happiness, laughter. Joy brings with it a completeness.

You see, the word happiness is our favorite word. Everybody wants to be happy. But the word happy or happiness itself discloses what it is all about. Happy is based on happenings. That is where the word comes from. So when the happenings in your life are good, you are happy. When the happenings in your life are not good, you are not happy. But joy will carry you through all times in life because joy is not happiness. Happiness comes because of happenings. Joy comes because of what is deep down inside you that God gave you. God saved us for a purpose. He saved us for a job that He wants us to do.

2 Corinthians 5:17:

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

You know the verse. You have heard me say it many, many times. Probably sick of hearing it. Well, I am going to say it one more time. When you get saved, things change, or they are supposed to. When you get saved, you get a new perspective on your life. You do not look at your life the same way anymore. When you get saved, you get a new purpose for your life. God now has something He wants you to do. When you get saved, you have a new passion in your life. We have all had passions in life. Many of them, there is nothing wrong with. Some of you guys like to play golf. Some of you guys like to hunt. Some of you guys like to fish. Nothing wrong with that. But you never want your passion to get outside, for that to get outside your passion for the Lord. That is all that is. It does not mean you cannot do those things. It just does not mean that now that you are a Christian, you will get a rope and shave your head and head to the airport. It means that you have everything in balance because what you are really focused on now that you are saved is what God has called you to do. You use those things.

Your goals in life change. Where before your job was your main source of income, your job was your career, you wanted to better yourself because the better you get, the more money you make and the more things you can have. That all changes now. Your job now is not just what you have to support your lifestyle. Your job now, you recognize that God has a job for you to do. So your job now, you recognize that God has given you to support yourself as God's missionary. I want to tell you something: you may live in Kansas City. You may never leave Kansas City. You may live in Raytown, Redneck Raytown. That is where I live. Every other house has a shotgun in the

back of the pickup truck in the Ram back there. I love Raytown. Been there all my life since I moved to Kansas City. I am a Raytown Redneck. I like it.

The bottom line is simply this: it does not matter. You may never leave Independence. You may never leave Raytown. You may never leave Kansas City. You may never go outside the state line all your life. But if you are saved this morning, you are a missionary. You are a missionary to where you work. You are a missionary to your neighborhood. You are a missionary to your family. You learn the ministry and you learn missions. But you see, that term is for them today. We have got so many ideas that missionaries are guys that are out here that go to foreign lands, that we just go to church and we like to give our money so somebody else can go do what God has called us to do and feel good about it.

I will tell you something else. Everybody, if you are saved here this morning, needs to be a preacher, male and female. You should not have women preachers. No, you should not have women pastors. But everybody ought to be a preacher. I guarantee you, I have some of the best women preachers you ever heard in your life. They put some of the men under the table. They have a handle on it. But they are not pastoring a church. They will never be deacons in this church. That is in the Bible.

When you realize that, everything changes. Your spouse now is your co-laborer in the work of Christ. She is what the Bible says, a help meet. She helps meet your needs as far as the ministry is concerned. Your family, your children, now they become your first ministry along with your wife. Now they are the greatest guarantee that you ever have. Parents do not even see this. Your kids are the greatest guarantee that you have that your ministry and your job that God called you to do will continue on generation after generation after generation. The most beautiful thing in this world is seeing families with their children side by side ministering in churches. When their kids are part of the discipleship, their kids are doing this, their kids are doing that. They bring up their grandkids, and in time, their grandkids are right in the whole ballpark. That is the greatest legacy that you can ever do and ever give back to God because that is what you are supposed to do. How can you imagine reproducing yourself in other people's lives if you cannot even reproduce yourself in the ones that are closest to you? It all changes. You know why it changes? Because God has a job that He wants you to do. He has something that He saved you to do, and He wants you to understand that everything about you changes. Together, you and your family form a ministry team.

IV. The Holy Spirit and God-Given Abilities

After salvation, the moment you get saved, you do not really understand this, and this is why we disciple you and work with you and have all the things that we do so you can learn these things. You have left the physical world and now you have headed into the spiritual world through a spiritual new birth. You have left the natural and entered into the supernatural. You have done this for one reason: God puts you in this for one reason because He has a job. He has something that He wants you to do, and you have to focus on doing this work. That is what my job is. My job is to give you the tools to do it. That is all my job is.

People get mad at me because I say this all the time. They get mad at me because I say things they do not like. You give me too much credit. I did not write this book. You do not like me just like you do not like a cop when he pulls you over for going 85 in a 35. Your claim is, "I was only going 65," but it is still over the speed limit. I did not write this book. I just believe this book. When God saved me, He gave me a job to do. You know what my job is? My job is to tell you the truth about what God said to you. That is what I do. That is what God wants you to do. That is how the whole system just kind of works as it goes through and you put all this stuff together.

To do this work that God wants you to do, God has to give you abilities. Your natural abilities are not any good anymore. We get the idea that the more education you get, the closer it gets you to God. I have some news for you, and you are not going to like this: the more education you get, in most cases, the farther it gets you from God. You go off to Bible college someplace and talk about angelology, hermeneutics. They talk about anthropology. They talk about numerology. They talk about all these great things. When is the last time you ever heard anybody in the Bible talk like that? Did Jesus ever use those terms? Did any of the 12 apostles ever talk that way? Did Paul talk that way to Timothy? Jesus said, "Except you come to Me as a child, you have no part of Me." Where do we get this idea that the bigger, \$55 words we use, it gets people to believe that we are closer to God? You are not closer to God that way anymore than you are when you get in an elevator and go to the top floor.

God has to give you your abilities. God does not care if you have any abilities. You know what God really cares about? Do you have availability? Will you give yourself to God? That is what He is looking at. Moses was out there. He could not do a thing. God picked the guy that was the most goofy, stupidest guy. I would like to see Moses what he looked like when God first saw him. He cannot talk. He is scared. He is afraid. He is out there, and God is telling him all these great things. He is trembling in his boots. He did not have. You know what God says? Moses kept alibis. When they are meeting there on Mount Sinai and the bushes are burning, that is where you get the term "beating around the bush." That is what Moses was doing. He says to God, "I am not able to do what You want me to do." God tells him in no uncertain terms, "I never asked you to be able, Moses. I just asked you to be willing." Because if you will be willing to do what God wants you to do in this job, God is able to give you what you need to do it. This is spiritual gifts. This work that God wants you to do, it is a supernatural work. Natural abilities will not do.

You can be the most ornate speaker in the world. You can dot every period and put everything in the right context, and you may be a golden-tongued orator. But if you do not learn how to order this book and put it out, you are not going to give them anything. When you got saved, God gave you the Holy Spirit of God. That is the power of God. You do not know this when you just got saved. But if we had the right little buttons to push, the moment you got saved, you could step out and create your own universe if you wanted to because you realized the moment you got saved, you got all the power that God has. You did not get a little bit of the Holy Spirit. He does not dole it out to you as you get. He gives you everything He is. But at that time, you do not recognize how to use it. But you have got it. You have got it all.

Somebody says, "Have you prayed for the baptism of the Holy Ghost since you have been saved?" No, not at all. I got everything God had when I got saved. When you got saved, you did not get just a little bit of God. You got all of God. The problem is you do not recognize it in you yet, but you have got it. There is a process that has to come into your life that helps you recognize. I always look at it that, you know, I use this example: if you go home this afternoon, look up on your house where your power comes in. If you live in an older home, your power comes off a pole. If you live in a more modern home, built in the last 15, 20 years, your power utilities are probably underground. So you walk around your house and find your meter. You find out your power is coming in from the bottom. It is in the ground. Or it is coming off a pole to your top and down that way. But even if your power is underground, if you walk out in your backyard, you see this green thing. This green thing will be somewhat of a dome shape, or in some cases, they are a big square green thing about the size of my pulpit up here. This is called a transformer.

If you would trace that power back to the transformer, back, back, and you could trace that down underground, you would go to a telephone pole. Off that telephone pole up there, you would find that there is a tube running down or a wire running over to your house. But your power is coming off that pole. Now, if you just took the power off that telephone pole and ran it straight into your house, it would blow your house off the foundation. Did you ever hear a transformer go out on a pole? Man, I am saying it sounds like doomsday. If you took the power straight off that pole and you put it into your home, it would blow every circuit you have got, fry every appliance you have got, burn your house down, kill your dog, blow you up, and just destroy your house. You know why? Because you cannot handle that power coming straight off the pole. So you know what the power company does? They run that raw power into a transformer. That transformer steps down that power until it can go into your house and run everything fine.

This is why when you get saved, God does not let you experience the power of God as it comes when it came off that pole at Calvary. Did it ever bother you that every telephone pole you ever saw is in the sign of a cross? The power to come off that pole at Calvary going straight into your life would burn your eyebrows, blow out your ears, burn your hair, and you would disintegrate into a thousand million pieces. So you know what God does? He puts a man inside you called Jesus Christ. You know what Jesus Christ is? He is the transformer. He takes the raw power of God coming in, holds it in Him so it does not fry your eyeballs, and as you grow into the process of learning more about God every day through church, Bible study, discipleship, learning what you learn, the Bible says it better than I could ever say.

Romans 12:2:

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

You see, the transformer in you is Jesus Christ. He takes the power of God that you have and then He makes it workable. It is through this power that comes through the transformer of Christ that you get into your life. When you build your relationship with Christ, God gives you the gifts, the power to do the job that He has called you to do. See how it works? Now, who could not

understand that? Who can understand that? Somebody says, "Bob, you are brilliant." No, Bob, you are stupid. Brilliance would be with words, terminology, going back to the Greek that you would not understand. You would just have to accept it because you think I am a godly man. That does not cover anything. I want you to leave here with it in your hand. I want it to leave here not just in your head, but in your heart.

V. The Misconception of Spiritual Gift Tests

That is the generic, garden-variety concept of spiritual gifts. God has a job for you to do. He gives you the power to do it. But there is a process in learning how to do that. That is what we want to talk about. How do we determine your spiritual gifts? In the Christianity that we live in today, there are a couple of ways to do it. One of the ways is to take the spiritual gift test. Ryan was telling me last night at Pappy's that there is a spiritual gift test online you can take. It tells you what your spiritual gifts are. Now, this is how stupid Christianity has become. If you go to a church or go to a church that has never done this, do not tell anybody. How absurd.

Here is how it works: you fill out and answer 200 questions, 150 questions, I do not know. You answer a number of questions. "What about you? Favorite color?" is a big one today. You go down through those things, and then they use a key. They grade the answer to your questions, and lo and behold, razzle-dazzle, out comes your prominent spiritual gift, your secondary spiritual gift, and then you are told these gifts you have. Now, in their mind, this is what they want you to do: "Why should you worry all of your life about what your spiritual gifts are and waste time when you could find out what your spiritual main gifts are and then go to work on those?" That is what they do today. That is exactly what they do. I have seen pastors look at young men and go up and tell them, "Son, you have this gift. This is your gift." The guy says, "Wow, that is great. This is my gift." So he goes off down life because somebody told him that.

So we find all kinds of gifts. We get the gift of soul winning. Soul winning is not a gift. I do not know how to tell you that. I had a guy all excited one time. He says, "Oh, I just took that test. What is your gift?" "I got the gift of soul winning." Soul winning is not a gift. You got robbed. The gift of tongues. The gift of healing. The gift of giving. Most Baptist churches love that one. That is the one nobody wants. A guy said to me one time, "I just took the gift test." I said, "What was your gift?" He says, "I got the gift of humility." I said, "No, no, no. You had the gift of humility. Do not you realize that once you know you have humility, you do not have humility anymore?"

Spiritual gifts, folks, is one of the biggest gimmicks and one of the biggest money makers in Christianity today. You know what the tragedy is? Do you know why? I am going to tell you why. Because most of God's people really are good people. I really believe that. I do not think there is anything wrong with most of God's people. I think it is the leaders that lead them and teach them that have the problem. The reason why, I mean, I have known churches that have had gifts seminars, "Find your spiritual gifts." They hire some organization to come in, and they do this little goofy chart thing, and everybody is as happy as pigs in a blanket. They are just all running around, "Oh, I got my gift." Then they compare, "What is your gift? Well, show your mind if I will trade your gifts." Everybody now knows where they are at.

First of all, I have a real problem charging anybody anything to give you the Bible. We have a Bible Institute here; it does not cost you a dime to come to it. Our classes on Bible Basics, it does not cost you a dime to come to it. We print the materials, we give you the handouts. We do not. I have known churches that charge people to come into the church, admission. They pack the place out to 30,000 people. You have got to go out to Schuller's Place or Joel Osteen. You really do not have to go very far than around the block sometimes to find them, but they are everywhere because people, I do not know where they got the idea. The Bible says, "Freely receive, freely give."

I have known churches that put on a staff paid counselor, accredited counselor. When people had problems that they wanted to come in and talk to, they had a counselor right there on staff who was certified by the state of Missouri. He had all the bells and whistles, and he would charge you a rate to come in and see him. How in the world, what happens if that person is lost and needs to get saved? Do you still charge them? Are we into charging people now so I can give you what God gave me free? Let me tell you something, folks, if you come into my office and I solve your problem, if I would charge you what it cost, you could not pay it if you had all the money in the world. It cost God's Son for me to have the answers that you need. What am I? Jesse James and Billy the Kid? I am going to hold you up and rob you so you can have the answers that God gave me free. Do not get me started on it, and I am already down that road.

Spiritual gifts are the biggest money maker in the world, and it makes money off of it because God's people really want to do right. I believe everybody here really wants to have a relationship with Him. I really do not think anybody is here. Now, maybe you are a visitor this morning, and you hate me already, I hope not, because I have enough persecution complex going already, I do not need another one. But I do not really believe that most of God's people, I do not believe people in this room today do not want to do what God is right. You may never do it. But I believe if you are really saved deep down inside, you want it. You may not have the guts to change your life of what you have got to do. Maybe you do not. But I really believe that you are here today because you want to know, you want to hear, and that is where you are at. For anybody to take advantage of that and to try to sell you, package something, and then make you pay for it.

VI. The Gifts of the Spirit and the Fruit of the Spirit

1 Corinthians 12:1:

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.

For those of you who have been around for a little while, you now know that in your Bible in the New Testament, there are seven things a New Testament Christian is told not to be ignorant of. We have already seen a couple of them just in our last couple of weeks. Seven things in the New Testament that you are told that you as a New Testament Christian are not to be ignorant of. I guarantee you if most of God's people had to take the ignorance test today and write down those seven, if most pastors had to do it today, they would not even know where they are at and what they are doing. You know what it comes down to? The very things that God told us that we are not to be ignorant about are the very things we as God's people are ignorant of. This is why you

need to learn and check this one off your list in the next couple of weeks: learn spiritual gifts. He does not want you to be ignorant of it, and the reason why there is so much garbage going on and so much misinformation and so much bad teaching is because God's people are ignorant of what the Bible says. We are going to fix that.

From a Bible perspective, when it comes to you and the Holy Spirit of God working through you, you have two very important concepts that you need to grasp. I think this is vital in understanding spiritual gifts. The first one is what we are talking about, and that is the gifts of the Spirit. But you cannot talk about the gifts of the Spirit without understanding the second aspect, which is the fruit of the Spirit. You cannot have, listen to me now, you cannot have the gifts of the Spirit without the fruit of the Spirit. It is absolutely impossible. The two are separate, but they go together.

Remember yesterday in Bible Basics how I told you that the 11 concepts I gave you in the first time we were together? The 11 concepts I gave you. I told you that you could almost take those 11 concepts and what 11 concepts I gave you. The 11 lines upon a piece of paper, call that piece of paper your Bible. Every one of those lines is separate. Every one of those lines represents the things that I gave you on that board. Even though those 11 things are separate, they run all the way through your Bible, and those 11 things go together. You cannot separate the gifts of the Spirit from the fruit of the Spirit. It is a lot like God's will and God's plan. That is in our discipleship lessons. Here again, how many of God's people are messed up on that? How many times have I heard somebody get up and give a testimony or somebody say, "Well, I felt like it was God's will for me to be a pastor," or "God's will for me to be a missionary," or "God's will for me to go here or go there." I understand that there is always a little latitude in what people say. I make a lot of mistakes myself in things that I say. But there are things that are doctrinal statements that need to always be as close as we can to be clear. I think one of them that God's people are messed up today, just like spiritual gifts, is the idea of God's will and God's plan. They all go together.

God's will, ladies and gentlemen, is never something that you do. God's will is something that you are. God's will for you, if you are saved this morning, is to be more like Jesus Christ every day of your life and fulfill what God has called you to do. God's plan is doing what God has called you to do. But you see my point? You cannot do what God has called you to do until you first become what God has called you to become because the power, the Spirit of God moving through you, is based on your personal one-on-one relationship with Christ. When you build that relationship inwardly, then you will do exactly what God wants you to do.

I have young Christians all the time, and this is a very common thing. I always like this when Christians ask this question. They are always concerned about, "What if I do not do what God wants me to do? What if I miss what God wants me to do?" I know how important that is to somebody, but that is really never going to be the issue. You just do not know that yet. You know the greatest guarantee that you will never not do what God wants you to do with your life? The greatest guarantee that you will never miss what God wants you to do is to forget about what God wants you to do and focus on what God wants you to be. I have never met anybody in my life that fulfilled God's will in their life of what God wanted to be that ever missed out the plan

of what God wanted him to do. I do know a lot of people that put the emphasis on the plan that never got the will, that never got anything done. This is what I am talking about.

The gifts of the Spirit represent the power of God in your life to do what He wants you to do. That would be God's plan. But the fruit of the Spirit, which is found in Galatians 5, that represents the character of God in your life of what God wants you to be. In short, you cannot have the gifts of the Spirit, the power of God, without the fruit of the Spirit, the character of God. This is where it begins to break down.

VII. God's Supernatural Power and Biblical Order

I look back in the Old Testament, and I do not really, for the life of me, know why people cannot see these things in the Bible, but then I answer my own question. The reason why they do not see things in the Bible is because nobody believes the Bible has anything to say anymore. We are too busy reading somebody else's book. We are too busy going back to the Greek and the Hebrew. We are too busy doing all these goofy things that just negates the Bible, and then we miss some of the greatest examples.

Do you think it was just, they were just stretching the point back in the Old Testament when it says back there, when it talks about David's mighty men of valor, when it says that one guy, one man, single-handedly killed 900 men? Now that sounds pretty weird to me. I mean, one on one may be good. Chuck Norris, I have seen him take two on two, three on three. Steven Seagal, he takes on 20 or 30 at a time and whips them all. 900? I do not really believe they all lined up and came one at a time. So we are left with a thing: did really one man kill 900 guys? Now, I will tell you what the Bible scholars are telling you, and probably what your pastor will tell you. He will probably, if he is a halfway liberal, he will say, "Well, that scribe when he was recopying that book made a mistake. It was late at night and he was tired, so he just put an extra zero on it. It should be 90." Then if he is a really liberal, he will say, "Well, he was really weary and he really tired, and he just put nine. It should be nine and not 90 or not 900." Nine sounds more plausible, does it not? Oh, I can buy that. Sure. Mistake in the Bible. I got that. No, no. It was 900. You know how I know it was 900? Because God said, "If you stay with Me, walk with Me, stay in My book, nobody will ever stand before you." Back then, at that particular time, that is what Israel was doing. So it is very easy to do how one man could take 900 on and kill him. It is the same way that God can take you out of your job, put the Holy Spirit of God in you, get you fired up or ready to go to do God's work, and you can win a whole town to Christ. One person. You can change your family. One person. You can change people at work. You have an impact where you are at. You know why? Because it is not you doing it anymore than it was that man doing it back there when he killed 900, and it was God doing it through him.

I love the History Channel. I do. I really do. I learn a lot from the History Channel. A lot of times it is entertaining. I was watching one the other day about how the great mysteries of the Bible are solved. Oh yeah, the History Channel is going to really help me with that one. It was the walls of Jericho. They actually said that when they walked around the walls of Jericho there to make them fall down, that it was the manner by which they were walking. What I am about to say is true. They actually said that when soldiers walk across a bridge, not like a suspension bridge, and this

is true, that you always go in route step. Route step does not mean in step. Route step is you are walking out of step because the pounding of the same steps over time could have caused that bridge to collapse. So if you go to route step, it more disperses the foot-pounds over the bridge that makes it more stable. So they were saying that the nation of Israel walked across, came across there seven times, and it was the route, the in-step that weakened those walls, and after seven days of doing that, the walls just came down.

Now you see, that is man's approach always to the Bible. I have got news for you. When you go back and study that story, you will find that that story is a picture of the second coming of Christ. History Channel missed that. You will find that they walked around that city seven times because of the fact that there are seven years in the tribulation period. They missed the fact that Jericho was called the accursed city just like Babylon, the great mystery religion. You will realize that they had all of the things that they did and pictures after the second coming of Christ, and that city fell and they took it. Pictures of the second coming.

That was another one on the History Channel about the splitting of the Red Sea. This one is a classic. Now they are actually saying that, first of all, they always say, "Well, it really did not happen. It was just the fables in the Bible." The latest scientific thing is that there was a peculiar wind that blew and came at kind of like *The Perfect Storm* movie. It just kind of hit at the right angle, and it actually made the waters go back, and they could actually walk across the southern end. That way they did not go across the southern end of it. Then you have the scribal error type thing. It was not the Red Sea. It was the Sea of Reeds. One scholar said, "You know, well, they really were not the Red Sea. You know, that is a scribal error. That is a mistake in your King James Bible. You know, you have some issues with your King James Bible. It is really the Sea of Reeds." The Sea of Reeds was a marshy swamp, and the water was only four inches at the most there. So there is really no miracle involved. Yes. Well, that sounds like a miracle to me. How would that be? Because the Bible says that all of Pharaoh's army then drowned in four inches of the water. You say, "Idiots." God did those miracles in the Old Testament. Joshua 10. Yes, He did stop the sun for 23 hours and 20 minutes. Then you find, I told him yesterday in Bible Institute, if you know anything, you know that there is a day missing in our time. That day missing in our time is found in Kings and is found back there in Joshua. You will find that that did stop the sun. He prolonged that day.

Those are things that people look at. Because they look at the Bible from a natural standpoint and they are not saved, they have no clue. I look at it from a saved standpoint. You know what I think? I think just like God split the Red Sea, just like God stopped the earth, just like God had one guy kill 900. We could go on and on and on. God will give you the power to do whatever you have to do. Subdue kingdoms, knock everybody off the plate, whatever you have to do. When you get tied into that book, you get dialed in, and God says, "I have a job for you to do," and you commit yourself to do it. Get out of the way. You are like a one-watt radio station turning the key and saying, "Hello, world," and they cannot even hear you down the street. But you know you can get the job done because of the power of God.

Galatians 5:22-23:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

It represents the character of God. That is who we are. I say it again, you will not have the gift of the Spirit without the fruit of the Spirit. There will be no work for God without the character of God in your life. This is why churches today and most Christians lack character. Most pastors do too. Most churches and most pastors remind me of what was that movie that Chevy Chase was in? Family Vacation. Most churches and most pastors remind me of that guy, Eddie. Because Eddie was mooching off everybody he could. Eddie never worked a day in his life. Most pastors do not ever get into the Bible with their people. All Eddie wanted was, "What can you do for me today? What do you have for me today?" Eddie is always out of money. He needs more money. He does this, he does that. That reminds me, Eddie has no character. Many churches today have no character. They do not have any character because they do not have the gifts of the Spirit because they do not have the fruit of the Spirit. The two go together.

I do not know what you know about your Bible. Most of you probably around here will not probably know what I am about to say, and that is a good thing. But you are going to find when you count those down there, there are nine fruits of the Holy Spirit. Each one of those represents a different characteristic of God's character that you need to have before God is going to give you the power. You get these nine fruits of the Spirit as you grow every day in your life. As you learn more about God.

- Love: That will be the unconditional love that God gives you. You do not love people God's way with just wanting something back.
- Joy: We already talked about joy, did we not?
- Peace: That comes from the peace that passes all understanding, the Holy Spirit of God.
- Longsuffering: That is your ability to be patient with things.
- Gentleness.
- Goodness.
- Faith.
- Meekness.
- Temperance: Temperance is a balance in your life on all things.

I do not know if you know this or not, but there are nine fruits of the Holy Spirit of God there. Nine in your Bible is the number of fruitfulness. What I am about to tell you is rejected by just about everybody that you are going to go to. But that is okay. We stick with the Bible. Of course, there are nine fruits of the Holy Spirit. So when you go back in your Bible in Genesis, you will find in Genesis 9, when Noah comes off the ark, like we studied yesterday, he is told to be fruitful.

Genesis 9:1:

And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.

When Abraham got the promised seed that was in the line of Christ, that was Isaac. Guess what? He was 99 years old. Do you think that is a coincidence? Do you think that just happened? Do you think the Bible was a book written like any other book that man wrote? That is the way most people approach the Bible. Well, I have got news for you. The Bible was not written by a man. It was written by God. When God told you in Genesis 9 that he was to be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth, and Abraham was 99 when he bore that fruit that he waited so long for, and you have got nine fruits of the Holy Spirit of God which is found in the book of Galatians, what happened to be the ninth book in the New Testament? When you spell Galatians, there are nine letters in it. The verses you find it in are verses 22 and 23. It adds up to nine. Do you think that is a coincidence?

People say, "Why do you use a King James Bible?" I use a King James Bible because it has character. I use a King James Bible because that is the only Bible down through history that God has ever bore fruit with. I do not, you know, take it up with Him. I mean, I do not. You may not like that, but you have to go back and rewrite about 1900 years of history to get away from that fact. The fact that you do not know history is not my fault. I use a King James Bible because it has character. It is the most fruitful book the world has ever seen. It produced the most fruitful period in church history the world has ever seen where over three quarters of the world had come to a saving knowledge. That book went around the world four or five times. Now I have got a Holy Bible. Nine letters. I have got a King James. Nine letters. I have got a 1611. What is that? Six and three. It is nine. That is why I use that book. It is God's fruitful book. It has got character. The fruit of the Spirit comes out of this book. That is just the way that it is.

My Bible says Old Testament. You know what? There are 39 books in the Old Testament. 39 of them. When you look at those 39 books, somebody said one time, "Well, you do know, Bob, that the New Testament is contained in the Old Testament, do not you?" I said, "It really is." So they walked me all the way through that and showed me how the Old Testament, hidden in there, is revealed by, it reveals the New Testament. So there are 39 books in the Old Testament. If the Old Testament contains the New Testament, so if I take nine times three and multiply it, I get what? Books in the New Testament. Now, do you think that is a coincidence? Maybe you are a coincidence. You see, there is a mind behind that book. There is a mind behind that book that common man does not see.

I have told you many, many times, this is the difference between me and most Christians. I do not make any apology for it, but I want you to know why I am the way I am. When I got saved, I never got over it. Some of God's people got over it. Some of God's people started out loving this book, and an education took this book from them. Some people started out believing this book was the Word of God, then they wind up not believing it is the Word of God. I never had that problem. If I ever have that problem, I would just as soon God come down and kill me. I believe that book is exactly what God wants you and me to have, and I believe every answer we are going to deal with in life is found in that book, and it is just simple sixth-grade English that any idiot could get. It does not get any harder than that. So when you study spiritual gifts, you have got to realize that there will be no power of God in your life until you have the character of God

in your life, and the character of God in your life comes from that book right there. So we study spiritual gifts, we have an order we are going to follow.

Now I want to show you something here. Look at 1 Corinthians 12:1. I already told you that 1 Corinthians 12, 13, and 14 all go together as one basically book, even though there are three different chapters. So when we study this, we have got to look at it as a complete set. Now I want to show you one of the most amazing things, and you want to mark this in your Bible right now. Look at 1 Corinthians 12:1. "Now concerning spiritual gifts," stop right there. Now look at the last thing he says in 1 Corinthians 14:40. This is the first thing he says that opens up our series. This is the last thing he says that closes this series. He simply says this when you take everything out in between and look at the first thing he says and the last thing he says:

He told you you are not to be ignorant of spiritual gifts, the defining passages of these three. Look what he says:

1 Corinthians 12:1:

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.

1 Corinthians 14:40:

Let all things be done decently and in order.

When you study spiritual gifts, there is an order to it. You have to get the right order. There is an order to everything that God does. You know what we are doing in Bible Basics. How many of you told me, "Bob, this is incredible stuff. My Bible is really opening up." The amazing thing, "I have heard you talk about these things before, but there is something different now, it is all making sense." I always say the same thing to everybody that says that: "You know what the difference is now? We are taking all those things we have been talking about, and now we are putting them in God's order." That chart over there, that is God's order of the Bible. You know what you are learning in Bible Basics? God's order by which the Bible lays itself out. You get the order of anything God does, you have got it. There is a biblical order to all this thing called spiritual gifts, and if we are going to see it from the Bible standpoint and get God's permission, we have got to get the perspective on it, then we have got to get the order.

One of the greatest verses and one of the greatest concepts that we want to remember throughout our whole study next couple of weeks is found actually in 1 Corinthians 14:33. It is a great concept and one you want to start and keep straight and get in your mind, and that is that God is not the author of confusion. We had Dean here a couple of weeks ago, and Dean teaches Greek classes in Dr. Ruckman's school down in Pensacola, Florida. He is a friend of this church, has been known him for many, many years, and he always likes to come up and hang out with you guys, and he always talked about what a great crowd we are and helping me hanging out with it. We were driving, we went down to Liberty Memorial, a bunch of us, and we were driving to and from back there, and we were talking about it. He says, "You know," he says, "people think that when because Dr. Ruckman or I teach Greek classes that we teach that the Greek is profitable learning your Bible." He says, "You know, I have to tell people all the time, nothing is farther from the truth." He said, "We do not believe the Greek helps you learn anything in the Bible." He

said, "We teach the Greek and the Greek manuscript in a deep text so the preachers when they go out of that school, they can be in combat with anybody who wants to argue manuscript evidence and have the information to be able to do it and keep them honest when they do it." He said, "You know what the bottom line is?" Here was his verse:

1 Corinthians 14:33:

For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

He says, "When I go to a Greek text and I look at the Greek text for a word in the English, there may be three different ways that word is used." He says, "So I am left with a choice." He says, "You know what that is? That is confusion." He says, "So we do not go to the Greek and say, 'Okay, which one of these ones was the one I wanted to be?' We stick with the English and just leave it where it is at because God meant what He said and said what He meant when He wrote it in that book. The Greek is just to help our boys go out and combat the other idiots out there to try to correct the Bible with it." That was an incredible concept. God is not the author of confusion. You want to remember that in where we are going here in the next few moments. God has an order to everything.

I told you when we started Bible Basics, you remember this: you do not study the Bible from your own perspective. You study the Bible from a Christian perspective. You get God's perspective, and that is the right order. That is what we are doing in Bible Basics. Now open the books in your Bible. I want to show you the order. You have heard me say many, many times that there are 66 books in your Bible. You know why there are 66 books in your Bible? Because your Bible is divided down by an Old Testament and New Testament. When you come through your Bible, you will find that six is the number of man. We learned in Bible Basics that the Bible was written to reveal God's plan to man. So you have a man in the Old Testament. You have a man in the New Testament. The man in the Old Testament is the nation of Israel. The man in the New Testament is the new creature in Christ Jesus. So six being the number of man, you have a six for the Old Testament man and a six for the New Testament man. So you have 66 books. That is an order. That is there for a reason. Somebody says, "Well, my books have got 14 other books." You are out of order. I do not know what to tell you.

You are going to find if they order the books in your Bible the way they are set up. We began to see that yesterday. The order of the books in your Bible, the way they are set up, they are set up to show you the theme of the Bible. You know what the theme of the Bible is? The millennial return of the Lord Jesus Christ. The pre-millennial return of the Lord Jesus Christ. Second Coming. So when you start to come through the books of the Bible, you have in 2 Chronicles 36 where we left off the other day. You have them going into captivity. Then they go back in Ezra. They go back in Ezra just like they went back in 1918. Then in the next book, Nehemiah, they rebuild just like they did in 1948. Then you go to the next book, which is Esther. You know what happens in Esther? There is a wedding in the King's Garden for seven days and seven nights. Picture the rapture of the church. You know what the next book is? The next book is Job. Job is in the ground, persecuted by the devil seven days. He is in the land of Uz. That is where the nation of Israel is. 42 chapters in the book of Job. 42 months in the great tribulation period. You

know what the next book is? It is Psalms. You know what Psalms is? Psalms is David on the throne. Picture the millennium of Christ. You know what the next book is? It is Proverbs. That is the wisdom of God displayed on this earth. That is eternity. By the order of the books in your Bible, because God has an order to everything He does. Now, do you think that is a coincidence?

Let me give you another clinky-dinky. We have not got to this yet in Bible Basics. Some of you know this because we covered it last time. When you go through the Old Testament, you have a definitive book. That definitive book is Genesis. In Genesis, everything is defined for you. Then you start four historical books that all cover the same time period: Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. When you come to the New Testament, you have the same format. It is reversed. You have four books that deal with the same time period: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. But the definitive book is not at the front. The definitive book is at the end. That is the book of Acts. So you have a different order between those two with a definitive book on the front and one on the end and the other. The four historical books matching up perfectly to the same time period in between. Why is that? That would be a good question for your pastor this week. I would ask him, see what he says.

The key to the Bible is the right order. Einstein said something one time, and I believe this is absolutely true. O.B. Einstein was an idiot. He is supposed to be the smartest man that ever lived. Did you ever see a picture of him? Does that look like the smartest man he ever looked like? He stuck his fingers in 440 volts and it lit up his hair. He is famous for sitting around thinking about the theory of relativity. He is famous for sitting around thinking about, "Well, if a freight train was going this past 60 miles an hour and the one was passing 80 miles an hour and a fly was in the one flying around, how fast would the fly be going if it flew by you as you went by him?" Well, who cares? There is a great claim to fame, it was an atom bomb. Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and who knows what else is going to happen with him. But you know what Einstein said one time? Billy Graham witnessed to him about God, and Einstein said to Billy Graham, "You know what?" He says, "I cannot accept a God that is not a mathematical formula." When he said that statement, I am telling you right now, Einstein was about that close to finding God because God is a mathematical formula.

I do not understand a lot about numbers, and I never took algebra, never took trigonometry. I had to bribe the general math teacher just to get out. Math has never been my good subject. The greatest blessing God ever put in my life, other than the day I got saved, was calculators. But Einstein was right. Did you ever notice this? Did you ever notice that if you want to find anything on this planet, you have got to go through a number system? We are in Kansas City. We all know Kansas City. Most of you do not know, you find Kansas City, that is a number system. Longitude 39 point something, latitude 102 point something, you have got to go through a number system. You say, "I am going to talk to Bob later." How are you going to get a hold of Bob? "I am going to call him on the phone, 816-590-6315." You have got to go through a number system. "Well, I will go over to see him. 8413? 8308?" That was my old house 40 years ago. 8308 Woodson Drive, through a number system. Somebody wants to find out who you are. They go through your social security number. You go to the Department of Motor Vehicles, they want to see your ID number on your car. The cop pulls you over, "Let me see your driver's

license, let me see your registration." It is all through a number system. So when you go to your Bible, God set it up, you have got to go through the fourth book, 23rd chapter, 13th verse. It is a number system. I do not understand how it all works down, but anybody that knows much about anything knows that math is the universal language. When they send them rocket ships out there, they do not put up there, "Hey, how are you? Find us." It is a mathematical code because that is a universal language that all civilizations, if there ever were any, would understand.

That is what we are doing with the Bible and Bible Basics. Look at your Bible like a combination lock. When you want to open that lock, you go through a series of numbers, do not you? But not just a series of numbers will work for you. You have got to put those series of numbers in the right order. When it comes to the Bible, the nines, the sixes, the 13, the 12, the 40, the numbers, and how you go through your Bible, it is a number system. But it is getting that number in the right order. That is what we are doing because God has an order to everything. So when we study spiritual gifts, we find an order to these spiritual gifts. Let us talk about that.

VIII. The Three Categories of Spiritual Gifts

You are going to find spiritual gifts divided up into three groups. If you do not learn this, do not know this, you are going to get messed up in it. The first thing I want to talk to you about spiritual gifts is I want to tell you that not all the spiritual gifts are directly to you. It is much like the Bible. You hear me say it all the time: all the Bible is for you, but not all the Bible is to you. There are three people groups addressed in the Bible. We have covered that before.

The first set of gifts we want to talk about are gifts that are given to the New Testament church. You will find this in Ephesians 4:8-11. It shows you here the gifts that are given to the church. I will read it to you.

Ephesians 4:8-11:

Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

Now, who has that passage open close up front here? Anybody? Zach, what do you see about verse 9 and 10 that is, if we are reading that, very instructive? It is not about anybody in the Bible, it is about the sentence structure. Those parentheses about the beginning and the end. Parentheses around verse 9 and parentheses around the end of verse 10. Okay? Now what does that tell you when you study English? Something very important. No, it means we are going to take it out. If I say it, it is something very important. If you look at that there, it means something else. When you put something in a parentheses clause, it means it is something that is added to it, but it is not part of what he just said. So we are going to remove that. It is very important, he is right, but we are going to remove it to show you what he is talking about here. Verses 9 and 10 are in parentheses, so we will take them out. We will jump from 8 to 11.

Ephesians 4:8, 11:

Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

It tells you what the gifts are. Verses 9 and 10 are a little interlude that tells you how it got there because Christ had to go down and ascend to the earth and came back up. But they are not the gifts. The gifts are down, that is why he puts it in parentheses. The gifts are in verse 11, or really 11. So the first gifts we see are gifts that are given to the church. Let us see what they are. Verse 11 and 12 is the order.

1. The first one is apostles. When you go over to Ephesians 2:20, you will find that the Bible says that the apostles are the foundation of the church. That is your first gift.
2. Then the second one is prophets. You will find those in Acts 11:27. The prophets were what God used in the early part of the book of Acts.
3. Then it says evangelists. That will be Philip and Paul.
4. Then it says pastors and teachers. That will be Timothy, Titus, Philemon.

These men here, as you go through the church and you go through history, are the gifts God gave to the church. Now why did God give those gifts to the church? Verse 12: "For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying the body of Christ," the same things that we talk about doing all the time. When God established the church, the first set of gifts He gave were the leadership of that church coming from the book of Acts right up to where we are at now. My job as a pastor, as a gift to this church, your job as a teacher, as a gift to this church, is for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying the body of Christ. You know how that works? That is your first set of gifts. The first set of gifts that you are going to find are laid out to the church.

Let us look at the second set of gifts. This was given to the early apostles. Look at 2 Corinthians 12:12. If you do not have this verse marked in your Bible, you want to mark it.

2 Corinthians 12:12:

Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.

These are gifts that are given to the nation of Israel when applied by the apostles. The church does not have these gifts. These gifts are given to the apostles, and they are called the signs of an apostle. Now what are the sign gifts? We have got to get a definitive passage on it. Just come to Mark 16:17. I will give you the definitive passage. Here it is. Somebody says, "Well, what are the sign gifts?" Well, we will get the definitive passage. Shut up. Just do what I tell you to do. Look at Mark 16:17.

Mark 16:17-20:

And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall

not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

Now, you see that is the sign gifts. Here is the problem we make. This is where your pastor lies to you. This is where your church deceives you. If you do not like what I am about to say, you probably will not, but you know what? I am in the truth business. Get out your umbrellas. It is going to rain truth here in just a second. We just said that these signs shall follow them that believe. We have got the sign gifts. So you have people out there running around doing the sign gifts today based on Mark 16. They cannot read verse 20. Because when it says in verse 20, "And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following," they think that is all of Christianity. Let me ask you a question. Let us do a durable thing. Let us put it in the context. Who is "they" today? The 12 apostles. This is not all of Christianity running out and doing it. If you read this passage and you get the context, there are 12 men doing this: the 12 apostles. You know why these 12 men are doing it? 2 Corinthians 12:12, these are the signs of apostles. "What do they do? My church does this." Your church is out of order. Do not take offense at that. I do not know what to tell you. These sign gifts were given to confirm the Messiah had come to the nation of Israel.

I do not understand why tongues are such a big deal today with people. I really do not. The only thing I can come to the conclusion, and do not take this offense to this, but the only conclusion I can come to is they do not know their Bible. How would you think tongues are for today in any way, shape or form, if you knew what the Bible said in Isaiah 28:11? I do not know. I do not understand that. I do not know how to say that. How do you get to that? How do you make the fathom leap to where you are at today?

Isaiah 28:11:

For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.

When you go down in Isaiah 28:14, you find the people that he is saying this to are the people that are in Jerusalem. I do not know what to tell you. Somebody says, "Your church believes in healing." Yeah, I believe in healing. I believe that God heals. I just do not believe you have the power to lay hands on to heal anybody. I am sorry. Somebody said, "Well, I am offended at that." Where is the first case of healing in the Bible? You do not even know.

I am a fair guy, and I am a fun guy, and I never get bent out of shape about anything. I believe the Bible says over there in Proverbs when it says, it talked about the fact that "the great peace to have made, the love thy law and nothing shall offend them." But anything somebody says, "You are the ugliest guy in the world." God bless you. Somebody said, "I think you are the worst preacher in the world." I agree. Pray I get better or worse. Somebody said, "I do not like the way you talk." Stick around here and let your last boy get through. I am sorry. I mean, you cannot offend me. I do not come up to you. I know when these people come up and say, "Well, I heard you preach today, brethren, what you said, you offended me." You are not going to offend me. You know why I cannot be offended? "They that love thy law and nothing shall offend them."

What are you going to say that is going to offend me when I have got the blessing of this book on my head and in my heart, and I am walking around with the other thing in my life? You are going to hurt my feelings? I mean, you do not even know what the first case of healing is in the Bible. You say, "Well, it is over there in Acts." No, no, no, you are wrong. It is in Exodus 4.

Exodus 4:6-8:

And the LORD said furthermore unto him, Put now thine hand into thy bosom. And he put his hand into his bosom: and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous as snow. And he said, Put thine hand into thy bosom again. And he put his hand into his bosom again; and plucked it out of his bosom, and, behold, it was turned again as his other flesh. And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe thee, neither hearken to the voice of the first sign, that they will believe the voice of the latter sign.

Healing was for a sign given to the nation of Israel. Then add to that insult to injury, 1 Corinthians 1:22 says, tells that the Jew requires a sign.

1 Corinthians 1:22:

For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:

Then it tells you that tongues were for a sign in 1 Corinthians 14:22.

1 Corinthians 14:22:

Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.

I mean, there is no way you can get, you get out of the wrong order, you are going to get messed up. I am telling you, if the average person that believes in these things, and I am not fighting it, but if I threw a Bible in your lap and told you to open up the Bible and explain spiritual gifts, you could not do it if your life depended on it. I hear these guys, pastors get up talking about this, talking about that, telling all their people all this junk. Let me tell you something, pal. If brains were dynamite, you do not have enough to blow your nose. Now this is the order of spiritual gifts. If you do not get this, you will be a charismatic in no time.

Here is the third one. These will be the power that God gives you and me. The gifts of teaching, preaching, gift of discernment, gift of prophecy. These gifts to us, you and me as individuals in the New Testament church, and you are going to see when you get into 1 Corinthians, he puts an order in the importance of the spiritual gifts. You know what is last in the importance? Tongues.

IX. The Manifestation of the Spirit and Spiritual Growth

These gifts come to us as we become more like Christ, and get the character of God in our lives, from which comes the power of God in our lives, when we start to see and think and look at things like He does, and do whatever He does in every given situation. I always ask myself this question, and people hate when I say it to them. It took me a while to get past it, my own self, because I hated it when I had to ask myself this. But you know what you can do to solve 95% of

the problems you have got in your life when you have got to make a decision? There is one simple thing you can ask yourself that usually will fix 50% of them, 60% of them just like that. No thinking about it. You just simply ask yourself, "What would Jesus do?"

A guy came to me a couple of weeks ago, and he said, "What do you think I ought to do?" I said, "What would Jesus do?" He said, "I hate when you say that." You know why he hated when I say that? When you get the Spirit of God in you and the fruit of God in you, when you are faced with situations, you will not do your own thing. You will know what the Bible says, and you will simply do what Jesus would have done. You do not have a right to hate people. I do not care what they did to you. You do not have a right not to give people a chance. I do not care what they did to you. You have a right to do that. Is that what Jesus did? A guy said, "Well, I just have a really tough time forgiving you. I just tell you what, I just cannot forgive you. I just really have a tough time. I do not know what to do about that. Is that okay?" I say, "You know what? I am just, yeah, it is okay. I am just glad God does not treat me like you do." I have a reason not to forgive anybody. That is what Jesus would do, you see, through a transformation.

This is called in 1 Corinthians 12:7, the manifestation of the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:7:

But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

That is what happens. You get saved, you begin to grow, and then the Spirit of God begins to manifest Himself through you. The more you become like Jesus Christ through a transformation process. You see, the world can conform you, the world can inform you, the world can reform you, the world can misinform you, but only the Bible can transform you.

With that in mind, if the spiritual gifts you have are because of the Spirit of God opening up in your life, let me ask you a question. You are going to take the spiritual gift test, you are going to find out what your predominant gift was, and your secondary gifts. Well, just let me ask you one little question. What was Jesus' primary gift? Did not He have them all? I am asking you a question. Did He not have them all? I want to see some movement over your head. Did He not have it all? Got to hear a little voice action. Did He not have it all? Can you all be people for a moment that are real spiritual and say, "Amen"? Did He not have it all? Then if you become more like Him every day of your life, and that is your goal to become like Him, why do not you get them all? Is that me? Was that just me? Do I know anyone that sees that? Please, I am a blind man. Is there anybody out there? Amen. Thank you. Here is what I got. Come on, man. How many gifts did Jesus have? What was His main gift? How stupid that is.

You see, understanding spiritual gifts to you and me is real simple. As you grow in the Word of God, as you recognize what we talked about, your life has changed, and you start to let God take over your life and begin to manifest the Spirit of God in you, through you, and God brings it out of you. At that point, God begins to fulfill His plan in you, and as you go through in life, whatever gift you need to do the job He has called you to do, He will give it to you not based on your ability, but the character of God, giving you the power of God to do the work of God. That

is spiritual gifts. Spiritual gifts are the result of an intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit of God as it manifests itself through your members, through the process of spiritual growth.

Look at some of you. Some of you were saved a year ago, and now you are leading a prayer group. Some of you came into this church not even a year ago, and you are already telling me, "I am going to do something. We want to get involved." I have seen some of you come to the point where you could not, the Bible, you had no clue of the Bible. What, even a year ago? Look at you now. Look what God has done with you now. Is that, you were going to put a cap on that? Am I going to say to you, "You can only go so far, and you cannot do anything else"? Am I going to say to you, "You can only learn the Bible so much, and then you cannot learn it anymore"? Or you just keep learning the Bible, and God says, "Boy, I wish I could do more with you, but you know, that is not your gift." As you grow, God will give you everything that you need to do whatever God has called you to do.

The idea, the money-making con man gimmick that God has some kind of system that you can figure out what God is going to do. Well, if you figured out what your gift was, you would walk around as proud as a peacock and would lose the power of God in 10 seconds. That is what they do after the big service, run to the restaurant, pull out your sheet. "Here is Mrs. Snuffleface. My gift is giving." "Here is Mrs. Snuffleface. My gift is hospitality. That is why people love me. I am hospitable." "People love me because I am giving." "What is your spiritual gift?" "My spiritual gift is the gift of mercy. So I have mercy on both of you that you are wrong. My gift is greater." You see where you go with that? You do not probably know the gift you have got. If you knew the gift you have got, you know what you would do? You would manipulate them like you do everything else. We are so far from what God wants us to be. All He really wants us to be is in that book, loving that book, believing that book.

I have watched some of you grow to the place where when you came in here, you did not know nothing. When you got saved, you did not even know how to pray. Now she is in charge of a prayer group. You are done. "I thought you could go. That is your gift. You did not know how to pray? God gave you the gift of prayer. Now you are going to be done right there. So if you need somebody to pray, call her. But she cannot do anything else." It is ridiculous. You grow, and the manifestation of the Spirit. That is why when some of you couples come in and your lives are messed up, your marriage is messed up, you are at war with each other, through the process of doing what is right, God takes you. That is why some of you come in and you have a tough time, and you do some goofy stuff, and you make some stupid mistakes. But you know what? You get your head out of wherever it is at, and you figure it out, and you get plugged into the Bible. In time, God actually uses you in a great and mighty way. God has got that same thing for everybody out there today.

One time, D.L. Moody was a great preacher, and he would go into churches in this country, and he preached at a church, and they always had a great time. He came about four or five years. Not everybody on the church power board, like the Deacons, enjoyed Moody coming because Moody ruffled the feathers. So they had a meeting and were talking how great it was, and the pastor says, "We want to have Moody back next year." He had already been back five or six years. An old Deacon raised his hand, and he says, "Well, why do we have to have him back again? Does

Moody have a corner on the Holy Spirit of God?" The old pastor said, "No, I do not think that is the case at all, but I do think the Holy Spirit of God has got the corner on Moody." That is what it takes. It is not you getting more of the Holy Spirit of God. You have got all you have got the name you say. You know what it is? It is the Holy Spirit of God getting more of you. Will you let Him do that? Will you come to a church and get into a book that will allow you to do that? Do get the tools you need. It is your choice. I am not talking about this church. There are plenty of them around. One over in California. You start on Saturday, you probably get there for the Wednesday service. What would Jesus do?

X. Conclusion and Call to Deeper Study

You see, this is what God does. You start coming through this in the next couple of weeks, you are going to see some other things happen here. We are going to be able to put this in a better context. But right now today, this is what you have got. You have got the idea now that spiritual gifts have been put in the right order. We have defined them. Now when we get into these chapters, you are going to understand what we are talking about. We have laid a base. We are doing with this exactly what we are doing in Bible Basics. When you pick your tapes up back there today, when they are ready to go, you get home and you start working on that fact. You are going to be able to put the foundation just like I laid the foundation out today. Then next week, we are going to build on what we did today. The week after that, we are going to build on 1 Corinthians 13. The next week after that, we are going to build on 1 Corinthians 14. We laid a base today. Bible Basics, we are laying a base. We have got two installments done of three installments. I am going to give you a fourth one because you have really been good. We are going to work through that. What we are doing is laying a base. Then when you come to Thursday Night Bible Studies, Sunday morning, wherever you are at. I saw the lights come on yesterday for many of you. Those lights will just keep getting brighter. That is the way God intended it.

Let us pray. Father, we do thank You. Praise You for the Lord Jesus. These are good people. Help me be always honest with them and tell them the truth, whether they like it or not. Help me to lay out the Bible as it is. Do not let me ever tell them there is any other book or any other system or any other way that is better than God's way. God, if You are not God enough to inspire it and God enough to preserve it, then You do not even need to be God. I believe that You were so God enough to inspire that, but Your hand preserved it down through history. You got me exactly what You want me to have. Man does not need to mess with it. You help us believe it. Help this church to believe it. Help these men and women to believe it because it will transform them, and it will bring them to the place in their life where they will find what God wants them to do. This church can give them the tools to do it through the Holy Spirit of God. Love You, Father. We pray for all of the things that we have got going out the rest of this week. We pray, Father, for the Thursday night and pray for all our prayer requests and bless the Bush family and watch over them and take care of them. Lord, let these people get their tapes today and go to work and get the books that they need and the stuff that they need and let them dig. Let them get into this and let them learn. Let them put it all together. Lord, we will thank You and praise You. In Jesus' name, for His sake, we ask of it. Amen. God bless you. You are dismissed.