

The Spirit is Welcome in Our Small Group

Facilitating the manifestation of the spiritual gifts

1 Corinthians 12:6-7

“And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the **manifestation** of the Spirit is **given to each** one **for the profit of all**:...word of wisdom...word of knowledge...faith...gifts of healings...working of miracles...prophecy...discerning of spirits...different kinds of tongues...interpretation of tongues...”

These 9 Manifestation Gifts: are expressions of God's grace for His people, performed through His people, for the purpose of building His Church.

As a SG Leader how can I see my group experience the gifts of the Holy Spirit?

BEFORE THE MEETING: Preparation of the Heart

1. Pray, pray, pray. In your preparation time ask God to stir up people's spiritual gifts. This may open the door for amazing discovery and growth in the members of your SG.
2. Get filled with the Holy Spirit. Nothing can replace being full.
3. Trust God will honor His Word. There is an enormous amount of Scriptural support. We see Jesus modeling it and the Church living it. It's our time. Let's lead our people in faith.
4. Know it's not your performance. Everyone has something to contribute to the meeting (priesthood of all believers). It's not a one person show. God is the One on display and He is building His Church through the gifts.

IN THE MEETING: Now getting down to “Doing the Stuff” –Jon Wimber

1. Giving God the Group- Prepare and Communicate with the Group
 - Biblical foundation that the gifts are given to all, for the profit of all, for today (some Scriptures are provided but be sensitive to the needs of the group and where they're at)
 - Break down the barriers of comparison, performance, and insecurity. These are often feeling that come up when we begin to step out and experience the spiritual gifts.
 - Create an Environment of Safety and Expectancy. Let people know they're not going to blow it. It may be awkward at first but we are all learning from each other and doing it together. Most of all God really is with us, for us, and going to use us.
 - Share personal examples of when you've seen the spiritual gifts displayed

- Ask if people have questions before and after. People may not be familiar with spiritual gifts or come from different theological backgrounds

2. Giving God the Space

- We often miss out on what God has for us because we seldom take the time to listen.
- Simply taking the time and waiting on God will be a spiritual exercise in itself, individually and as a group.

HOW TO'S:

1. Pray inviting God to fill each of you with the Holy Spirit. If people have not been baptized in the Holy Spirit you can find out who and pray with them at a time you feel is appropriate. Then encourage people to be sensitive to what God may be speaking
2. Invite people to share what they feel God may be giving them or if they feel they have a word. It could be a Scripture, a mental image or picture, an exhortation to the group or individual, etc.

This leads into...

3. Giving God the Wait

- Wait for God to speak. Silence may be difficult but people may not have received in 30 sec.
- Occasionally ask if people have anything and continue to encourage them to be free from feeling they will 'make a mistake'

AFTER THE MEETING- the gifts are not just for SG anymore

- Operating in these gifts is normative Christianity. The expression of spiritual gifts are a lot more normal and occur much more frequently than the people of God realize...it is normally supernatural
- People have probably given and received prophecies without even knowing it when the Biblical function of a prophecy is, "...for building up, and exhortation, and comfort" (1 Cor.14:3).
- After there are experiences with the gifts in the SG encourage your people that they can exercise them at any time. They can pray for the sick at school, receive a word of wisdom for someone at work, and have a word of knowledge about someone on the street.

Remember-what is most important is 'doing the stuff' and not just talking about it. May God lead us and build us up as we step out in faith leading people in being disciples who live the Word!!

1 Peter 4:10

As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. (11) If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen

Note for the Coordinator: Ask who's groups have experienced manifestations and who's hasn't. Make note of those who have not, encourage them, and follow-up with them.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES ON THE GIFTS

Mar 16:17-20

(17)"And **these signs will follow those who believe**: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; (18)"they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." ...(20)And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.

2 Timothy 1:6-7

Therefore I remind you to **stir up the gift** of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

John 14:12

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the **works that I do he will do** also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.

1 Corinthians 1:7-8

...so that you **come short in no gift**, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, (8) who will also confirm you **to the end**, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 2:3-5