

ABBAY INTERNATIONAL BAPTIST CHURCH, READING

10.30 am 1ST June 2025

Bridget Gurney leading and Pauline Mbukwa preaching



Theme: Diverse gifts of the Spirit

Prayer Time

Call to Worship

How good it is to come into the Lord's house, to worship, praise, and to listen to God's word.
Hallelujah and Amen.

How good is our Father. He is great, mighty and all powerful.
And we adore him. Hallelujah and Amen.

Song MP 241 Holy Spirit, we welcome you

Holy Spirit, we welcome You.
Holy Spirit, we welcome You!
Move among us with holy fire,
As we lay aside all earthly desires,
Hands reach out and our hearts aspire.
Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit,
Holy Spirit, we welcome You!

Holy Spirit, we welcome You.
Holy Spirit, we welcome You!
Let the breeze of Your presence blow,
That Your children here might truly know
How to move in the Spirit's flow.
Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit,
Holy Spirit, we welcome You!

Holy Spirit, we welcome You.
Holy Spirit, we welcome You!
Please accomplish in us today
Some new work of loving grace, we pray -
Unreservedly - have Your way.

Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit,
Holy Spirit, we welcome You!
CHRIS BOWATER © 1986 SOVEREIGN LIFESTYLE MUSIC.

Family Time Gifts

Song MP 99 Come on and celebrate

Come on and celebrate
His gift of love, we will celebrate
The Son of God who loved us
And gave us life
We'll shout Your praise, O King
You give us joy nothing else can bring
We'll give to You our offering
In celebration praise

Come on and celebrate
Celebrate, celebrate and sing
Celebrate and sing to our King

During the singing of this hymn our financial gifts will be taken

Young people leave for their groups

Prayer of Dedication

1st Bible Reading 1 Corinthians 12 4-11

2nd Bible Reading Acts 19 1-7

Sermon - Holy Spirit 6: The diverse gifts of the Spirit for the common good

Readings: 1 Cor 12: 4-11, Acts 19:1-7

Introduction

Last week Simon talked about the new life that a believer experiences after being born again. He emphasised that when one is baptised, he or she receives the Holy Spirit. This is a process that begins with repenting, believing and being baptised, then you receive the Holy Spirit as Paul emphasises in Acts 19:1-7. Today we want to talk about the diverse gifts of the Holy Spirit. The gifts of the spirits are the abilities, capabilities that God gives to everyone to serve the body of Christ or the church. The Holy Spirit releases the different gifts with one purpose to give glory to God and to build up the body of Christ.

There is so much emphasis that these gifts are from one Spirit, because it seemed there was a tendency for division among the Corinthian Christians. It was more like a competition. Perhaps those who spoke in tongues thought themselves superior to those who were able to prophesy. It was as if the gifts had come from two different gods! So, Paul emphasized to them that it is the same Spirit who works all these things, so that they should reflect that same unity among themselves.

Lesson 1: The 9 diverse gifts of the Holy Spirit

The passage we have read 1Corinthians 12:4-11 talks about 9 diverse gifts of the Holy Spirit, and we must unpack one by one for better understanding.

- i. The message of wisdom: The unique ability to speak wisdom in a specific situation with a goal of guiding others towards a life of holiness and worship. They can see through a situation and guide an individual or group
- ii. The message of knowledge: The Greek word for this gift is Gnosis and it simply means knowledge and understanding. The person with this gift is usually well-versed in the Scriptures, it allows a believer to relate the scriptures to all aspects of life in this world.
- iii. Gift of faith: The unique ability to believe God against all circumstances as like Peter demonstrated when he walked onto the water (Matthew 14:22-33) The gift of faith is rooted in one's saving faith in Christ and the trust that comes through a close relationship with the Savior. Those with this gift have a trust and confidence in God that allows them to live boldly for Him and manifest that faith in mighty ways.
- iv. Healing: The ability to heal people. This gift is closely related to the gifts of faith and miracles. Healings reveal that God is near to his people, and He cares about their sufferings. Healings are meant to draw people to God through His Son Jesus Christ.
- v. Miraculous powers: Dunamis or "acts of power. Jesus performed many miracles in his earthly ministry. The apostles performed many kinds of miracles. Other believers performed miracles as well, including Stephen (Acts 6:8). Miracles were given by God to the church to reveal the presence and glory of God among His people and to create a sense of awe and wonder and Godly fear.
- vi. Prophecy: The telling-fourth of God's message in a particular situation, always in accord with His Word and His current work. Sometimes this has the character of foretelling the future, as in Acts 21:10-11. The Greek word for the gift of prophecy is '*propheteia*' which is the ability to receive a divinely inspired message and deliver it to others in the church.
- vii. Distinguishing between the spirits also known as discerning the spirits is the ability to tell the difference between true and false doctrine, and between what is of the Holy Spirit and what isn't. Paul recognized the spirit of divination in a slave girl and commanded it out in Acts 16:16-18
- viii. Speaking in different kinds of tongues: is a personal language of prayer given by God, whereby the believer can communicate with God beyond the limits of knowledge and understanding 1Corinthians 14:14-15 When using the gift of tongues, we agree with God that as the Holy Spirit prays through us, though we may not understand what we are praying, God does.
- ix. Interpretation of tongues: This gift goes along with the gift of speaking in tongues. This spiritual gift is the supernatural ability to understand and explain messages uttered in an unknown language. Tongues that are interpreted have the effect of encouraging and blessing the church to love and serve God more deeply and effectively.

Lesson 2: The purpose of gifts for the common good

The common good of all means the profit or benefit for all. The purpose for spiritual gifts, even miraculous gifts, is the building up of the body of Christ and individual Christian. God gives you the spiritual gift to serve the body of Christ. Jesus Christ is our model who demonstrated how gifts should be used. One of the spiritual gifts is the workings of miracle, Jesus performed his first miracle at the Wedding of Cana where he turned the water into

wine that was served to the wedding guests. He also healed many people from all kinds of diseases.

Lesson 3: He gives the gifts as he wills

Often, we assume that the spiritual gifts are given because a person is especially spiritually mature or closer to God, but this may not be the case at all. God can and does, for His own glory and purpose, distribute spiritual gifts to those who are not especially spiritually mature or close to Him. God can grant anyone remarkable spiritual gifts in a moment, but character and maturity take time to build.

Conclusion

The Holy Spirit has given us diverse spiritual gifts for the common good of all, to build up the body of Christ. Are you willing to let the Holy Spirit use you? Perhaps you are wondering what my gift is? just make yourself available to God and ask him for the spiritual gift you desire, and he will give you.

Welcome of new members

Song MP 66 Broken for me

Broken for me, broken for you,
The body of Jesus broken for you.
He offered his body, he poured out his soul;
Jesus was broken, that we might be whole.
Broken for me, broken for you,
The body of Jesus broken for you.
Come to my table and with me dine;
Eat of my bread and drink of my wine.
Broken for me, broken for you,
The body of Jesus broken for you.
This is my body given for you;
Eat it remembering I died for you.
Broken for me, broken for you,
The body of Jesus broken for you.
This is my blood I shed for you.
For your forgiveness, making you new.
Broken for me, broken for you,
The body of Jesus broken for you.

Janet Lunt

Communion

Prayers of Intercession – Anne and Nigel

Lord you came preaching “good news” and yet all we can see on our televisions and in our newspapers is bad news and we are often moved to despair. In the midst of our despair help us to see the good news of your kingdom unfolding.

We see bad news from Gaza where the violence is ongoing, where food and healthcare are used as weapons of war and withheld from the poor and vulnerable and we hear of people being shot at while they desperately search for aid.

Help us to see your good news instead, in the voices of people lifted up in protest, of aid agencies doing all they can to help and of Israelis courageously standing up to the actions of their government.

We see bad news in Liverpool in the senseless attack on innocent families, out for the day to celebrate their team's success, and in people hoping to exploit the tragedy to drive communities apart and spread division.

Help us to see your good news instead. In the creation of stronger communities whether we live in Liverpool or Reading. In the building of bridges between people of different cultures, backgrounds and nationalities, in the welcoming of strangers as neighbours and making them into friends.

We see bad news in Reading in the tents of people who have nowhere to call home, of the asylum seekers who do not know what their future holds and who wait in limbo.

Help us to see your good news instead. In work of Abbey Baptist Church and others in this town. In the work of the charities who share our premises, in the support we offer to other organisations both through the Baptist Union and overseas and in the friendships of this congregation.

Lord there is so much bad news at the moment, help us not to fall into despair but help us, as your church and your people, to be the good news that you want for all of us.

Amen

Song MP 1004 O God of burning cleansing flame

O God of burning, cleansing flame: send the fire!
Your blood-bought gift today we claim: send the fire today!
Look down and see this waiting host,
And send the promised Holy Ghost;
We need another Pentecost!
Send the fire today!
Send the fire today!

God of Elijah, hear our cry: send the fire!
And make us fit to live or die: send the fire today!
To burn up every trace of sin,
To bring the light and glory in,
The revolution now begin!
Send the fire today!
Send the fire today!

It's fire we want, for fire we plead: send the fire!
The fire will meet our every need: send the fire today!

For strength to always do what's right,
For grace to conquer in the fight,
For power to walk the world in white:
Send the fire today!
Send the fire today!

To make our weak hearts strong and brave: send the fire!
To live, a dying world to save: send the fire today!
Oh, see us on Your altar lay, we give our lives to you today,
So crown the offering now we pray:
Send the fire today!
Send the fire today!
Send the fire today!

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Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

The Grace

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen

Notices for next week:

Wednesday 4th	10.30	Renew Wellbeing
	12.15	Bible Study
	2.00	NEW! Who is Jesus? 1
Thursday 5 th	10.30	Bible Study
	10.30	Toddlers
	7.30	Men's Bible's Study
Friday 6th	10.30	Prayer Meeting (omitted from Recorder magazine)
	5.00	Table Tennis Club
	7.00	Iranians Meal and Bible Study
Sunday 8 th	10.30	Pentecost Worship - Holy Spirit 7 Guest Speaker: Revd Jim Thomas - Home Mission (Followed by lunch)