Lesson for 06/05/2021
The Spiritual Gift of Prophecy

Scripture #1 Read By: 
Sis. Barbara Walker
Ephesians 1:17-20; Matthew 6:33; Romans 12:1-2; Psalm 139:3-4
(Be prepared to find and read other scripture(s) if needed.)

Scripture #2 Read By:
Sis. Panya Porter
Proverbs 3:5-6; John 10:27; Proverbs 13:20; 1 Peter 4:10; Luke 16:10-12;
(Be prepared to find and read other scripture(s) if needed.)

How Much do You Remember?

1. According to the scripture found in Romans 1:16, what is the Gospel. (Power of God for Salvation)
2. The scripture speaks of Signs, Wonders, and Miracles. What do Signs reveal? What do wonders confirm? What do Miracles confirm? (Signs reveal the purpose of Miracle; Wonders confirm God’s Power; Miracles confirm a message)
3. What is the Greek word for Miracles? (Dunamis)
4. The root word for the Greek word is (Dynamite)
5. The root word is translated as: (Power)
6. What is enlightened faith? (The eyes of our heart is opened)
7. What does 2 Peter 3:18 instruct us to do? (Grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ)
8. When will we learn of the Great Power God has for us? (When the eyes of our heart is opened)
9. Define Miracle. (Supernatural events that man has nothing to do with)
10. What do God’s Miracles declare? (God’s absolute control over nature, events, people, and power.)

Introduction

Written by Presiding Elder Ella Samuels
Read by Sis. Gloria Feimster

We have been studying and praying concerning our desire to learn which Spiritual Gift, or Gifts, God has entrusted us with. In addition to this, what shall we do to aid us in receiving our answer?

After praying, doing careful and prayer research, and praying some more, the Lord revealed to me Seven Steps we should consider while praying.

1. First and foremost, we should develop a relationship with God, beginning with presenting ourselves to Him as a living sacrifice. The scripture teaches us to seek God first, and He will give us everything else we need. We continue to develop our relationship by spending time with Him. We spend time with Him by reading His Word; communicating with Him in prayer; and participating in Bible Study. Developing a relationship with God will help us to “Know Him” instead of simply “Knowing about Him.”

2. We need to let God’s will become our will. Romans 12:2 tells us to not to be conformed to this world but to be transformed by the renewing of our mind so that we may know what God’s will is. As we become familiar with His Will, we will become more aware of the fact that His thoughts are not our thoughts and His ways are not like our ways.

3. As His will is revealed to us, we need to pay attention to what He says to us. Jesus said in John 10:27 that His sheep will hear His voice. If we want to hear God when He speaks, we must be quiet and focus on what He is saying. He speaks in His Word, He speaks in Dreams, and He speaks in a small still voice. The Holy Spirit will help us to distinguish which voice belongs to Him.

4. We need to obey what we already know to be what God desires for us to do. What credibility do we have as Christians, when we are praying for God to entrust us with our Special Spiritual Gift, while we are being disobedient to His
common commands? The scripture is replete of things we are clearly told to do, as well as what not to do. When we are faithful over little, God will give us much.

5. We need to Seek Godly Input. It is said that each person is comprised of the first 5 people that we attach ourselves to. Therefore we should pay careful attention to who forms our inner circle. Regardless of how old we are, or how long we have been a Christian, we still need counsel and examples. Proverbs 13:20 tells us that, if we walk with the wise we will grow wise but if we are companions to a fool we will suffer. We all need Wise and Godly Counsel. Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety. (Proverbs 11:14)

6. We need to get in touch with the way God has wired us. We should be happy that everyone is not wired the same. If we were all alike, the world would be very boring. But God has made all of us different, with special individual talents, and we will automatically be good at whatever He has wired us to do. So while we wait for our special Spiritual Gift to be revealed, we should just do what God has wired us to do naturally. Remember, as David said in Psalm 139, we should praise God for He has made us wonderfully. God has not made no mess.

7. Finally, we should listen to our heart, because as our relationship grows with God, we will learn to listen to Him in our heart, as well as ears – by so doing – we will allow Him to shape our hearts according to His will. The eyes of our heart will be enlightened and we will be able to know the hope God has called us to and realize the power He has for us who believe.

What we’re learning NEXT
Growing Through Prayer Series
“Learning to Pray to Identify and Understand our Spiritual Gift(s)”
Ret. Presiding Elder Ella Samuels

Today we will explore the Spiritual Gift of Prophecy. We explored Prophecy earlier when we talked about the Motivational Gifts, given by the Father. But, how many of us know that we will never learn everything about anything? The Holy Spirit gives the gift of prophecy to some believers to make God’s heart known and to edify the church.
Corinthians 14:3 tells us that Prophecy results in “strengthening or edifying, encouragement or exhortation and comfort” (1 Corinthians 14:3). 1 Thessalonians 5:20-21 tells us that Prophecy should be tested to see if it’s true. Do not treat prophecies with contempt but test them all; hold on to what is good. The messages from the Prophet are spoken in human words through a human mind which is why they must be tested against the Scriptures.

How do we test the Prophecy? The word says that Prophecy Edifies, Encourage, and Comforts.

1. **Does it edify?** It should not be negative, destructive, or condemnatory. Prophecy is an extremely powerful instrument. But if it is misused, it can bring about destruction in people’s homes, churches, and people can be ruined financially and in other ways.

   There may be times when Prophecy will expose matters that need to be attended to, but the final results should always edify, or build up, strengthen. In Jeremiah 1:5 God tells Jeremiah that he appointed him a prophet to the nations, then in verse 10 God tells Jeremiah to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow – but He closes by telling Jeremiah He had appointed him to build and to plant. The first part of Jeremiah’s task was negative; "... to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down." But the final purpose of God through Jeremiah’s ministry was positive: "... to build, and to plant." The final purposes of God are always positive, not negative. For a time God may find it necessary to "root out" and to "pull down"; but his final purpose is always to "plant". For a time he may "destroy" and "throw down," but his final purpose is to "build". The Prophets’ words will blast and bless; wound and heal; destroy and build.” So even if the Prophet has to bring unpleasant news, there will be a remedy from the Lord – spoken from His word.

2. **Is the Prophecy encouraging?** Exhortation is giving encouragement to the believer. Prophecy, however, is not just speaking human encouragement, but divine encouragement. Here is a Biblical example of a word of divine encouragement. During a major storm, after Paul received encouragement from an angel, He addressed the ship’s captain and crew stating, “And I exhort you to be of good cheer: there shall be no loss of any man’s life among you, but only the ship” (Acts 27:22-25).
3. **Does the Prophecy bring comfort?** To COMFORT means to “lighten one’s burden; to console, the easing of one’s grief or discomfort. We are not talking about human comfort, sympathy, compassion or understanding, but a ministry of the Spirit. God’s Prophet doesn’t leave us burdened. To comfort is also to share what we hear from the Lord that will bring consolation to the hearer that the evils of life are temporary. One example of this was when Jeremiah prophesied to the children of Israel when they were in captivity in Babylon.

This is what the **Lord** Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: 5 “Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. 6 Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. 7 Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the **Lord** for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.” 8 Yes, this is what the **Lord** Almighty, the God of Israel, says: “Do not let the prophets and diviners among you deceive you. Do not listen to the dreams you encourage them to have. 9 They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I have not sent them,” declares the **Lord**.

10 This is what the **Lord** says: “When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. 11 For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the **Lord**, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. 12 Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you,” declares the **Lord**, “and will bring you back from captivity. 15 I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you,” declares the **Lord**, “and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile.” (God had allowed the Israelites to be taken into exile because of their sins but He sent a message to them by His Prophet to let them know that He had not forgotten them. They had to pay the consequences for their behavior, yet God wanted to encourage them to hold on because He was coming back for them. The Prophet will not leave God’s people in despair because, ultimately, it’s God’s will that His children prosper and be in good health. So in the end the Prophet will give hope.)

From the standpoint of the Scriptures, the gift of Prophecy is the most important gift. According to 1Corinthians 14:1 Paul considers it vital to the upbuilding of the Church. In 1Corinthians 14:1 Paul told the Corinthian Church to pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially the gift of Prophesy. Sometimes people think of a Prophet as someone who tells the future. Prophesy means to tell forth, to preach God’s Word. The gift of Prophecy is the ability to take the truth from the Bible and speak it forth for the
good of God's people. It is a spiritual declaration of God's heart and purpose, for that specific time; given through a human vessel. **Why is Prophecy so important?**

*Taken From Bibleprophecy 101*

"Because fulfilled Bible prophecy is one of the most convincing evidence that the Bible is from God. As we read the Bible we find major historical events were told centuries, and in some cases, thousands of years in advance. These prophecies were fulfilled to the exact detail. No other document in the world can make this claim. The only logical explanation is that the book is supernatural in nature.

*Taken From Christian.Info.com*

1) **Knowledge would grow exponentially at the time of the end**: In Daniel 12: 4 the prophet Daniel prophesied that in the last days knowledge would increase exponentially. With the advent of the Internet, search engines, and smart phones information is rampant, and anyone can learn anything instantly in direct fulfillment of Daniel's prophecy over 2,500 years ago.

2) **That in the last days technology would allow control of all the world's population**: Again with the advanced technology of computers, the internet, and microchips, governments can track every human being on earth. This will allow an end time dictator to be able to track and persecute anyone unwilling to accept a mark on their hands or Forehead – thus making the "Mark of the beast" prophesied in Revelation 13: 16-17 a modern day possibility and reality.

3) **In the last days there will be an increase and intensity of earthquakes**: Jesus prophesied that in the last days there would be an increase in the intensity of Earthquakes (Mathew 24: 7). The recent 9.0 earthquake in Japan brings the total of 8.0 or higher earthquakes to 6 over the past 60 or so years. We are now averaging over 600 major earthquakes (over 6.5 in the Richter scale) per decade – a much higher rate than at any other time in history.

4) **As in the days of Noah**: The Bible teaches in Genesis 6:11 that as in the days of Noah, the last days will be full of violence. Just watch the evening news and you will be bombarded with so much news on violent acts, so as to depress most anyone. FBI forecasts show that violent crimes have increased over 500% in the USA since 1960.

5) **Lovers of self**: In II Timothy 3: 2 Paul prophesied that in the last days men will become lovers of their own selves. Today, society is driven by self-love such as the "human
potential movement”. The norm today in public schools is to teach the youth that self love and self esteem are the cornerstone to success. No mention of God, the bible, humility or love towards others!

Bible prophecy should motivate us to share the good news about God's free gift of salvation with our friends and loved ones. Whether we'll see the Lord return in our day or not, we are closer to those events than any other generation in history. As one prophecy expert often says, “Things are not falling apart, they are falling into place.” Even if the Lord does not return in our lifetime, we all need to be ready to meet Him at death. We are not guaranteed tomorrow. In Christ, we have the answer to everything and we need to share it!

The Closing Prayer: Sis. Charlotte Williams

Nothing is Impossible with God

The Parting Peace
Leader: The peace of God be with you.
The People: And, also with you.