



Foundations for Victory 5
Understanding God's Ordinances

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I Introduction

God's ordinances are certain actions that Christians are instructed to perform. Other words for ordinance are: command, order or mandate.

These actions should not be seen just as rituals that we perform so we can say we have obeyed. **They are important symbolic actions performed in faith, that focus us on the grace of God and the salvation that is provided for us through Jesus Christ.**

(For example, a husband giving his wife flowers is an expression of his love. If a husband were to give flowers as an empty ritual because he read in a marriage book that it was a good idea, he would miss the point.)

We will look at the following in this module:

- Holy Communion
- Baptism in Water
- Foot Washing
- Greeting with a Holy Kiss
- Lifting Holy Hands
- Baptism of the Holy Spirit*

If your Christian organisation has a longer or shorter list, don't worry, you will still benefit from studying this module.

(*Although baptism in the Holy Spirit is not usually mentioned with regards to ordinances, I will also be including it in this module.)

II Holy Communion/Lord's Supper

Holy Communion, The Lord's Supper, The Eucharist or the breaking of bread are all different names for the same thing. For ease of writing, I will refer to this ordinance as "Communion" for the rest of the lesson.

II (i) Jesus instituted the ordinance of Communion.

The ordinance of Communion was put in place by Jesus at the last supper with the disciples before He was arrested and taken to the cross. They were celebrating the Jewish Passover feast together. We remember that at the first Passover in Egypt, the nation of Israel sacrificed a lamb and used its blood on the doorways to prevent the angel of death from entering (Exodus 12). They also ate the body of the lamb during that night and burnt any remains so that none was left in the morning. There is a lot of symbolism going on here that ties into Jesus' saving sacrifice for us on the cross.

Luke 22:19-20

*19 And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; **do this in remembrance of Me.**" 20 Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.*

Matthew 26:26-28

26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." 27 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. 28 For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

Mark 14:22-24

22 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and **broke it**, and gave it to them and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." 23 Then He took the cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, and they all drank from it. 24 And He said to them, "This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many.

Paul also records the Communion ordinance in his first letter to the Corinthian church. He also gives expanded instruction which we will look at further on.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; **do this in remembrance of Me.**" 25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

Points that we see from these portions of scripture:

- Communion is done as a remembrance. Luke 22:19, 1 Cor 11:24
- Communion proclaims the Lord's death (on the cross) until He returns. 1 Cor 11:26
- Communion consists of two elements or parts, the wine and the bread.
- The two elements represent something: the wine represents Jesus' blood and the bread represents Jesus' body.

Some Christian organisations have taught that the wine and the bread become the literal body and blood of Jesus during the communion ceremony. This is not what the Bible says, the wine and the bread are representative of the blood and body of Jesus. (a thorough theological explanation of this is outside the scope of this lesson.)

II (ii) Understanding it's a celebration

The Communion ordinance is a celebration of what Jesus has done for the believer. We take part in it so that what Jesus did, stays fresh in our minds. This allows us to keep our faith focused in the right place, on Jesus.

(When we think of Jesus' death and resurrection, it is always with joy. We serve a **living** victorious Lord who defeated sin and death on the cross for us.)

a) The wine

The wine which represents Jesus' blood, reminds us that His blood was shed for our sins. When we drink of the wine we are declaring that we are sin free through faith in Jesus! We are reconciled to

God through the blood of Jesus. No longer are we guilty and condemned, we are righteous and accepted.

Matthew 26:28

28 For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

(See Hebrews especially chapters 9 and 10 for more explanation on the blood of Jesus.)

Jesus' blood washed away our sins! We celebrate being sin free and our consciences clear. Having a guilty conscience is one of the greatest hindrances to receiving from God, because we feel unworthy. Jesus' blood **made us** worthy to receive everything from God!

2 Corinthians 5:21

21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Ephesians 1:3

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ

b) The bread

The bread which represents Jesus' body, reminds us that His body was broken for us. This speaks of our healing. Jesus was beaten and bruised for our healing and wholeness. When we eat the bread, we remember that by His stripes (beating) we were healed!

1 Peter 2:24

24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.

Isaiah prophesied that Jesus would be more damaged than any man. Jesus took the hurt both physical and emotional of the whole world, past present and future on Himself at the cross.

Isaiah 52:14

14 Just as many were astonished at you, So His visage was marred more than any man, And His form more than the sons of men;

Isaiah 52:14 (Amplified Bible – Classic Version)

14 [For many the Servant of God became an object of horror; many were astonished at Him.] His face and His whole appearance were marred more than any man's, and His form beyond that of the sons of men—but just as many were astonished at Him,

Another thing we remember when thinking of the body of Jesus, is His church here on the earth. We are Jesus' body and we are authorised by Him to act of His behalf in reaching a lost and dying world. That authorisation includes performing signs and wonders to glorify God's name and confirm His Word.

John 14:12

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.

II (iii) What about the warnings?

In 1 Corinthians 11, Paul gives us some extra details about Communion. He is addressing issues in the Corinthian church that are undermining the effectiveness of their Communion celebration.

a) Conduct

1 Corinthians 11:17-22

17 Now in giving these instructions I do not praise you, since you come together not for the better but for the worse. 18 For first of all, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it. 19 For there must also be factions among you, that those who are approved may be recognized among you. 20 Therefore when you come together in one place, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper. 21 For in eating, each one takes his own supper ahead of others; and one is hungry and another is drunk. 22 What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I do not praise you.

The Corinthian church had lost sight of celebrating Jesus together in unity and the Communion meal had degraded into a greedy, selfish opportunity to overeat and get drunk. **Communion is supposed to focus us on the spiritual truth of what Jesus did for us**, but the Corinthians had turned it into a time of indulging their fleshly lusts. The result was they were not getting the benefit of encouragement and growing their faith.

b) Examining oneself

1 Corinthians 11:27-34

27 Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. 28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. 30 For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep. 31 For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. 32 But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world. 33 Therefore, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. 34 But if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, lest you come together for judgment. And the rest I will set in order when I come.

Paul warns of taking Communion in an unworthy manner. For years this was taught to mean that we must not come to take communion with any sin and so we must stop and say sorry for everything we can think of before taking it.

This makes no sense! **Communion is a remembrance or celebration of the fact that our sins, past, present and future were washed away by Jesus' blood on the cross.** Jesus on the cross is victory over sin! The Bible tells us that He remembers our sins no more (Heb 8:12). How then can I come with sin that still needs to be dealt with before I take communion?

The problem is the understanding of how our sins are forgiven. **We are forgiven by faith in Jesus alone.** When the Bible calls us to repent, it is the Greek word metanoia which literally means to change your mind. Repenting is not saying sorry, it is changing your mind, the way you think about something. You repented when you changed your mind regarding Jesus, when you chose to believe that He died

to take your sins and rose again on the third day. You changed your mind when you chose to make Jesus the Lord of your life, instead of you being your own lord.

This warning from Paul is all about not engaging in selfish gluttony instead of focusing on what Jesus did. When we lose sight of the washing away of our sins, we start to fall into guilt, condemnation and feelings of unworthiness. When we lose sight of the healing and restoration that came through the breaking of Jesus' body, we start to fall into sickness and brokenness.

1 Corinthians 11:29-30

29 For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. 30 For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.

Take communion with the joy, remembering that through Jesus, your sins are forgiven and that you are changed, free, healed and made whole in every way!

III Baptism in Water

III (i) Immersion not sprinkling

The Greek word for baptise, means to immerse in or cover with something, in this case with water. Water baptism is not a sprinkling of water, but it is being fully covered with water.

[Greek word for baptise: βαπτίζω (**baptizō**) - to immerse, submerge; to make fully wet.]

III (ii) Jesus saves, not being covered in water

Water Baptism is commanded by God. It is an outward demonstration of our inward choice to have faith in Jesus and follow Him. Through Water Baptism, we publicly identify with Jesus' death, burial and resurrection. **When we go under the water, we are saying that we died with Christ, we were buried with Him and when we come out of the water, we are resurrected with Him.** We are saying that our old sin nature has died, and a new born-again, sin free nature has replaced it.

Romans 6:3-11

*3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. 7 For he who has died has been freed from sin. 8 Now if we died with Christ, **we believe** that we shall also live with Him, 9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. 10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. 11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Colossians 2:11-12

*11 In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, 12 buried with Him in baptism, in which you also **were raised with Him through faith** in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.*

We are saved, by faith in Jesus Christ. When we choose to make Jesus our king and believe that God raised Him from the dead (after dying for our sins), then we are saved.

Romans 10:8-13

8 But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): 9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. 13 For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Ephesians 2:8

8 For **by grace** you have been saved **through faith**, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

Water does not save us, Jesus does. It is through faith in Jesus that we are saved, and Baptism is an outward action because of that faith. Water Baptism was never delayed in the Bible, when people believed, they were baptised as an outward act of their inward faith.

Acts 2:40-41

*40 And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." 41 Then those who **gladly received his word** were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.*

Mark 16:16

16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

Mark clarifies that it is failing to believe that condemns us, therefore it is believing that saves us.

Acts 16:30-34

30 And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" 31 So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." 32 Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. 33 And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. 34 Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.

Water baptism in the Bible is always the baptism of believers, those who have chosen to put their faith in Jesus Christ.

Babies were never baptised in the Bible, because baptism is a demonstration of our choice to have faith in Jesus. Babies are unable to make the choice to believe in Jesus and so can't demonstrate their choice to follow Him through the act of baptism.

[Do babies who die before they are old enough to understand and believe in Jesus go to heaven? YES! Although there are no clear statements of this in the Bible, there are enough clues, including the loving nature of God to give us confidence in this. A full theological discussion on this is beyond the scope of this teaching but the following verses provide some insights: Deuteronomy 1:34-39, 2 Corinthians 5:10, 2 Samuel 12:15-23, Matthew 19:13-15, Romans 1:18-21, Jeremiah 1:5]

III (iii) What name/names to be baptised in?

For some people there is confusion on whether we should be baptised in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, or in the name of Jesus.

Matthew 28:19

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Acts 10:48

48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.

Jesus commanded to baptise in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, but the disciples in the book of Acts, seemed to baptise in the name of Jesus.

Some people have strong opinions on one or the other being correct, I think they are both fine, because in Jesus dwells the fullness of the Godhead (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) bodily. By baptising people into Jesus, you are also baptising them into the Godhead. Let's not be distracted from the beautiful symbolism of baptism by non-arguments.

Colossians 2:8-10

8 Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. 9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; 10 and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

IV Washing of feet

The washing of feet has both an obvious symbolism and a less obvious meaning. The obvious is that Jesus was modelling the servant leader. He came not to "lord it" over men but to serve and save mankind. By placing Himself in the position of a servant, Jesus showed humility and a willingness to look to the wellbeing of others. This example is important for us to understand and follow.

In this section we will spend most of our time looking at the less obvious symbolism.

John 13:7

7 Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this."

We engage in foot washing as an act of family love to one another.

John 13:1-17

1 Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. 2 And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him, 3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, 4 rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. 5 After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. 6 Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?" 7 Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this." 8 Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." 9 Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!" 10 Jesus said to him, "He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you." 11 For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, "You are not all clean." 12 So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? 13 You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. 14 If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. 16 Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. 17 If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

Jesus washes and dries the disciple's feet. On one hand, He is modelling the idea of the servant leader who came to serve mankind, and on the other He is teaching a deeper truth on cleanliness from the dirt of the world. Jesus says to Peter that at this moment he won't understand but he will later

a) The washing**Ephesians 5:25-27**

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

We are washed by the water of the Word of God. This washing removes impurities through a renewing of the mind.

Romans 12:2

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

Notice that Peter at first did not want Jesus to lower himself to wash feet. Then when Jesus says in verse 8, that if He does not wash you, you have no part with Him, Peter then asked to be washed all over. Some have said this is talking about salvation, but Jesus says in verse 9, that those that have already bathed are completely clean only need to wash their feet.

We are saved by the blood of Jesus, I put to you that salvation is the bathing in the blood, and that the washing of feet is the daily washing of the Word that clears the dust of this world from us. (Our feet are the part that touches the world most directly and so make a strong symbolic statement.)

The washing of the feet is not a “re-saving”, because salvation happens once and can't be taken away. It is a renewing of the mind from the daily lies of the devil/world to the truths of God.

Hebrews 9:14

14 How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

Hebrews 9:22

22 In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

The blood saves us (totally bathes us), the Word washes us by renewing our minds and causing our faith to rise up and overcome the world.

Notice in verse 8 that Jesus said that not washing your feet means you have no part with Him, He did not say in Him. The difference is that in Him would have meant salvation, but with Him means walking in His victory and success!

b) The towel

The Greek word for towel used here is “lention” which means a linen cloth.

(λέντιον lention; a “linen” cloth).

Linen represents righteousness in the Bible. The priests in the Old Testament wore linen and the bride of Christ wears linen. (Leviticus 16:3-5, Ezekiel 44:17-18)

Revelations 19:7-8

7 Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.” 8 And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

Isaiah prophesied righteousness and faithfulness would be the belt of Jesus' loins and waist. When Jesus tied a linen cloth around Himself while serving the disciples the imagery was clear. Jesus is ever faithful to provide us with His righteousness so that we may be right with God through faith in Him!

Isaiah 11:5

*Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And faithfulness the belt of His waist.
Jesus dried the disciple's feet, symbolic of the righteousness that He gives us as a gift.*

2 Corinthians 5:21

21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

When we are washed by the Word, the truth of our righteousness in Christ becomes a reality to us. **Whenever we encourage each other with the Word of God, we are engaging in washing each other's feet!**

V Greeting with a holy kiss and lifting holy hands.

As mentioned in the introduction of this module, some practice these as ordinances. We're not going to cover these in any detail, you can study for yourself on the internet if you want to know more.

I will briefly list some Bible verses referencing these topics

V (i) Holy Kiss

Romans 16:16

16 Greet one another with a holy kiss. The churches of Christ greet you.

1 Corinthians 16:20

20 All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

2 Corinthians 13:12

12 Greet one another with a holy kiss.

1 Thessalonians 5:26

26 Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss.

1 Peter 5:14

14 Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to you all who are in Christ Jesus. Amen.

I don't think these verses are here to force us to kiss each other. It is a sign of unity, brotherly/sisterly love and peace. We are always to remember that we are family and we need to be open and vulnerable with each other. We can practice the meaning without the need to kiss everyone, unless both parties are willing.

V (ii) Holy Hands

1 Timothy 2:8

8 I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting;

Psalms 63:4

Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name.

Psalms 134:2

Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, And bless the Lord.

Holy, means set apart for a purpose. We are offering our hands (symbolic of our actions) to God. We are acknowledging that we have been called out of this world to live for God, to be in the world but not of the world. Giving ourselves to the Lord is an act of worship.

VI Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Although this is not traditionally classed as an ordinance, I am going to cover this here. The topic of the Holy Spirit is a large one and so I will build a step by step understanding in as summarised a form as possible.

Matthew 3:13-17

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. 14 And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?" 15 But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him. 16 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. 17 And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Matthew 4:1

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

Luke 4:1

Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,

Jesus was baptised by the Holy Spirit (filled) and was led by the Holy Spirit, we need to be too.

VI (i) Three works of the Holy Spirit

a) Born of the Spirit

This is when we are born again.

John 3:1-6

1 There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. 2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." 3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." 4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" 5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

We are born of water into this world, it is our natural (first) birth. We are born of the Spirit when we accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour, we are born again (second birth).

b) Baptised in the Spirit

We are baptised in the Holy Spirit*Matthew 3:11*

11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Jesus is the one who baptises us with the Holy Spirit, this is why this is only available to people who believe in Jesus.

c) Operate in the power of the Spirit

Luke 24:49

49 Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

Acts 1:6-8

6 Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we will begin to operate in the power of the Holy Spirit. There will be a flow of God from us to others. We see this in the gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:4-11).

VI (ii) Changes produced by the Holy Spirit

a) Inward Change

John 3:1-6

1 There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. 2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." 3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." 4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" 5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

When we are born again, our spirits are made new. Our spirit's join with the Lord's Spirit to become one. This causes a change in our nature, we become a new creation. Our nature changes from a sinner to a saint (one made righteous by Jesus).

1 Corinthians 5:17

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

1 Corinthians 6:17

But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

2 Corinthians 1:21-22

21 Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, 22 who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

Ephesians 1:13-14

13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

Our new born again spirits are sealed (protected) by the Holy Spirit.

b) Upward Worship

The Holy Spirit empowers us to worship God fully in spirit. We are able to commune directly with God who is Spirit.

John 4:23-24

23 But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. 24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth. "

1 Corinthians 14:15

15 What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.

c) Outward Flow

We will stop just seeking for ourselves but will become a blessing to others. The things of God will flow like a life-giving river from us.

John 7:37-39

37 On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." 39 But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Acts 1:8

8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

VI (iii) What the Holy Spirit does in the world**John 16:7-15**

7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. 8 And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 of sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; 11 of

judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. 12 "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. 15 All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.

a) Convicts the world of sin

John 16:9

of sin, because they do not believe in Me;

The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin (singular). This is the sin of not believing in Jesus because He is the only way to salvation. This is why blaspheming (disrespecting or disregarding) the Holy Spirit is called the unforgivable sin (Mat 3:28-30). If you turn away from the Holy Spirit's message, you reject the only one through whom forgiveness is possible, Jesus.

b) Convicts the world of righteousness

John 16:10

10 of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more

Righteousness is found through faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus is the one who makes us righteous. He went to heaven to put His blood for our redemption on the true Mercy Seat in the Holy of Holies in heaven.

Hebrews 9:11-14

11 But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. 12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. 13 For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, 14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Hebrews 9:23-28

23 Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. 24 For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; 25 not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another— 26 He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. 27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, 28 so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

2 Corinthians 5:21

21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

c) Convicts the world of judgement

John 16:11

11 of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

The devil is judged and sentenced. Don't hitch your wagon to his, no matter how much he offers, he is a liar.

Revelations 20:10

10 The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

VI (iv) Ways to receive the Holy Spirit

a) Wait on God in prayer

Acts 1:4-14

4 And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; 5 for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." 6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. 8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." 9 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. 10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, 11 who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven." 12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey. 13 And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James. 14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

Acts 2:1-4

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

b) Laying on of hands

Acts 8:14-19

14 Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, 15 who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. 16 For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only

been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 17 Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. 18 And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, 19 saying, "Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

Acts 9:10-18

10 Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." 11 So the Lord said to him, "Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. 12 And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hand on him, so that he might receive his sight." 13 Then Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem. 14 And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name." 15 But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. 16 For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake." 17 And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." 18 Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized.

c) Hear the Word

Acts 10:44-48

44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. 45 And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. 46 For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, 47 "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" 48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.

Acts 11:15-16

15 And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning. 16 Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, 'John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'

God gave everyone on earth a free will and He will always respect that. The following points are the attitude needed to receive the Holy Spirit.

(i) Be willing to receive further revelation

Acts 19:1-6

And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples 2 he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." 3 And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So they said, "Into John's baptism." 4 Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." 5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.

(ii) Welcome/invite the Holy Spirit

Luke 11:9-13

9 "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. 11 "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for[] a fish, will give him a snake instead? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? 13 If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

VI (v) Objections to a separate Baptism of the Holy Spirit

a) I already have the Spirit through being born again

Some say that we receive the baptism Holy Spirit when we are born again, that it is all one event. They may use Romans 8:9 and 1 Corinthians 12:13 to support this idea.

Romans 8:9

9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

1 Corinthians 12:13

13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

The above verse is referencing what happens when we are born again, we receive the seal of the Holy Spirit on our spirits as a promise and guarantee of salvation.

The examples we see in scripture is that believers still had an extra experience of receiving the Holy Spirit.

Acts 19:1-6

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In these accounts the apostles were dealing with people who were already believers.

To better understand the different baptisms, look at the things that make up the baptism below:

In any type of baptism there are three things involved.

1. A baptiser who performs the baptism
2. A candidate for baptism, the one being baptised
3. An element that the candidate is being baptised in.

New Birth/Baptism into the body (1 Corinthians 12:13)

1. Baptiser – Holy Spirit
2. Candidate – Believer
3. Element – Body of Christ

Water Baptistism

1. Baptiser – Existing believer
2. Candidate – Believer
3. Element – Water

Baptism of Holy Spirit/Jesus' baptism (Matthew 3:11)

1. Baptiser – Jesus (we ask for it, but Jesus performs the baptism)
2. Candidate – Believer
3. Element – Holy Spirit

VI (vi) Fruits of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

We are Born of the Spirit (different from Baptised in the Spirit) when we are born-again by receiving Jesus as our Lord and Saviour. The Holy Spirit/Jesus live inside of us and the nature of God is present in our spirits.

2 Peter 1:2-4

2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

1 Corinthians 6:17

But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

As a believer in Jesus, we don't need to get the fruit of the Spirit from elsewhere, we must believe we have it within us because Jesus through the Holy Spirit is within us and has joined together with our spirits. When we believe we have this fruit within us, we can step out in faith and have the fruit show itself to the outside world.

a) Love

God's love is totally different to human love, because it is uncaused. God's love is given without ulterior motive and even when we don't love Him back!

1 John 4:7-8

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

1 John 4:19

19 We love Him because He first loved us.

Romans 5:8

8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Our human love is limited and selfish, we need to manifest God's unconditional love to others.

b) Joy

Jesus had joy above all His companions (Heb 1:9). We should be a joyous people.

Joy is an internal eternal delight in God that is not tied to circumstances. Joy is not dependant on what is going on in life, it is a delight in God. God does not change so our joy should not.

Romans 5:10-11

10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. 11 And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

Nehemiah 8:10, Isaiah 61:3, John 15:11, John 16:22-24, Romans 14:17, Psalm 16:11, Habakkuk 3:17-18

c) Peace

Calmness and rest in a person's soul. The absence of strife.

Romans 15:33

33 Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen.

Philippians 4:6-7

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Isaiah 9:6, Luke 2:14, John 14:27, John 16:33, Isaiah 26:3-4

d) Longsuffering (Patience)

Steadfast endurance that enables us to persevere despite difficult circumstances and people. Longsuffering/patience is faith in God's promises exercised over time in the face of difficulty.

2 Peter 3:9

9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

1 Corinthians 15:58

58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

Hebrews 12:1-3

1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Psalm 86:15, Numbers 14:18, Isaiah 53:3-7, Matthew 24:13, 2 Timothy 2:10-12, Luke 9:62

e) Gentleness

Warm hearted tenderness and mellowing what is harsh.

Isaiah 42:1-3

1 "Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles. 2 He will not cry out, nor raise His voice, Nor cause His voice to be heard in the street. 3 A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not quench; He will bring forth justice for truth.

Some people think of God as harsh. This is not true Isaiah prophesies of the gentleness of the Messiah in dealing with broken and damaged people.

Ephesians 4:31-32

31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Isaiah 40:11, Nehemiah 9:17, Jonah 4:2, Matthew 19:13-14

f) Goodness

To do good to benefit others. God is forever good, and He is always benefiting others.

Acts 10:36-38

*36 The word which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ—He is Lord of all— 37 that word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about **doing good** and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.*

Psalm 106:1, Psalm 52:1

g) Faithfulness

Steadfast commitment.

1 Corinthians 1:9

9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Deuteronomy 7:9

9 "Therefore know that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments;

1 Corinthians 10:13, 1 Thessalonians 5:24, Psalm 119:90, Psalm 92:1-2

h) Meekness

This is power under control and it is also the ability to let God deal with you justly about issues, without getting defensive. Meekness is not weakness!

Matthew 11:29

29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Jesus is gentle and humble but not weak.

Matthew 5:5

Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.

Meekness is like a powerful horse that has been trained and is under control. We have more power through Jesus than we can imagine, but we need to be humble before God in order to use this power properly.

John 14:12

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.

i) Self Control

You have a free will given by God and because of Jesus you are no longer a slave to sin. This means that nothing can force you to do anything you don't want to. The nature of God is that He is able to control Himself and act rightly in all situations. We to have the ability to control how we act and react to things.

The words "I couldn't help myself" when coming from a Christian show that we need a revelation of the Spiritual Fruit of Self Control that is within us.

2 Timothy 1:7

7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Proverbs 16:32

32 He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, And he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.

All the Fruits of the Spirit are in us when we are born-again. We don't have to find them somewhere, we need to release them. We do this by recognising our identity as believers in Christ, submitting at all times to the lordship of Jesus and walking in the Spirit.

VII Gifts of the Spirit

Being Baptised in the Spirit gives you the ability to live a successful Christian life. Where the new birth gave us the nature of God (Fruits of the Spirit), the Baptism gives us the power to live this nature from the inside to the outside.

1 Corinthians 12:7-11

7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: 8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

There are 9 gifts or manifestations of the Spirit that are listed in this passage. We will look at each and give a short explanation for them. The only gift that is explicitly defined in scripture is prophecy, so we need to be listening to the Holy Spirit's guidance when discussing what these gifts mean.

For the purposes of study, people classify these gifts into three groups.

Revelation Gifts

- Word of Wisdom
- Word of Knowledge
- Discerning of Spirits

Power Gifts

- Faith
- Gifts of Healings
- Working of Miracles

Inspirations/Vocal Gifts

- Different kinds of tongues
- Interpretation of Tongues
- Prophecy

Let's look at each gift/manifestation:

a) Word of Wisdom

Supernatural wisdom given to help, often in a crises situation. It can also be the supernatural ability to apply knowledge. Wisdom is knowing that to do to overcome or achieve something. It can also be supernatural insight.

Luke 20:20-26

20 So they watched Him, and sent spies who pretended to be righteous, that they might seize on His words, in order to deliver Him to the power and the authority of the governor. 21 Then they asked Him, saying, "Teacher, we know that You say and teach rightly, and You do not show personal favoritism, but teach the way of God in truth: 22 Is it lawful for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" 23 But He perceived their craftiness, and said to them, "Why do you test Me? 24 Show Me a denarius. Whose image and inscription does it have?" They answered and said, "Caesar's." 25 And He said to them, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." 26 But they could not catch Him in His words in the presence of the people. And they marveled at His answer and kept silent.

b) Word of Knowledge

Knowledge that is supernaturally obtained. Knowing something that you were not told by people and did not deduce with your own intelligence.

Matthew 9:1-8

1 So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city. 2 Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you." 3 And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, "This Man blasphemes!" 4 But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? 5 For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise and walk'? 6 But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"—then He said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." 7 And he arose and departed to his house. 8 Now when the multitudes saw it, they marvelled and glorified God, who had given such power to men.

c) Discerning of Spirits

A supernatural revelation that gives a person the ability to distinguish the source of spirit world activities when they are present. The ability to see the spirit realm and know what spirit is operating. There are different types of spirits: Holy Spirit, good angels, human spirits & evil spirits/demons.

Acts 16:16-18

16 Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. 17 This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." 18 And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour.

The woman was speaking the truth when she cried out, but Paul could discern that the spirit in her was evil.

d) Faith

A supernatural manifestation of unlimited faith in a specific situation to achieve supernatural results. This is not a faith from human effort, it is received and overcomes all doubt and unbelief.

The results of the gift of faith are usually manifest through one of the other spiritual gifts like healings or working of miracles.

e) Gifts of Healings

Supernatural healing of sickness, injury and disease without any natural aid.

Matthew 8:16-17

16 When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, 17 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "He Himself took our infirmities And bore our sicknesses."

Matthew 12:10-13

10 And behold, there was a man who had a withered hand. And they asked Him, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"—that they might accuse Him. 11 Then He said to them, "What man is there among you who has one sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not lay hold of it and lift it out? 12 Of how much more value then is a man than a sheep? Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath." 13 Then He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and it was restored as whole as the other.

Healings can occur in many ways:

- When power permeates and area – Luke 5:17
- Laying on of hands – Luke 4:40, Acts 28:8
- Anointing with oil – James 5:14-15
- At a distance - Matthew 8:7-13
- Drawing on the power/virtue of Jesus – Mark 5:30
- Word of God – Psalm 107:20, Matthew 8:8

f) Working of Miracles

A supernatural intervention in the course of nature.

John 2:1-12

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 2 Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. 3 And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." 4 Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come." 5 His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it." 6 Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece. 7 Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." And they filled them up to the brim. 8 And He said to them, "Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast." And they took it. 9 When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom. 10 And he said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!"

Acts 8:39-40

39 Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing. 40 But Philip was found at Azotus. And passing through, he preached in all the cities till he came to Caesarea.

g) Gift of Tongues

There are different types of the gift of tongues spoken of scripture:

- Individual speaking in an unknown language (not human) directly to God.
- Unknown language (not human) spoken in a church/group setting – must be interpreted
- Speaking in an unlearned human language that the speaker can't naturally speak.

Individual speaking in an unknown language (not human) directly to God.

When a person is praying in tongues directly to God, the person does not understand what they are saying because the words are provided by the Holy Spirit. This allows us to get around the limits of our human understanding of situations. The prayers come from our mouths but from God's understanding and so are perfect prayers.

1 Corinthians 14:2

For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.

Romans 8:26

26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Jude 1:20-21

20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

1 Corinthians 14:4

4 He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.

Unknown language (not human) spoken in a church/group setting – must be interpreted

When praying with words given by the Holy Spirit out load in a church (group) setting, the words need to be interpreted or else they do not benefit the congregation. Public tongues are a message from God and when interpreted are the same as prophecy.

1 Corinthians 14:26-28

26 How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification. 27 If anyone speaks in a tongue, let there be two or at the most three, each in turn, and let one interpret. 28 But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and let him speak to himself and to God.

1 Corinthians 14:5

5 I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification.

1 Corinthians 14:22

22 Therefore tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but prophesying is not for unbelievers but for those who believe.

Speaking in an unlearned human language that the speaker can't naturally speak.

When needed God will give someone the ability to speak in a human language that was not learned by that person. This allows God to minister to people overcoming any language barriers.

Acts 2:6-12

6 And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. 7 Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? 9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God." 12 So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?"

h) Interpretation of Tongues

Supernatural knowledge of a message given in tongues. It is not a "word for word" translation, but an "idea for idea" interpretation.

Its purpose is to ensure that a message sent by God through an unknown tongue in a group setting is given in an understood human language, so all can benefit from it. It is also a sign for unbelievers that God is at work.

See 1 Corinthians 14:5,22,26-28

i) Prophecy

This is the one gift with a definition in scripture.

1 Corinthians 14:3

3 But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.

It is also the gift to be pursued (alongside love) above all the other gifts.

1 Corinthians 14:1

Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.

New Testament and Old Testament prophecy are different. In the OT people could not hear directly from God and so they went to a prophet/seer to get guidance. Today each believer has direct access to God and the Holy Spirit dwelling within them. We should be hearing from God directly not relying on others to direct our lives. In the New Testament, believers operating in the gifts of the words of wisdom and knowledge can tell us things, but it should be confirmation of that God tells us too. The gifts of prophecy and words of knowledge and wisdom are closely linked and one can prepare the way for the other to flow.

We must never forget that NT prophecy is to edify (build up) exhort (encourage, urge forward) and comfort (console, bring peace) to others. It is never to condemn!

1 Corinthians 14:29-33

29 Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge. 30 But if anything is revealed to another who sits by, let the first keep silent. 31 For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged. 32 And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. 33 For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

Prophecy in a group setting should always be done in order. People are to take turns and no one who is prophesying by the Holy Spirit will lose control of themselves and "have to speak over others". Prophecy should also always be judged by the believers hearing it. Just because someone says "Thus says the Lord" does not mean that the prophecy is from God!

Judging prophecy:

- Does it comfort, edify or exhort? – 1 Corinthians 14:3
- Does it agree with the written Word of God? 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- Does it exalt Jesus? – John 16:13-14
- Does it promote obedience? – Deuteronomy 13:1-5
- Does it promote liberty not bondage? – Romans 8:15, Romans 8:1
- Does it produce life? – 2 Corinthians 3:6
- Does it bear witness with your spirit? – Romans 8:16
- Is it decent and in order? – 1 Corinthians 14:40

VII (ii) Extra thoughts on speaking in tongues

a) Do all speak with tongues ?

1 Corinthians 12:30

30 Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?

Some people take the above verse to say that the gift of speaking in tongues is not for everyone and even go further using this verse to say there is no baptism in the Holy Spirit.

The gift of tongues is available to anyone who wants to use it. The will of God/Holy Spirit is to see people set free from the power of evil and live lives of victory in Christ. To this end it is always the will of the Holy Spirit to manifest His power through us as needed. In this fallen world, there is always the need for everyone for praying in tongues and the Holy Spirit will not withhold tongues from anyone.

1 Corinthians 14:39

39 Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues.

1 Corinthians 12:28

28 And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.

1 Corinthians 12:7-11

7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: 8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, 10 to another the

working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

are, it may be, so many kinds of languages in the world, and none of them is without [b]significance. 11 Therefore, if I do not know the meaning of the language, I shall be a [c]foreigner to him who speaks, and he who speaks will be a foreigner to me. 12 Even so you, since you are [d]zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the [e]edification of the church that you seek to excel. 13 Therefore let him who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret. 14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful. 15 What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding. 16 Otherwise, if you bless with the spirit, how will he who occupies the place of the uninformed say "Amen" at your giving of thanks, since he does not understand what you say? 17 For you indeed give thanks well, but the other is not edified. 18 **I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all; 19 yet in the church I would rather speak five words with my understanding, that I may teach others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue.**

1 Corinthians 14:39

Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues.