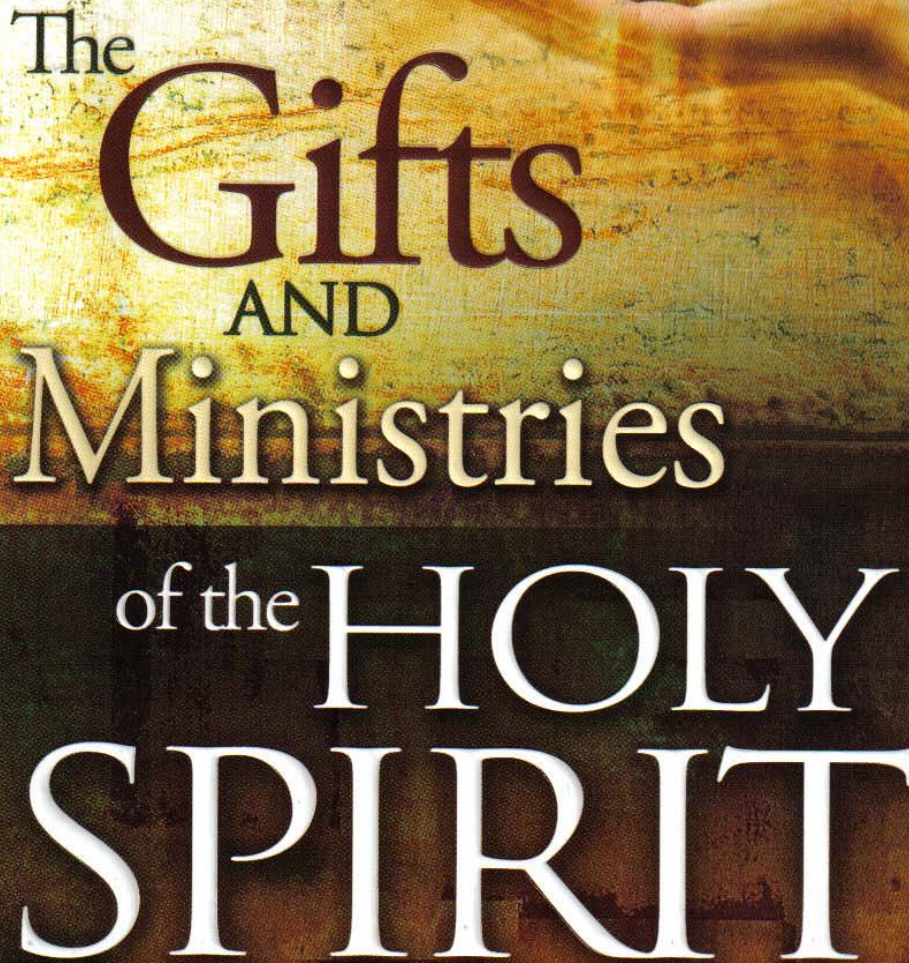


"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you."
—Acts 1:8 NIV

LESTER SUMRALL



The
Gifts
AND
Ministries
of the HOLY
SPIRIT

Weapons of Our Warfare

I make the following statement without qualification because I believe it with all my heart: The greatest unused energy in the world today cannot be found under the ground with the oil and coal resources; that latent power - within the church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The power of God is invincible, and the gifts of the Spirit have been given to the church as the weapons of our warfare. However, the church today is going into battle without a true knowledge of those weapons. Any time you go to battle without your weapons properly functioning, you cannot expect to win the fight.

It is my true desire that through this study of the gifts of the Spirit, you will recognize the true greatness of these spiritual gifts and allow them to become a vital part of your life.

When our Lord Jesus came to this earth to conquer it and redeem it, He functioned only within the framework of the gifts of the Spirit. His total ministry on earth was not as God, but as a man, functioning in the gifts of the Spirit. All

The Gifts and Ministries of the Holy Spirit

the "miracles" Jesus performed were the result of a gift of the Spirit functioning at that time.

Do you believe that Jesus always told the truth? He did! Then let me remind you of what He said in John 14:12: *"He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father."* The ministry Jesus performed on this earth was directed, guided, and energized by the Holy Spirit—the same Holy Spirit that you and I have today. We can expect to do the same works Jesus did if we will follow, line upon line and precept upon precept, everything the Word of God teaches.

Each one of us has a right to every gift of the Holy Spirit, —
————— without exception. Each believer in Christ has the right to any and every gift of the Spirit. When we leave ourselves out, it is through unbelief. We say, "That is for someone else. It can't be for me."

JESUS' MINISTRY
WAS GUIDED BY
THE HOLY SPIRIT.

But the gifts are for you! They are provided for the total body of Christ, and you as a believer are a part of His

body.

It is time to cry out, O church of the Lord Jesus Christ! Put on the whole armor of God! Clothe yourself in the gifts of the Spirit! Go out against the enemy and destroy him! Bring to the kingdom of God glory and majesty because He is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords! You and I should see victories every day and never know defeat!

Jesus said that if you wish to take a prey, you must first bind the strong man. (See Matthew 12:29.) When we seek to take a "prey" in a pagan land, such as Tibet or India, it is imperative that we use the weapons of our warfare. Not to do so is to suffer humiliating defeat at the hands of ..witchcraft,

witchcraft, superstition, and heathen religion. Only when that pagan darkness is pushed back can we know true victory.

Zechariah 4:6 says it is *"not by might [or organization], not by power [or a decision of a board], but by my spirit, saith the lord of hosts."*

We can reach out today to save the world in which we live, but it will never be done by organizational strength or even by the strength of numbers. God can win a mighty battle with just a few people. By using only Gideon and his faithful 300, God took care of tens of thousands of the enemy. (See Judges 7 and 8.)

God does not need a host of men to win a battle; He just needs sincere and dedicated people whose hearts are fully turned to Him. In this case, to win a total victory He needs those who have received the endowment of the gifts of the Spirit to function in their lives and ministries.

The body of Christ is an advancing army; we do not retreat. We have total victory; we do not know defeat. Our warfare is not carnal; it is spiritual. We are not fighting doctrines or people or denominations. We are warring in the spirit, and the gifts of the Spirit are a necessary part of our fighting gear, both defensive and offensive, but especially offensive. It is the power of God flowing from our spirits that convinces people.

I believe we are living in a prophetic moment. Jesus Christ will soon be returning for His church, and He does not want to come back for a church that is sick and sad and defeated. He wants to come back for a church that is glorious—winning victory after victory and setting men free by the power of God.