

WHAT ARE THE NINE SPIRIT (CHARISMATIC GIFTS)?

"Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts..." St. Paul, 1 cor. 14.1

Wisdom
Word of Knowledge
Prophecy
Tongues
Interpretation of Tongues
Supernatural Faith
Working of Miracles
Healing
Discernment of Spirits

DO WE NEED THEM? Absolutely!

How do we get them? Through the Baptism of the Holy Spirit! The spirit gifts "equip" us! When we see them in action it builds up our faith to trust in a mighty, supernatural God, who is on our side. These gifts confound the enemy! He knows they come from God. He knows they belong to true believers who come in Jesus' name, ready to stand, ready to build the church. They make us strong, a fortified city!

Take Mother Mary. Every mother knows that when our kids are in danger we can do the impossible, until the danger passes, and then we collapse. Right? I believe Mary was no different. She was strong for Jesus until he died and then what? For the first times since his conception she was alone, without her beloved Son, without his strength, his comfort, his presence. And she was given all of us to deal with, to boot. How was she to keep going without him?

Pentecost to the rescue! Out of obedience she kept the disciples together in the Upper Room, waiting for the Paraclete, not even knowing what that was. Then he came, the Holy Spirit in power and all were changed in an instant! And Mary was right there to receive the first Baptism in the Holy Spirit, along with all the apostles and disciples. Now she could do it! Now, once more, she could do the impossible. Are we so foolish, or so arrogant, as to think that 'church as usual' can offset what Satan is pouring out in our day! We need everything that God has to give us to fortify ourselves and each other in these troublesome times.

HOW DO WE GET THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Some get it privately, often in the shower if you can believe that! Not really so surprising if you think about it. Cleansing? Refreshing? Living Water? Praising God, singing our hearts out, grateful for how water, and soap and life and God, then suddenly he shows up!

Laying on of hands by a believer can do it. Coming together with others, crying out in holy boldness for it, no holds barred, can do it. BUT, the main ingredient is desire! You have to really want it! Surrender, and let him have you.

WHY DO SOME GET AND SOME DON'T?

For many reasons, all too human! Too 'shy', too silly and giggly, too 'unworthy', too proud, too falsely humble, too afraid, too embarrassed not to get, too foolish by saying they don't want it when secretly they do. Just being all about self instead of all about God.

Listen! It's easy! Jesus came to give it, he wants it for you so, if for no other reason, want it for his sake out of obedience. We need to really get it that we are a people set apart, a supernatural people with supernatural gifting and stop tripping over our false 'piety'. Admit you want it! Come and get it! No more sitting in the bleachers wondering and hoping. Ask! Tell Fr. Michael you want it and he'll make sure you have the opportunity.

It cost Jesus everything for you to be able to operate in the charismatic gifts of the Holy Spirit. Be blessed and be a blessing! These gifts are for the Church. We need them. We need you! Just trust and come and get it. It is awesome love beyond words.

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