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Ministering with the Fruit and Gifts of the Holy Spirit

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Introduction to Level IV:

You are anointed to minister in the Kingdom of God



"I am the vine; you are the branches.

If someone remains in me and I in them,
they will bear much fruit;
apart from me you can do nothing."

Jesus - John 15:5

You are called!

God calls each believer to Christian ministry. Whether preaching to thousands, wielding a hammer, praying in the night, teaching a child, showing hospitality, or leading throngs in worship, *each of us has a ministry to fulfill!* God also clearly promises that we would not be left to fend for ourselves in these efforts. Christ himself, in the person of the Holy Spirit, promises to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

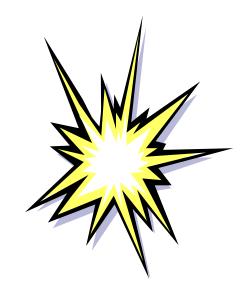
Ministry must be super-natural

Authentic ministry is humanly impossible. We are called to extend God's rule in a world infested by demons and dominated by human societies that rebel against precisely that authority. For this reason, we need a supernatural power to execute our calling with eternal



value. Thankfully, God invests us with this power by endowing us – by filling us – with His Holy Spirit. We call this spiritual investiture, "anointing," hearkening back to the days when the Old Testament priests would "anoint" the chosen king or prophet with oil, which represented God's presence; authorizing that individual to act on behalf of His rule on earth. On the day of Pentecost, the risen and exalted Jesus poured out this anointing upon the apostles, empowering them to deliver his gospel "to the ends of the earth!"







As New Testament believers, we depend on this "anointing" to fulfill our ministry. This supernatural power manifests itself through the "fruit" of Christ-like character, which shines through us as we serve. The very personality of Jesus can emanate from us like light through a prism, which results in a spectrum of brilliant color: *love*, *joy*, *peace*, *patience*, *kindness*, *goodness*, *gentleness* and *self control*.

Gifts: The Holy Spirit endows us with supernatural power

This spiritual anointing also manifests itself through certain other-worldly powers, or "gifts," intended to help us to fulfill specific functions in this kingdom work. Quite different from natural talents or human competence, these gifts are spiritual in essence, imparting Divine power to fulfill whatever task God calls us to do.

In Level IV we consider, and seek to cultivate, this multi-faceted anointing in our lives. Do we indeed minister with supernatural joy, even in the drudgery and sometimes agonizing moments of Christian service? Does our zeal include the gentleness of Jesus, or do we "plow over" others in our drive to achieve God's purposes? These are the types of hard questions we will ask ourselves as we visualize a ministry which reflects the fruit of the Spirit.

We will also consider the awesome variety of gifting God has provided for His church. In breathtaking variety and precision, God has equipped each of us to fulfill a critical role in His unfolding plan on earth.

As we embark upon this amazing exploration,

.... we invite you to pray for the following attitudes of mind and heart:

Pray for wisdom about your own gifting and calling.

Pray for a teachable heart...

- To receive instruction (and warnings) appropriate to your own gifting and temperament your particular spiritual "wiring."
- To recognize honestly those ways in which your service in Jesus' name does not always reflect his character.

Pray for eyes

- To see and appreciate the gifting in others, becoming more of a team player in God's kingdom work.
- To visualize the fruit of the Spirit specific qualities of the character of Jesus- reflected in the day to day details of ministry.

Pray that the Lord of His harvest would send you into His harvest field in a way that yields fruit -100 fold!

Our Goals for Level 4

To learn about and pray for the fruit of the Spirit in our ministry

- To visualize how each "fruit" of Christian character becomes evident in real life ministry situations
- To identify our areas of struggle and pray growth in our own character



To learn about and pray for the gifts of the Spirit in our ministry

- o To visualize each gift in action
- o To value the need to work in partnership with those who have different giftings
- o To observe the potential "pitfalls" related to each gift
- o To begin to identify our own areas of gifting

We are anointed to minister....

with Jesus' heart and Jesus' power!





Table I: The Fruit of the Spirit

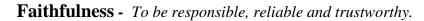


Love - Perfectly demonstrated by Christ's death on the cross for undeserving sinners. Disinterested care and service to others. A decision, by faith, to seek the good of others unconditionally and without seeking personal gain.

Goodness - To live with authentic integrity and sincerity, being honest and seeking to do what is right, whatever the cost.



Joy - A positive attitude of hope and optimism which is based in the faithfulness of God, and not one's circumstances.

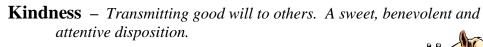




Peace - A state of order, tranquility, interpersonal harmony and well-being, imparted by the Spirit, even in the midst of difficulty or conflict.



Patience - The art of waiting. The capacity to absorb negativity or setbacks without giving up; following through in a long term process with perseverance.



Gentleness - Strength of will which has been submitted to the Lordship of Christ. Being docile and responsive to God's voice and the leadership of spiritual authority; respectful and courteous to all.



Self-Control –The capacity to harness one's instincts, impulses and appetites in order to serve the Lord with discipline and sobriety.



Table II: The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 1 Corinthians 12:7

Gifts of Care-giving

Hospitality A special anointing to make others feel "at home," welcome, cared for and part of the group.



Mercy - A special empathy and sincere compassion for the pain and suffering of others, resulting in practical expressions of support and charity.

Exhortation - A special anointing to encourage, challenge and admonish.



Service - A special anointing to anticipate and fill the needs of others.

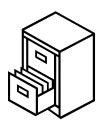


Gifts that Support the Work of God



Intercession - A special anointing to pray intensely for extended periods of time under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Helps - A special anointing to work alongside others to support their efforts in practical ways.



Administration - A special anointing to coordinate and organize people and projects.

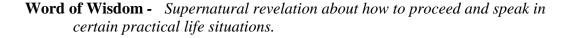
Craftsmanship - . A special anointing to create and enhance beautiful environments in which God's service can take place.



Giving - A special attention to the practical and financial needs of the church and the capacity to contribute cheerfully and generously to fulfill those needs.



Gifts of Divine Revelation





Word of Knowledge - The supernatural revelation of information in specific situations that could not have been ascertained by natural means.



Prophecy: A special anointing to receive supernatural revelation and communicate messages from the Holy Spirit.



Discernment A special anointing to perceive the presence of angels and demons, as well as the capacity to know if the actions, words and motivations of a person are of Divine, demonic or merely human origin.

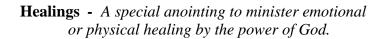
Gifts of Miraculous Signs and Wonders

Faith - An exceptional anointing to believe that God will move in specific and practical ways that defy circumstantial evidence.





Miracles - A special anointing to perform supernatural actions by the power of God.





Tongues A special anointing to pray, worship or prophesy in a language which is unknown to the speaker.

Interpretation of Tongues: A special anointing to interpret a prophetic message that was delivered originally in tongues.

Exorcism: A special anointing to cast demons out of or away from another individual.

Gifts of Leadership to Equip the Saints

Leadership - A special anointing to influence and mobilize others to fulfill a mission in the Kingdom of God.





Teaching- An anointing to communicate the truths of the word of God in a clear, memorable and impacting way which impacts the daily lives of the listeners.

Worship Arts - A special anointing to enrich worship through song, instrumental music, dance or some other artistic expression.





Pastor - A special anointing to assume responsibility for the spiritual growth of a group of believers.

Apostle A special anointing to provide spiritual leadership over a number of pastors and churches to promote the extension of the kingdom at a regional level.



Missionary - A special anointing to minister effectively in other cultures.

Evangelism: A special wisdom and anointing to win souls and mobilize others in the work of sharing the gospel with unbelievers.

