

The words charis (grace), Charismatic (gift), and Eucharistia (thanksgiving).

When you talk about the gift of the Holy Spirit, people tend to think speaking in tongues. But we should realize that anything given to us by God is a gift. When we minister to another person in need, we are giving a gift (charisma). When one is ministered to by another, it is singular not plural. Grace is passed through one to another. In turn, the receiver needs to thank (Eucharistia) God for his provision; for the need being met.

The word charis can be found in each of the above words.

When reading the New Testament, the Hebrew language is important even though the text is primarily written in Greek and translated into English. Remember that the context was written by Hebrews.

How can we understand and be like Christ without the grace of God? How can we have a living hope in God if we have not his grace? We cannot stand without the grace of God. It is an integral part of our faith. Many Churches, or denominations, have nearly split over this issue. In an attempt not to split the denominations, they have created a sub denomination; the Charismatic renewal. Sadly most denominations are unsure about the charismatic renewal and tend to view it with skepticism.

The Holy Spirit is a person of the trinity and thus should never be called "It." When referencing the Holy Spirit, one should use Him or He.

The Holy Spirit should bring unity, not be used to divide. Every gift God gives should never be abused, misused, refused, or unused. God's gifts do not divide. Their

purpose is unity of the body. God's gifts have been, are now, and always will be for the whole Church.

Victor Cousins has a saying that ignorance is the primary source of all misery and vice, this can be seen throughout the world today, one only has to look at the numerous different denominations to get the picture of this.

Whenever God calls you to do something, He will always provide the means for you to accomplish His will as He has called you to do it.

It is impossible to be a Christian and not be Charismatic. The moment you extend God's grace to another person, by biblical definition you are Charismatic. To be Charismatic means to receive grace from God and let it pass through you to meet the needs of another.

What about speaking in tongues? The simple answer is some will and some won't.

The manner in which God's grace passes through each believer is up to God and that believer. God gives His gifts as He wills not as a church or a denomination wills.

Men should not try to improve on divine selection nor should we compare results. Some people think if you do not do it their way the gift is not real. Corinthians tells us that not only are there different gifts but that different gifts can be manifested in different ways. Not only can a gift be manifested different ways, it can also be received different ways. To insist that the gifts only work in a very narrow "your experience," is to miss the point of the grace of God. What God is working in each person, is enough to make that person Christ like.

Every Church has its do's and don'ts but it's not up to us to get a person to conform to our particular style. Allowing God's grace to pass through all believers has been God's plan since the beginning. God's interest in allowing men the use of His gifts is not to interfere with man but to co-operate. His giftings are for assisting to smooth the path.

The ministry of the Holy Spirit did not start with the outpouring in Acts 2; it has been around since the beginning. The real ministry of the Holy Spirit is to bring order to chaotic situations.

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are intended to work through you to help bring order into someone's life and their situation.

The result of the ministry of the Holy Spirit should be, what did God do, not what was happening. The question should be to what end, what was the result of what happened? As an example the Ministry of healing should result in a persons being healed.

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

Illustrations of his work

Clothing – You are given God's clothing to go do God's work, to set captives free. It is still you inside of God's clothing it is not you that witnesses but the Holy Spirit through you. This is such a releasing fact, we don't have to come up with fancy words or remember steps to witness, the Holy Spirit is with us and will speak through us by bringing things to remembrance as needed.

Dove – For peace is fleeting, so when God tells us in the book of Chronicles if you draw close to me I will draw close to you but if you withdraw from me I will

withdraw from you. How powerful a thought that the more time we spend drawing near to our Lord that he in turn will draw nearer to us, yet how sobering the thought is that if we don't give our attention to him and seek him daily that he may withdraw from us, not because he wants to, but because of our unwillingness to draw nearer to him.

Fire – For Purity – The Consuming Fire – Matt 3:11

Presence of God – Exodus 3:2

Approval of God – Leviticus 9:24

Protection of God – Exodus 13:21

Cleansing of God – Isaiah 6:1-8

Oil – Luke 4:18 – For anointing (healing)

Oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit, using it means, I am not healing you, God is healing you.

Water – John 4 – For cleansing. When the Holy Spirit is present in your life, there is usually a cleansing going on. We need this continual cleansing, I think of how water can become murky with just a small amount of waste. Without this continual cleansing we would become murky.

Wind – John 3:8, Acts 2:12 – For obedience. Not to cause fear, but that you might heed what the Holy Spirit is saying. We all need to open our ears a little more and our mouths a little less.

The Holy Spirits Work in the Believer

Birth – Without the Holy Spirit there is no birth. The Holy Spirit is present when you accept Christ. Without Him spiritual birth is not possible, He is the one that draws you to Christ.

Baptism – It is not past tense; the correct term is I am being baptized in the Holy Spirit. We need to dress in the Holy Spirit daily. Sadly many Christians lack in this area they routinely go into their day without being clothed or wearing the Armor.

Sealing – The guarantee of salvation until the day of promise. We are a sealed people. We have Christ in us no more to wander lost in a lost world.

Indwelling – He that has been with you, and will continue to be with you. We are not alone in this world, left to the ravages of its ungodly inhabitation. We are to minister boldly, knowing that God is with us, and it is he that gives us the strength through His Spirit to minister His Love to others.