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CFO+

A Global Outreach of Creative Christian Living

The Holy Spirit

by Glenn Clark



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My Prayer

THE HOLY SPIRIT
God's Greatest Gift to Man
Glenn Clark, 1954

For thirty years I have lived with the Holy Spirit. Everything worth while that I have done has been done through the Holy Spirit. The time has come when I should tell to others some of the truths that I have learned through this greatest gift God has given to me.

When I was in college I told my pals that I had an inordinate thirst for four forms of immortality. When they asked me what they were, I replied that the first kind was literary immortality through writing a book that would live as long as Brother Lawrence's *Practicing the Presence of God* or Henry Drummond's *The Greatest Thing in the World*. The second form of immortality I longed for was like the longing of Abraham and the other patriarchs that I should have children and grandchildren whose descendants would give me physical immortality through all time. The third longing was for what might be called impersonal immortality, living through the unconscious and souls of the students I should teach. And, finally, the fourth kind I longed for was personal immortality, to live through all eternity in bliss with Christ. But every one of these wishes failed to materialize until the Holy Spirit put His touch upon me.

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My Thoughts

Even my children could not come till I turned to the Holy Spirit. I had been married seven years when one evening at supper the whole room was bathed with a vast, celestial light and I said to my wife, "Now I know the children will come." So the first lesson I learned was that, if anyone is seeking that which is immortal or eternal or has any element of permanence in it, he must turn to the Holy Spirit.

My grandfather established a General Store, but it failed. My father was president of an insurance company that doesn't exist any more. They were both men of exceptional business ability and devoted their entire lives to business. I, on the other hand, with no interest in business but filled with the Holy Spirit, started a publishing company that may go on forever. I started Camps Farthest Out which are spreading over the world. I wrote books which will live long after I am gone. They were all born of the Holy Spirit and seem to verify the truth that whenever the Holy Spirit starts anything, it has the touch of eternity upon it. Five hundred years from now all these things may still be going on.

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with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it. Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the Prophets." Matthew 22:37-39



for man. Jesus said, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it. Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the Prophets." Matthew 22:37-39



Spirit could be given was through death, and the only way it can be received is also through death. This sounds like a rather rugged paradox, and it is the most amazing of all Jesus' paradoxes. His most repeated statement, phrased and rephrased in many different ways, from precept to parable, was, "He that loseth his life shall save it."

For centuries the world has been awaiting the fulfillment of the promise of the prophet Joel: "and it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions."

But no one could meet the conditions necessary to bring the prophecy into fulfillment till Jesus came, and not in its fullness, strange to say, till Jesus died. "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; it is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you, but if I depart, I will send him unto you." John 16:7. Little did the disciples realize that the hidden power wrapped up in the gift of the Holy Spirit, far greater than atomic or hydrogen power, was to find its most remarkable manifestation when Jesus left the earth. Only through Jesus' passing was the gift of the Holy Spirit made possible to man.

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How are we to receive the Holy Spirit? The answer is in Luke 11:13: "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" If you ask with the absolute faith that He is as kind as your earthly father, all you need do is to give thanks and have faith that He will give it, and He will bestow the great gift upon you. Provided, of course, you are prepared to receive it.

How can you tell when you are prepared to receive it? Acts 2:38 answers that question, "then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." If you repent and ask to have your sins washed away the preparation is complete.

Let's go a little further. "And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us."

When repentance and obedience meet, something is born. You take repentance for the past sins and obedience in the present and you really have there a different way of saying "surrender." When one surrenders one's self utterly and completely to God he erases his little self out

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4. PATIENCE. "Love is patient, . . . bears all things, . . . endures all things."
5. GOODNESS. "Love is kind. Love is not rude."
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9. FAITH. "Love believes all things."

In John thirteen Jesus gave his disciples bread and wine and when we partake of them we are assimilating Jesus into ourselves. In 1st Corinthians thirteen, Paul gave us the fruits of the Spirit beautifully stirred together which, when we partake of them, we are assimilating the Holy Spirit unto ourselves.

Jesus never said, "By their gifts you shall know them," but many times He said, "By their fruits ye shall know them."

The Art of Living, then, consists of keeping close to the center and not spending too much time on the periphery. There will be no danger of flying off on tangents when one obeys Christ's two great commandments that center on Love for God and Love for man. Jesus said, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God

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Love never ends; as for prophecy, it will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophecy is imperfect; but when the perfect comes, the imperfect will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. now I know in part; then I shall understand fully, even as I have been fully understood. So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love."

If there ever was a "Fruit Cake of the Spirit" that will endure forever and never spoil, it is Love as described in this chapter.

As I quote the nine fruits in the order that Paul listed them in Galatians, note how perfectly they are interwoven in this great symphony of Heavenly Love in 1 Corinthians, 13.

1. LOVE. "But the fruit of the Spirit is Love. If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong, or a clanging cymbal."

2. JOY. "Love does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right."
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Thus we see first that only after Jesus stepped out of His mortal body was the Holy Spirit *released* for us, and as a corollary that follows this, only as we step out of our little self-centered selves through repentance and obedience in utter surrender to Jesus are we ready *to receive* the Holy Spirit.

How do we know when the Holy Spirit comes? What kind of shivers do we have down our spines? How many lights do we see? What voices do we hear? You do not need to hear voices, nor get any shivers, nor see any lights. In answer to this questions, "How will we know when we receive the Holy Spirit?" Jesus has only one answer: "by their fruits ye shall know them."

And what are the *fruits* of the Holy Spirit? The fruits of the Spirit are Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Goodness,

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Gentleness, Temperance, Humility, and Faith. If you find that you have no faith and no gentleness, no humility, no love, no joy, no peace, that is pretty good evidence that you have not really got the Holy Spirit, but if you have those qualities, all nine of them, you have met the best test of having the Holy Spirit.

And what are the *gifts* of the Spirit? Are they different from the fruits of the Spirit? Yes, says Paul. The fruits of the Spirit are those precious qualities of the soul that lift us up into the very heart of God. By their presence we know that we abide in Him and He abides in us. The gifts of the Spirit, on the other hand, according to Paul, are the means, the tools by which we can bring the precious fruits down to our fellow men when we use them rightly.

These gifts he says (in Romans 12:6-8) “differ according to the grace given to us. Let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.”

If you have met the test of utter surrender to God, and have the evidence of the *fruits* of the Spirit, all of them blended together in perfect harmony, then and not till then have you the right to ask for some of the specialized

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The Limitations of the Gifts Contrasted with the Unlimited Values of the Fruits

1 Corinthians 12:31-13:3

“But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.”

THE FRUITS

1 Corinthians 13:4-13

“Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

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THE GIFTS
1 Corinthians 12:27-30

“Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, then healers, helpers, administrators, speakers in various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?”

The perfect description of the fruits of the Spirit is found in the thirteenth chapter of 1st Corinthians. The general tendency has been to consider this chapter to be *a solo on Love*. That is wrong. It is, in reality, *a symphony on the Fruits of the Spirit*. Love is the central theme, that is true, but it is not the ordinary, third dimensional, sentimental love the world is so familiar with. It is Love with all the fruits of the Spirit poured into it, Love lifted to its highest, most celestial height. Ordinary love, like ordinary cake, can grow stale or moldy or unpalatable after a few days on the shelf. In contrast, fruit cake can be kept for years, growing more palatable, rich, and delicious with the passage of time. In a similar fashion, Heavenly Love, with all the nine fruits of the Spirit

gifts of the Holy Spirit. The gifts have been very clearly classified and graded by St. Paul. The list he gave in the letter to the Romans may be called his *official* list, for the letter to the Romans is accepted by theologians as his official statement of doctrine for all time. The list he gave in the letter to the Corinthians is the only place where he grades and ranks them, evidently wishing to show what he considered the most important and which he considered the least important. In the Corinthian list, you will notice that at the head he places apostleship, at the bottom talking in tongues. In Romans – his official list – he does not mention tongues at all.

- GIFTS
Romans 12:6-8
- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1. Prophecy | 5. Stewardship |
| 2. Service | 6. Helper |
| 3. Teaching | 7. Mercy |
| 4. Exhorting | |

- POSSESSORS OF GIFTS
1 Corinthians 12: 28-30
- | | |
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| 1. Apostles | 5. Healers |
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“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ . . . If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? but as it is, God arranged the organs in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single organ, where would the body be? . . . Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.” 1 Cor. 12:12-27 And then he lists the gifts – note above – in the order of their merit.

After I had become filled with the fruits of the Spirit, God began to offer me all the gifts one after the other.

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at Jerusalem, one was in the church at Corinth. The first instance is where Peter found the church at Jerusalem was going off on a tangent in the field of administration. When he found the apostles were diverting most of the time needed for prayer and evangelizing in “serving tables,” he appointed seven businessmen under Stephen to take the problems of administration off their hands. This might be a good hint for modern ministers to follow.

The second instance is where Paul found the church at Corinth was going off on a tangent over talking in tongues. His letter to the Corinthians was prompted by his earnest desire to bring this under control. No one can read chapters twelve and fourteen thoughtfully without reading between the lines his ardent pleading to correct their excesses. It is amazingly significant that in his official list of the gifts given in Romans, he does not even include tongues at all. Like Mark Twain’s whistle, this gift of tongues was sounded at Pentecost to announce that the Holy Spirit had arrived at “station Earth.” Any boat that tooted its horn the entire length of the Mississippi River would never reach its port. Thus we see that the only time Paul wrote about talking in tongues was not to promote it, but to regulate it, and at the end he especially urged that it be set aside for something better. But lest I be accused of meddling in this matter, let Paul’s own words tell the story.

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at Jerusalem, one was in the church at Corinth. The first instance is where Peter found the church at Jerusalem was going off on a tangent in the field of administration. When he found the apostles were diverting most of the time needed for prayer and evangelizing in “serving tables,” he appointed seven businessmen under Stephen to take the problems of administration off their hands. This might be a good hint for modern ministers to follow.

The second instance is where Paul found the church at Corinth was going off on a tangent over talking in tongues. His letter to the Corinthians was prompted by his earnest desire to bring this under control. No one can read chapters twelve and fourteen thoughtfully without reading between the lines his ardent pleading to correct their excesses. It is amazingly significant that in his official list of the gifts given in Romans, he does not even include tongues at all. Like Mark Twain’s whistle, this gift of tongues was sounded at Pentecost to announce that the Holy Spirit had arrived at “station Earth.” Any boat that tooted its horn the entire length of the Mississippi River would never reach its port. Thus we see that the only time Paul wrote about talking in tongues was not to promote it, but to regulate it, and at the end he especially urged that it be set aside for something better. But lest I be accused of meddling in this matter, let Paul’s own words tell the story.

17

According to Jesus, *apostles* and *healers* should be given precedence over the other gifts, but our missionaries long ago discovered that if they gave *all* their time to evangelizing while people were starving and wallowing in ignorance, they were going off on a tangent; and ministers who turn their churches into mere cults of healing find they have made a similar mistake. *Prophets* are of value, but when churchgoers turn to Ouija boards and run after fortune tellers, they are certainly off the track. *Teachers* are about the most essential group in any church, but if a church becomes merely a teaching church, the life goes out of it, for theology talks *of* and *about* religion, while surrender to Christ lives it. *Miracles* often happen in churches, but where that becomes the only drawing power, sensationalism and emotionalism can destroy a church. On the other hand, *helpers* who prepare the church suppers and sing in the choir and do the ushering, indispensable as they are, when they, like Martha, start criticizing the apostles and healers, can become very disruptive. The modern church has become a complex organization which demands skilled *administrators*, which probably accounts for the fact that the tangent on which most churches have been carried away is the pastors becoming so engrossed in running the organization that they have too little time for prayer.

The New Testament records only two times that the early church went off on tangents; one was in the church

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But looking at Christ rather than at Paul, I used only the two recommended by him at first: apostleship and healing. But after a while, the gift of administration was offered to me in the form of the deanship of Macalester College. For two years I declined this appointment but finally accepted. I soon discovered that I had inherited some of the administrative ability of my father who had been president of an insurance company. For three years I enjoyed this gift that had been given me, until I began to discover that the more time I gave to organizing and directing the affairs of this world, the less effective I became in receiving and directing the powers of the heavenly world. I finally resigned from the deanship, and then my creative life began.

The next gift God offered me was the gift of prophecy. After the prophecy of the Japanese earthquake had come through, I became so awed and thrilled over the possession of this gift that for two years I played with this gift of prophecy as a child with a new toy. Indeed, I kept it up until I discovered that in trying to see the events of the future, I was actually slowing up the coming of events that were already on the way. Those years were the least creative of my life. Having made that discovery, I ceased *playing* with the future and started *creating* the future. For at last it dawned on me that the gift of administration and the gift of prophecy were both out on the periphery

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instead of at the center, and if I let myself become too absorbed by them, I might go off on a tangent.

It was after I subordinated these lower gifts to the higher gifts, yes, after I ceased looking at the gifts at all and gave all my attention to living with the fruits – especially the fruits of love, faith, humility, and self-control – that all the permanent things in my life began. Then it was that the Camps Farthest Out were born, *Clear Horizons Magazine* was born, The United Prayer Tower was born, and an entirely new hope for the church and America and the world began to be born.

Next, God offered me the gift of tongues. As with the gift of prophecy, it came from within, not from without. It came with a precious inner thrill that might come with the birth of a baby. When the gift of prophecy had come to me in the winter of 1923, I had felt pregnant with a great idea. I parted my lips and I heard them say, “Japan as a military power will be destroyed by an earthquake within the next six months.” It was a thrilling experience. I wanted to bask in it. I wanted to give all my time to that gift, but if I had, the Camps would never have been born.

The gift of tongues was announced in the same way the gift of prophecy had been. I felt pregnant with a vast,
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there is no law.” In other words, against these there are no restrictions, no limits – you may use these fruits to the full, exercise them to any extreme. It is impossible to have too much gentleness, too much peace, too much joy, too much humility, too much temperance, or too much love. That is because these are heavenly capacities; their dwelling place is in the heart of God. One can have too many pork chops to eat, too much money to spend, too much ambition for his own good, for all of these belong to the lower dimensions and against these there are man-made and God-made laws. One can also spend too much time playing with prophecy or with tongues or with administrative details. Against these there is also a limit. The problem before the church is how to handle the gifts on the outer circle without letting them carry us off on tangents.

Jesus commended only two of the gifts: “Go forth and preach the gospel (apostles) and heal the sick (healers),” and as this was recorded by several gospel writers we can accept it as authentic. He mentioned tongues only once, recorded by only one gospel writer (Mark) and that in the very last verses of the last chapter which many authorities claim was added later, and in this particular passage Jesus is not reported to have said *strange* tongues nor *ancient* tongues, but “*new* tongues.”

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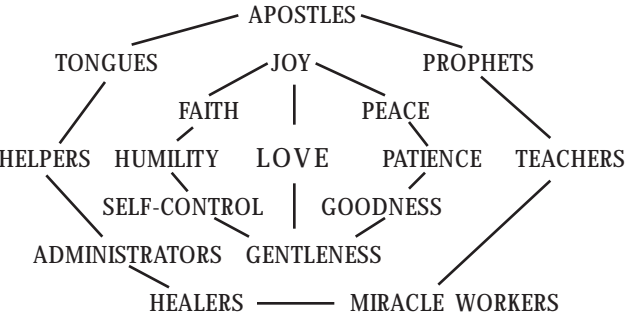
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our lives should become very creative.

The higher level is where the fruits of the Spirit are found; the lower level is where the gifts are given. If a man is filled with fruits of love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, gentleness, faith, humility, and self-control, he can know for sure that he is filled with the Holy Spirit, even though he may seem to possess no learning or knowledge and no gifts of prophecy or healing or tongues whatever.

It may help us to remember that the Fruits are at the center of a spiritual, creative life, and the Gifts are on the periphery is I illustrate it by a diagram:



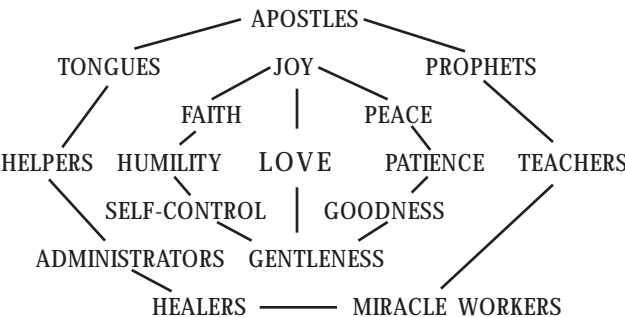
After Paul named the fruits of the Spirit, which are listed above in the inner circle, he adds: "Against these

heavenly idea too big for any language of this world to express. I even parted my lips to let the idea flow through in Greek, in Hebrew, in Sanskrit, or in any other language spoken by unknown people before history began. Then I remembered the words of Paul, "I would rather speak five words with my mind, . . . than ten thousand words in a tongue." Then I looked straight into the face of Jesus, a face that had looked with compassion upon the multitude, and I was suddenly lifted from the level of the gifts to the level of the fruits. I let Love greater than I had ever experienced before possess me. I said, "Jesus, if this idea with which I am pregnant is such a valuable idea and would bring blessing to mankind, please let it come forth in tongues that people of today can understand." For, again, I remembered the words of Paul, "He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church." I finally ended up using about the same phrase that Rufus Moseley used when he was confronted with a similar situation. I said, "Jesus, if the only way you can bring this thing forth is in ancient tongues, I am willing, but if you can send it without the tongues, I would much prefer it." and Jesus answered my plea. The great idea did come into birth, not in ancient tongues but in "new tongues" (the only phrase Jesus ever used in mention of tongues). It came in the English language but not in my language. It came in tongues as new and foreign to mine as the tongues of Brother Lawrence and St. Francis

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and Ralph Waldo Emerson. and in these “new tongues” *The Soul’s Sincere Desire* was born.

The tremendous powers that can be released when one takes his eyes from the gifts and places them upon the fruits are so great, and the slowing up of those powers can be so devastating when one reverses the pattern that I felt that everyone who has experienced the gift of the Holy Spirit should be informed of that fact. A number of projects that I have been asked to sponsor have either failed or been seriously slowed up because those promoting them have looked to the gifts rather than to the fruits, and instead of abiding in the *center* with Love, Joy, Peace, and Humility, they have played out at the *circumference* with the game of administration, the game of prophecy, or the game of tongues. This giving precedence to these outer signs and wonders over the inner powers reminds me of Mark Twain and his steam-boat. When he reached a city he would blow the whistle to let the people know he was there. But as his steam-boat was equipped with an immense whistle and very small engine, every time he blew the whistle it used up so much steam he had to wait three hours before there was power enough to go on.

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nicest, loveliest Christian people, and I can find no flaw in any of them, and many people wonder why their projects didn’t develop faster. Their only fault is that they have been doing what I found myself doing when I became unduly infatuated or involved in the game of administration and the game of prophecy; they are out on the periphery when they should be at the center. Please read the pages again where I confess my error in playing with the gifts too long and bear witness that I am not confessing anyone’s faults in this booklet but my own. If this confession of my mistakes can bring warning to others who are in danger of spending too much time on the periphery and especially to those who are in danger of flying off on tangents, I shall indeed feel that my efforts have been well repaid.

My first discovery about the Holy Spirit was that He is eternal and everything He touches becomes eternal. My second discovery was that only through death could He be given, and only through death could He be received; that is to say, death to the lower self and rebirth to the higher. And now my third great discovery which came as a natural sequence to the other two was that there are different levels upon which the Holy Spirit manifests, and those who are most creative always subordinate the lower levels to the higher levels. Fortunately for us, these levels have been very clearly marked off and defined in the Scriptures, so when we accept the Scriptures as our guide,

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