

Discipleship Discovering the New Life in Christ. The Eternal Triangle or The Tools for the Job. Part 2. Dated and shared in October 1992 with SCF \*

In our last study Part 1, we reviewed what a disciple is and the steps that lead us into discipleship - repentance, obedience and fruitfulness.

Then we began to look at the tools that we have been given to carry out the task that we are called to do; these are gifts given by God the Father, the Holy Spirit and Christ to the Church that it may be equipped to serve God. We called this The Eternal Triangle.

### **Romans 12 verse 1 -8**

*Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. 3 For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. 4 For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. 6 Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; 7 if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; 8 or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.*

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The Father has given us ten gifts that enable us to serve Him. Mercy, Grace, Faith, Church Membership, Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhorting, Giving, Leading.

Having been convicted of our sin and repented we have received **mercy** from a loving God. We can therefore show mercy to others who may not deserve it! My appreciation of His mercy to me by sending Jesus to die in my place causes me to love Him in return. I show that love by showing that same mercy that God has *given me.*

We have received the **grace** of God; that is to say that God favours me as a believer even though I do not deserve it. Jesus' death and His resurrection has released me from the power of sin and death.

### **Romans 6 verse 5-7**

*For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; 7 for he who has died is freed from sin.*

This is because I have received Him and His judgment upon my life and now I live as a child of God.

### **John 1 verse 12-13**

*Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God - 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.*

And as a son as I am led by the Spirit.

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## **Romans 8 verse 14-17**

*For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15 or you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" 16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.*

We have received **faith**, a measure sufficient to save us and as I continue to hear God, that faith grows and I am able to live a life of faith rather than anxiety because I have repented from self effort (dead works) and now have faith towards God.

## **Hebrews 6 verse 1 -3**

*Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, 2 of instruction about washings and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment. 3 And this we will do, if God permits.*

When fear knocks at the door and faith answers it, there is no-one there! Faith is pleasing to God, it is our *spiritual currency* to obtain the fruits that come as we spend our faith in the Kingdom. When we have been received as the members of the body of Christ through our faith in Christ, members one of another, no longer do we belong to ourselves but to Jesus and our brothers and sisters. **Church Membership** is free and cannot be earned by going through some formality created by man or tradition.

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## **Ephesians 2 verse 8-22**

*For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. 11 Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called "Uncircumcision" by the so-called "Circumcision," which is performed in the flesh by human hands - 12 remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, 15 by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, 16 and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity. 17 AND HE CAME AND PREACHED PEACE TO YOU WHO WERE FAR AWAY, AND PEACE TO THOSE WHO WERE NEAR; 18 for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.*

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We may **prophesy**, that is to speak of our Lord and speak on behalf of our Lord. Prophesying is a creative gift, it will change things, even create things. Paul describes it as a greater gifting in **1 Corinthians 14**, we are to prophesy according to our faith and as faith comes by hearing then we proclaim those things that He speaks. We are called to serve, serving the Lord by ministering to Him.

### **Romans 12 verse 1**

*Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.*

Jesus Himself came to **serve**, He set the perfect example.

### **Matthew 20 verse 25-28**

*But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. 26 It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, 27 and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."*

We are called to **teach** others the things that we have learned, this is disciplining others in the ways of Jesus. Paul sent Timothy (one of his disciples) a letter encouraging him.

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## **2 Timothy 2 verse 1-2**

*You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.*

The qualification here to be able to teach others, is faithfulness in the things that have been heard and practiced. The same is true for the women in the church.

## **Titus 2 verse 3-5**

*Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, 4 so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.*

We are called to **exhort** one another, this means to admonish or correct one another in love of course, as we see things that are not in keeping with the teaching and the lifestyle that Jesus taught us. This does not mean that we are to indulge in putting one another right all the time but genuinely praying and caring for each other.

We are called to **give**.

## **Matthew 10 verse 8**

*Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give.*

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What are we to give? The answer is that we are to give everything to Jesus, our whole lives, love, time, money, mercy and forgiveness. We are to be a forgiving people.

## **2 Corinthians 8 verse 1-7**

*Now, brethren, we wish to make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia, 2 that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality. 3 For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, they gave of their own accord, 4 begging us with much urging for the favor of participation in the support of the saints, 5 and this, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God. 6 So we urged Titus that as he had previously made a beginning, so he would also complete in you this gracious work as well. 7 But just as you abound in everything, in faith and utterance and knowledge and in all earnestness and in the love we inspired in you, see that you abound in this gracious work also.*

## **2 Corinthians 9 verse 1 - 5**

*For it is superfluous for me to write to you about this ministry to the saints; 2 for I know your readiness, of which I boast about you to the Macedonians, namely, that Achaia has been prepared since last year, and your zeal has stirred up most of them. 3 But I have sent the brethren, in order that our boasting about you may not be made empty in this case, so that, as I was saying, you may be prepared; 4 otherwise if any Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we - not to speak of you - will be put to shame by this confidence.*

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*5 So I thought it necessary to urge the brethren that they would go on ahead to you and arrange beforehand your previously promised bountiful gift, so that the same would be ready as a bountiful gift and not affected by covetousness.*

**Leading** is a gift from God, not a place or position of status but a serving heart attitude to lead others in the ways of God by example. Our very lifestyle displaying the life of Christ and the Holy Spirit. Leaders are the servants of God taking His word to heart. Each one of these gifts are to be recognised and received by each member of His Church, they are manifested in diverse forms and in different persons, sometimes one person may have a number of these gifts and we may all ask for and seek after them.

### **Acts 19 verse 1-6**

*It happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus, and found some disciples. 2 He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said to him, "No, we have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." 3 And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" And they said, "Into John's baptism." 4 Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus." 5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying.*

We need to be baptised by Jesus in the Holy Spirit that we may live and walk in the Holy Spirit. To be baptised in the Spirit is to receive the refining fire to change our character and the power to overcome the devils' works.

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## **1 Corinthians 12 verse 1**

*Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware.*

## **1 Corinthians 14 verse 1**

*Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.*

We are encouraged to be aware of the Spiritual gifts and to desire them. It is only by the Holy Spirit that we are able to say *Jesus is Lord* because it is the Spirit of God who first gave us that revelation.

## **1 Corinthians 12 verse 4**

*There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them.*

We call these the gifts of the Holy Spirit, there is one Spirit from whom nine or more gifts come.

## **1 Corinthians 12 verse 5**

*And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord.*

We shall see these in **Ephesians 4**. We call these the gifts of men and women who Jesus appoints.

## **Ephesians 4 verse 11-13**

*And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.*

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## **1 Corinthians 12 verse 6**

*There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons.*

We have been given gifts that will enable us to walk as true disciples and live lives that are supernatural and have a tremendous effect on the world that we live in and the people that we meet every day.

## **1 Corinthians 12 verse 7**

*But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.*

It is like the human body, we are given breath to enable the rest of our members (arms, legs, internal organs, eyes and ears) to function. The breath is not given just for the breath, but for every other part of the body, even though the breath is important.

Next we shall look at the gifts given by the Holy Spirit. There are nine of them and they fall into three main categories.

### **1. Dynamic Gifts**

### **2. Declarative Gifts**

### **3. Discerning Gifts**

#### **Dynamic Gifts**

These are **miracles, gifts of healings and faith.**

#### **Declarative Gifts**

These are **tongues, interpretation of tongues and prophesying.**

#### **Discerning Gifts**

These are **wisdom, knowledge and discernment.**

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## Dynamic Gifts

A **miracle** is that which takes place and cannot be explained by natural means. The wedding at Cana was the venue of a supernatural miracle, Jesus turning the water into wine. The feeding of the four and five thousand are other examples.

Gifts of **healings** (note the plurality of this gift) are given to some who have faith and a testimony of healing the lame and the sick.

### **1 Corinthians 12 verse 30**

*All do not have gifts of healings, do they?*

A gift of **faith** (not saving faith that all Christians have) is the ability to impart faith to others and to demonstrate that faith in particular situations. Faith that comes by hearing and when it is put into action causes peoples' faith to rise.

### **2 Corinthians 5 verse 6-8**

*Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord - 7 for we walk by faith, not by sight - we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.*

## Declarative Gifts

**Tongues** are given to all believers in the same way that all are given saving faith; there is however the gift of tongues that is used in the public place, in the meeting. The personal gift of tongues that we all may receive enables me to to speak to God through the Holy Spirit who intercedes on my behalf.

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## **Romans 8 verse 26-28**

*In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; 27 and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. 28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*

The gift of tongues that is used in the public meeting, unlike my personal tongue, requires an **interpretation**. Paul says that the public use of tongues is a sign for the unbeliever.

## **1 Corinthians 14 verse 22**

*So then tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers...*

To **prophecy** is to proclaim God's word verbally; as all of God's Word is prophetic and unchanging we read the scriptures and bring the *Logos* or the settled word as well as the *Rema* word or the now word, that is one which signifies action.

## **Psalms 119 verse 89**

*Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven.*

*Or it stands firm, a logos word.*

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The gift of prophecy comes from a relationship with God, we see this clearly in the Old Testament prophets; Elijah, Elisha, Ezekiel and Daniel. They heard God clearly and prophesied into various situations and saw situations and people changed in the way that they had spoken.

### **1 Corinthians 14 verse 5**

*Now I wish that you all spoke in tongues, but even more that you would prophesy; and greater is one who prophesies than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may receive edifying.*

Paul says that we all speak in tongues but even better the person who prophesies is greater than he who speaks in tongues.

### **1 Corinthians 14 verse 39**

*Therefore, my brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak in tongues.*

Paul is not saying that we should not speak in tongues instead of prophesying, he is encouraging both because both have a different purpose.

### **Discerning Gifts**

### **1 Kings 3 verse 5-10**

*In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream at night; and God said, "Ask what you wish Me to give you." 6 Then Solomon said, "You have shown great lovingkindness to Your servant David my father, according as he walked before You in truth and righteousness and uprightness of heart toward You; and You have reserved for him this great lovingkindness, that You have given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day.*

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*7 Now, O LORD my God, You have made Your servant king in place of my father David, yet I am but a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. 8 Your servant is in the midst of Your people which You have chosen, a great people who are too many to be numbered or counted. 9 So give Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people to discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?"*

When King Solomon was asked by God to name the blessing that he would like God to give him he asked for **wisdom**. The result of Solomon's unselfish attitude was that God blessed him with great wealth. The story tells of two harlots arguing about who a certain baby belongs to. Solomon's wisdom, a gift from God, brought about justice in a difficult situation.

### **1 Kings 3 verse 16-28**

*Then two women who were harlots came to the king and stood before him. 16 The one woman said, "Oh, my lord, this woman and I live in the same house; and I gave birth to a child while she was in the house. 17 It happened on the third day after I gave birth, that this woman also gave birth to a child, and we were together. There was no stranger with us in the house, only the two of us in the house. 18 This woman's son died in the night, because she lay on it. 19 So she arose in the middle of the night and took my son from beside me while your maidservant slept, and laid him in her bosom, and laid her dead son in my bosom. 20 When I rose in the morning to nurse my son, behold, he was dead; but when I looked at him carefully in the morning, behold, he was not my son, whom I had borne." 21 Then the other woman said, "No! For the living one is my son, and the dead one is your son." But the first woman said, "No! For the dead one is your son, and the living one is my son." Thus they spoke before the king.*

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*23 Then the king said, "The one says, 'This is my son who is living, and your son is the dead one'; and the other says, 'No! For your son is the dead one, and my son is the living one.'" 24 The king said, "Get me a sword." So they brought a sword before the king. 25 The king said, "Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one and half to the other." 26 Then the woman whose child was the living one spoke to the king, for she was deeply stirred over her son and said, "Oh, my lord, give her the living child, and by no means kill him." But the other said, "He shall be neither mine nor yours; divide him!" 27 Then the king said, "Give the first woman the living child, and by no means kill him. She is his mother." 28 Then all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had handed down, they feared the king, for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him to administer justice.*

We need wisdom, God's wisdom to live by.

Jesus exercised the gift of **knowledge** when He met with the Samaritan woman at the well.

### **John 4 verse 9-19**

*Therefore the Samaritan woman said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) 10 Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." 11 She said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with and the well is deep; where then do You get that living water? 12 You are not greater than our father Jacob, are You, who gave us the well, and drank of it himself and his sons and his cattle?" 13 Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will*

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*become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life." 15 The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, so I will not be thirsty nor come all the way here to draw." 16 He said to her, "Go, call your husband and come here." 17 The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have correctly said, 'I have no husband'; 18 For you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this you have said truly." 19 The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.*

We are able with this gift of supernatural knowledge, to know about things that we have not known about in any normal or natural way. The Holy Spirit is able to give to us this gift for the benefit of the Kingdom of heaven.

**Discernment** is the ability to distinguish between the true and the false, the good and the bad. We need this if we are to avoid being confused by what people say and do, there are many false prophets and teachers about and we need to be aware of them. How can we obtain these gifts? We must desire them for the furtherance of the Kingdom of God not for a better ministry, each of the gifts is given for the common good and it is the Holy Spirit that decides on who may receive what gift.

### **1 Corinthians 12 verse 11**

*But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.*

There are two other gifts mentioned, **helps** and **administrations**. These are given to assist the Leaders of the Church to function efficiently. Everyone should seek earnestly the gifts of the Holy Spirit so that they are able to be a functioning member of the body of Christ.

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## **1 Corinthians 12 verse 28**

*And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues.*

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