

Unit 10 Assignment

The Holy Spirit



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Assignment Unit 10 The Holy Spirit

1 a. A prayer of Adoration suitable for a Pentecost Sunday Service.



The waiting is over; for the Spirit we cry,
and we shall be clothed with power from on high.

Stay in the city, wait there my friend,
My Father has promised His Spirit to send.
Receive, all believers, true power of worth,
And you shall then witness to all the earth.

Through praises and worship a tremendous sound,
A violent windstorm is heard all around.
While constant in prayer and all in one place,
They see tongues of fire rest on each face.

Blessed with the power, in word and in song,
To spread my gospel in every tongue,
Tell of the Glory and wondrous sign,
Tell all of Jesus, of God's love divine.

Pour out your Spirit all over,
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
Your young men will see visions,
Your old men will dream dreams,
There'll be blood and there'll be fire,
There will be billows of smoke,
And those who call on the name of the Lord
They will be saved. Amen.

From an original song by Rob Newton

b. A prayer of Thanksgiving suitable for use in a Pentecost Service.



Almighty God.

For Your unending gifts of love; we thank You.

For the revelation of Your presence in forms we can understand; we give You praise.

Glorious God, You come in power,

In the mighty rushing wind,

In the spectacle of tongues of fire,

In the language of our families,

In a loud shout or a gentle whisper.

We recognise Your voice.

Loving Lord.

For starting Your church at Pentecost; we thank You.

For the opportunity of a new beginning for a life with You, we give You praise.

Gentle Father, guide our hearts,

To recognise Your Spirit,

To listen for His word,

To trust in His power,

To go out with joy and thanksgiving,

Proclaiming the gospel of Your Son.

Amen.

c. Using study notes for a potential sermon:

i. Indicate the passage chosen and aim of the sermon

Scripture

1 Corinthians 12:4-5

⁴ There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵ There are different kinds of service but the same Lord. ⁶ There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.

The aim of the sermon is to encourage everyone that whatever they do, they should do it for God because that is their anointing.

ii. Outline the main points of the sermon.

Exegesis

Instead of building up and unifying the Corinthian church, the issue of spiritual gifts was splitting it. Spiritual gifts had become symbols of spiritual power, causing rivalries because some people thought they were more 'spiritual' than others because of their gifts. This was a terrible misuse of spiritual gifts because their purpose is always to help the church function more effectively, to compliment each other and strengthen and not to divide it.

People

The spiritual gifts given to each person by the Holy Spirit are special abilities that are to be used, although not confined to, the ministry of the needs of the body of believers. *Wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miraculous powers, prophesy, distinguishing Spirits, speaking in tongues, interpretation of tongues, to name but a few..* There are many gifts, people have different gifts, some people have more than one gift, and one gift is not superior to another. All spiritual gifts come from the Holy Spirit, and their purpose is to build up Christ's body, the church.

We can be divisive if we insist on using our gift our own way without being sensitive to others. We must never use gifts as a means of manipulating others or serving our self interest.

Worship

The first critical step in life is worship, and everything we do involves the right attitude. Our part is to lean on Jesus; pray, read His word, look outwardly and be as concerned with the needs of others as we are your own. Mark 12:31, *"You shall love your neighbour as yourself."* Matthew 24:40, *"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for the least of these brothers of mine you did for Me."* God's part is this is the abundant blessing of His grace. Matthew 25:34, *"Come you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the Kingdom prepared for you since the creation of time."*

The second step is to work for the Lord with the gifts He's provided. Our part then is to prepare, study, look ahead, not backward. God's part is that He has given each of us gifts, talents and the ability to develop into what He has ordained for our lives.

Preacher

The only thing I like less than underachievement is using God as an excuse.

Music out of tune? Our response: "Oh, God still loves it."

Late for rehearsal? "I got carried away in my quiet time with Him."

Didn't learn your part? "Don't worry, God will use this musical selection anyway."

I admit to personal moments of mediocrity, following the way of the flesh, but I hate it! We are called to so much more in the Spirit.

In the depths of our being we long for perfection. We want to be the very best and do the very best with every assigned task from God, all for the sake of the cross. It's not about being perfect; it's about loving God, the only perfect one. Mark 12:30, *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."* Doing your best for the Lord is a natural way of loving Him.

Aim Summary

When we love God we want to reach out to the best and utmost of our abilities, to draw on the Spirit's power to go beyond what we are capable of.

Fill in this blank: "I feel God's pleasure when I _____." Maybe your answers will be something like "when I run hard;" "when I listen to others" "when I worship until I feel God all over me;" "when the band is so together that we play like one seamless unit."

Your outward expression comes from the innermost parts of your being. It's the special place where the Spirit combines with your natural gifts. Mix in preparation time and move forward to worship in a glorifying way of loving God and obeying His commands in all aspects of your life.

We feel God's pleasure when we marry our faith with God given abilities and hard work. It's only then that we realize our full potential to fulfil our anointing.

2 Write up of further thought and study, section E5

iv Has Paul solved the problem of false prophesy? Do the tests he suggests apply to all claims to Spiritual gifts?

The problem

False prophesy has been a problem from early Old Testament times. For those in religious authority there was always the problem of recognising a true prophet as opposed to a false prophet by distinguishing the evidence of divine inspiration. The story of Saul attempts to separate 'the Spirit of the Lord' from 'an evil spirit' by the obvious manifestations though fails somewhat because the same moods or violent acts could be attributed to either on different occasions. It was considered in these days that the supernatural force of God could be directed in either a good or evil way. Therefore the use of human reason would not discern a false prophet.

An even larger dilemma was faced when Micaiah stood alone against 400 other prophets and was the only one giving a message the kings didn't want to hear. Yet despite being overwhelmingly outvoted and standing for an unpopular message Micaiah was the true prophet. But who would have accepted his prophesy? Only the test of time showed him to have been right. So corroboration between prophets is also not a method to detect a false prophet.

The tests

A prophet's message had to be tested as the fate of a person, an army or even a nation could depend on accepting it or not. Several tests were devised to challenge a prophet's words in an attempt to discern the false from the true.

The test of Prediction

This relied greatly on hindsight. If a prophesy came about then it could be considered true. In Deuteronomy it clearly states "*If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the Lord does not take place or come true, that is a message the Lord has not spoken*". Though on it's own this is not a sufficient test as scripture demonstrates that signs and wonders may be correctly foreseen and followed by teaching contrary to God's will as in Deut 13:1-5.

The test of Revelation

A prophet's message could be set against the fundamental revelation of the God of Israel by it's forefathers; Abraham, Joseph, Isaac, Jacob and Moses. Anything that was at odds with or contradicted their most basic teachings could be discarded.

The test of Character

The standards that a prophet lived by could be used to test his words. A '*do as I say not as I do*' attitude could cause people to reject his words. Scripture has many instances of prophets being condemned due to their behaviour. A message should also be discarded if the prophet could benefit from the outcome or if it would bolster the prophet's own position or standing or bring down those who speak against him.

The Presence of God

Does a prophesy have the mark of the Holy Spirit? Our natural instinct, our spirit, is to put ourselves first rather than God and His way. False prophesy will show the signs of human spirit rather than God's Holy Spirit.

Jesus' Teaching

The entire ministry of Jesus was done 'in the Spirit' as prophesied by Isaiah 42:1-4. His power to bless and to heal and to exorcise is attributed as Jesus working with the Spirit's power. Though this work of the spirit was misunderstood even by the religious leaders and Jesus was accused of using the power of evil. The importance of recognising the work of Holy Spirit is stressed in Jesus' warning that blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.

Early church experience

As the community of God was being built up it was the Spirit that produced the fellowship of believers. From the Greek word for 'grace' 'charism' is the manifestation or empowerment of God's grace to a person. The modern use of the term 'charismatic' no longer encompasses the scope of its original meaning. The blessing of God's grace in any form or special spiritual gift is their charism and needs to be recognised as such. The term 'koinonia' means 'participation' or 'sharing' in the spirit and each fellowship member's 'charism' brought to the whole a special gift.

In the early church, as now, these gifts are to be tested and Paul gives us guidelines to guard against misinterpretation and false prophesy.

The test of past revelation

This is the same truth as in the Old Testament tests and still holds that prophesy should uphold fundamental revelation of the God. This is updated by Paul to include the core message of the New Testament; that Jesus is Lord and the Son of God.

Love

The test is that whatever is done in the name of the Spirit is filled with love. In 1 Corinthians 13 Paul details the part that love should play in all our use of spiritual gifts. Anything done without love is without the Spirit of a God who is love.

Up building

Paul puts great emphasis on the building of people, the church, that all spiritual gifts can be tested by what they do for the community that is the church as well as the people of which it consists. He especially mentions edifying or enlightening people and the strengthening of the church community.

Discernment today

Promotion of mission

From the day of Pentecost onwards the Spirit has been forward most in the work of mission, then spreading of the gospel message. Prophesy and all Spiritual gifts have a major role to play in that mission today. It was John Wesley who stressed that the Spirit "goes before us in every situation" and the gifts of grace bestowed to believers are for the witness of the gospel in the world.

Today God still anoints people as apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers and gives wisdom, knowledge, ability to heal, to speak in tongues, to interpret tongues, to do miracles, to discern spirits, the ability to help others, to have administrative skills, to serve, to encourage, to contribute wealth, to lead, to govern and to show mercy.

Still the gifts of the grace of God will be tested and those that honour His name will be to glorify God and build up His church.

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