

# The Ministry of Jesus

## *You Shall Receive Power Acts 1:8*

The Ministry of Jesus – Jesus demonstrated power:

- Over sickness and disease.....Healing
- Over evil spirits.....Deliverance
- Over sin.....Forgiveness of Sins
- Over the Natural Order..... Calming Storm
- Over lack..... Multiplication of food
- Over Death..... Lazarus

### Key points

- Kingdom of God manifest through power
- Authenticated His claims
- Reversed the consequences of the fall
- Exposed the work of Satan in the earth
- Touched broken humanity at every level (body, soul, spirit)

### The Ministry of the Apostles

- **Luke 9** – the 12 sent out to preach, heal, cast out demons, and proclaim the kingdom of God
- **Luke 10** – the 70 are sent out
- **Acts** – Signs and Wonders
- Peter – overview – preaching, healing, evangelizing, raising the dead, etc
- Phillip – in Samaria – preaching, healing and evangelizing
- Paul – preaching, teaching, missionary, church planter, healing, deliverance, raise the dead, etc.
- Barnabas – with Paul 1<sup>st</sup> missionary journey
- Silas – 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> missionary journey

### Early Church – power ministry – Book of Acts overview

- **Acts 2:43** – Signs and wonders taking place at the hands of the apostles
- **Acts 3:1-10** – Lame beggar healed by Peter and John
- **Acts 4:30** – Intercession for healing, signs and wonders and boldness
- **Acts 5:12–16** Signs and wonders, Peter’s shadow, healing and deliverance
- **Acts 6: 8** – Stephen full of grace and power performing signs and wonders

### Key Points:

- Church is to continue the ministry of Jesus
- Church is to be empowered by the Holy Spirit
- Signs and wonders authenticate claims of the church
- All ministry of this type brings glory to God and blesses suffering and broken humanity

## **The Church and Ministries of Power**

The infilling of the Holy Spirit – in all four gospels.

***“He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.” Matthew 3:11***

- Praying for the infilling
- Signs of the infilling – changed and transformed lives
- The healing of the sick – body, soul and spirit
- Laying on of Hands – Mark 16:15
- Anointing with oil – James 5:11-16
- The prayer of faith – James 5:11-16, Mark 11:23
- Agreement with 2 or 3 – Matthew 18:19-20
- Types of healing – inner, physical, spiritual
- The role of confession and renunciation
- Breaking the curse of the law

## **Empowerment and Spiritual Gifts**

- Charismatic Gifts
- Leadership Gifts
- General Ministry Gifts
- Discovering your Gifts

## **Discovering your God Given Gifts**

In the catechism, from the Book of Common Prayer we are asked:

- Q. Who are the ministers of the church?  
R. The ministers of the church are lay persons, bishops, priests, and deacons.
- Q. What is the Ministry of the laity?  
R. The ministry of lay persons is to represent Christ and His church; to Bear witness to him wherever they may be; and, according to the gifts given them, to carry on Christ’s work of reconciliation in the world; and to take their place in the life, worship and governance of the Church.
- Q. What is the duty of all Christians?  
R. The duty of all Christians is to follow Christ; to come together week by week for corporate worship; and to work, pray and give for the spread of the kingdom of God.

## **Baptismal Covenant**

In our Baptismal Covenant we promise:

- Celebrant*** Will you continue in the Apostle’s Teaching and Fellowship, in Breaking of Bread, and in the prayers?  
***People*** I will, with God’s help.

- Celebrant** Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?
- People** I will, with God's help.
- Celebrant** Will you proclaim by word and deed the Good News of God in Christ?
- People** I will, with God's help.
- Celebrant** Will you seek and Serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as your self?
- People** I will, with God's help.
- Celebrant** Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?
- People** I will, with God's help.

### Confirmation

**Bishop:** Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in these your *servants* the covenant you made with *them* at their Baptism. Send *them* forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service you set before *them*; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives, and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *AMEN*

## Key Points About the Body of Christ and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12 (Entire Chapter Summary)

1. We are not to be **IGNORANT** of Spiritual gifts.
2. Everybody is gifted by God the Holy Spirit – we are not talking about simple human abilities – we all have a gift given to us by the Holy Spirit.
3. Not everybody has the **SAME** gift but they all come from the same Spirit.
4. The gifts are given for the common good, not individual glory
5. Some gifts are more visible than others and seemingly more powerful.
6. All gifts are of **EQUAL** value to the body of Christ and in the Lord's sight.
7. Nobody has **ALL** the gifts – we need each other.
8. The gifts are given by God for **HIS PURPOSES**.
9. We will be held **ACCOUNTABLE** for using our gifts.
10. We do not get to pick and choose our gifts – God does **POTTER VS. CLAY**.
11. The health of the ministry and health of the body is dependent on all offering their gifts to God.
12. Clergy did not get all the gifts nor are they capable of doing all of the ministry.

### Four Criteria for Discerning Your Spiritual Gifts

1. You will like it. (enjoyment and energy will be present)
2. Your gifting will compliment who you already are.
3. You will bear fruit.
4. Your gifts will be affirmed by others.

## What are the Spiritual Gifts?

### Leadership Gifts (5) – *Ephesians 4:11-13*

- Apostles
- Prophets
- Pastors
- Evangelist
- Teachers

### Charismatic Gifts (9) – *1 Corinthians 12: 7-11*

- Power: Faith, Miracles, Healing
- Verbal: Tongues, Interpretation of Tongues, Prophecy
- Discernment: Word of Knowledge, Word of Wisdom, Discerning of Spirits

### General Ministry Gifts (14)

- |                          |                            |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Mercy                  | <i>Romans 12:6-8</i>       |
| • Serving                | <i>Romans 12:6-8</i>       |
| • Encouraging            | <i>Romans 12:6-8</i>       |
| • Leadership             | <i>Romans 12:6-8</i>       |
| • Hospitality            | <i>1 Peter 4:9-10</i>      |
| • Administration         | <i>1 Corinthians 12:28</i> |
| • Helps                  | <i>1 Corinthians 12:28</i> |
| • Giving                 | <i>Romans 12:6-8</i>       |
| • Craftsmanship          | <i>Exodus 31:3</i>         |
| • Intercession           | <i>1 Timothy 2:1-2</i>     |
| • Creative Communication | <i>Psalms 150:3-5</i>      |
| • Voluntary Poverty      | <i>2 Corinthians 6:10</i>  |
| • Celibacy               | <i>Matthew 19:12</i>       |
| • Martyrdom              | <i>Revelation 7:14</i>     |

## The model from the Early Church: Acts 2:37-47

- Peter preached the **WORD** of God – call to repentance.
- People **ACKNOWLEDGED** their need – what must we do?
- Repent, Believe, Be Baptized, and Receive the Holy Spirit
- People joined the Church through **BAPTISM**.
- People came under the **TEACHING, FELLOWSHIP, BREAKING OF BREAD AND PRAYER**
- Many **SIGNS** and **WONDERS** were experienced.
- People gave **GENEROUSLY**.
- People were constant in **PRAYER AND WORSHIP**.
- God **ADDED** to the church.

## Seven Criteria for Church Membership

1. **WORSHIP.** According to the Canons of the church, a communicant in good standing is one who is present for worship EVERY Sunday, except for “good cause.” The worship of God was commanded in the Old Testament through “remembering the Sabbath.” In the New Testament it is the natural expression of giving thanks to Jesus for what He has done for us. Members worship.
2. **BIBLE STUDY.** In *Acts 2:42* we read that the believers continued in the Apostles’ teaching. That means they were students. They were learners. They were engaged in the study of scripture. Members will be in Bible study.
3. **PRAYER.** Central to the life of all believers is developing a vibrant and intimate prayer life. Developing a daily quiet time and joining others in corporate prayer is not optional, it is mandatory.
4. **SHARE CHRIST.** In *Acts 1:8* Jesus tells those gathered to wait in Jerusalem until they receive power from on high, then they will be His witnesses. All believers should be able to “bear witness” to their faith with conviction and intelligence.
5. **MINISTRY.** In *I Corinthians 12, Romans 12, and Ephesians 4*, we are told that all believers have been gifted by God the Holy Spirit for ministry. There are many different gifts given to each believer as the Spirit wills for the common good. All believers have a gift and a ministry.
6. **GIVING.** Throughout scripture, giving and honoring God with our wealth is central to the life of the believer. It is clear that all believers are stewards of God’s possessions and are called to a standard of giving. This is to support the working of the ministry of Jesus Christ on the earth, through the local church.
7. **FELLOWSHIP.** *Acts 2:42* we read that the believers continued in fellowship. This means small group accountability where sin is confessed and others that care deeply review one’s faith journey. Believers seek accountability in their faith journey.