

The Spiritual Life

Growing in Belief

I. Spiritual (*Gifts*), (*Service*), (*Working*), (*Manifestations*)

- A. Spiritual Gifts
- B. Fruit of the Spirit
- C. Ministry Gifts (Empowered by the Spirit for the benefit of God's people)
- D. Spiritual Armor
- E. Spiritual Weapons
- F. Spiritual Forces of Wickedness
- G. Spiritual Authority

1 Corinthians 12:1 (NIV84®)

Now about spiritual *gifts*, brothers, **I do not want you to be ignorant.**

II. The Struggle To Believe In Spiritual Things

- A. Believing & Understanding
- B. Reading & Thinking About The Word of God
- C. Gateway Experiences: Born Again, Spirit Baptism
- D. Revelation: Understanding Given/Granted

Believe

Acts 8:9–24 (NIV84®)

⁹ Now for some time a man named Simon had practiced sorcery in the city and amazed all the people of Samaria. He boasted that he was someone great, ¹⁰ and all the people, both high and low, gave him their attention and exclaimed, "This man is the divine power known as the Great Power." ¹¹ They followed him because he had amazed them for a long time with his magic. ¹² But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. ¹³ Simon himself believed and was baptized. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw. ¹⁴ When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵ When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, ¹⁶ because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷ Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸ **When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money ¹⁹ and said, "Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."** ²⁰ Peter answered: "May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money! ²¹ You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God. ²² Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord. Perhaps he will forgive you for having such a thought in your heart. ²³ For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin."

²⁴ Then Simon answered, "Pray to the Lord for me so that nothing you have said may happen to me."

Understand

Matthew 17:1–13 (NIV84®)

¹ After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. ² There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. ³ **Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.** ⁴ Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." ⁵ While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!" ⁶ **When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them. "Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid."** ⁸ When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus. ⁹ As

they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, "Don't tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."¹⁰ The disciples asked him, "Why then do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?"¹¹ Jesus replied, "To be sure, Elijah comes and will restore all things.¹² But I tell you, Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but have done to him everything they wished. In the same way the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands."¹³ Then the disciples understood that he was talking to them about John the Baptist.

Role of Scripture

Hebrews 4:12–13 (NIV84®)

¹² For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, **it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit**, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.¹³ Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Joshua 1:8–9 (NIV84®)

⁸ Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

New Birth & Spirit Baptism — Gateway Experiences

John 3:3 (NIV84®)

In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

Acts 1:4–5, 8 (NIV84®)

⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, **he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about."**⁵ **For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."** . . . ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Revelation

Revelation 1:1–2 (NIV84®)

¹ **The revelation of Jesus Christ**, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John,² who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Galatians 1:12 (NIV84®)

I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1:17 (NIV84®)

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, **may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation**, so that you may know him better.

Daniel 9:2 (NIV84®)

in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the LORD given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years.

Prayer

"You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth." "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!" Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!" (From Revelation 5:6-13)