

Acts of the Holy Spirit
“*God of the Impossible*” – Series

~ READ TEXT ~

AS YOU SETTLE IN...

- Turn to the book of (Acts 2:4-13) NLT

~ LET'S PRAY ~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled today's message: “Ability Given by God”

~ INTRO ~

WELL...

- As we continue to navigate thru the book of Acts...
 - Let's start by continuing our discussion...
 - Around the bigger issue at hand.

GOD HAS GIVEN GIFTS TO HIS PEOPLE...

- With the purpose of engaging the mission – making disciples!

(Acts 1:8) Jesus spoke about *power for service*:

- In the book of Acts the Holy Spirit shows the progression this way:

1. The Jews in (Acts 2:4) *filled with the Holy Spirit*
2. The Samaritans (Acts 8:16-17) *Holy Spirit falls upon... they receive*
3. The Gentiles (Acts 10:44-47) *the Holy Spirit fell upon / gift poured out*

WHY DOES THIS EXPLANATION MATTER?

BECAUSE IT DISMANTLES...

- The hyper-scholarly view that attempts to limit...
 - The very promise Jesus gave for power.

SOME ARGUE THAT...

- The baptism of the Spirit was a one-time event...
 - AND spiritual gifts have ceased.

TRUE...

- If the term *baptism* is being used to describe the birth of the church...

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➤ Indeed a one-time event!

FALSE...

- If the term *baptism* is being used to speak about *power* OR *gifting*.

HERE’S WHAT OUR TEXT SAYS TODAY:

- Read (Acts 2:4-13) NLT

NOW...

- We’re going to go deeper TO gain a sense of understanding...
 - Regarding Spiritual gifts & their purpose.

WHY?

- So we can see how God was working at the birth of the church...
 - With His promise of power (Acts 1:8)...
 - AND how He’s doing the same thing today.

ARE YOU WITH ME?

OK...

- God doesn’t want us to be **ignorant** in **few areas**.

FOR EXAMPLE:

- The tactics of Satan (2 Cor. 2:11) NKJV
- The future of Israel (Rom 11:25) NKJV
- The rapture of the church (1 Thess. 4:13-18) NKJV
- Spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 12:1) NKJV

IN (1 Cor. 12:1)... Ignorant = ag-no-eh’-o (Greek #50)

Is defined as...

- Not knowing because of a **lack** of information...
- Wishing to **avoid** a topic...
- **Ignoring** a difficulty or subject...
- To err or sin thru a mistake...
- To be wrong!

#1 – POWER TO THE PEOPLE:

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NOW...

- There are three major buckets of spiritual gifts:

- I. **Motivational Gifts** (Rom. 12:6-8)
 - Which are gifts to get the church moving
- II. **Manifestation or Action of the Gifts** (1 Cor. 12:4-13)
 - Ministry is the exercising of Spiritual gifts
 - (1 Cor. 12:7) NLT read from screen
- III. **Foundational or Offices of the Gifts** (Eph. 4:11-12)
 - Gifts that equip the church for ministry (Eph.4:12) NKJV

THE SIMPLE POINT FOR US TODAY...

- IS... God has given each of His people a spiritual gift (Rom. 12:6) NLT
 - AND we're to accept the GRACE (God's gifting)...
 - And “use them” = the gift(s)!

OK...

- Let's break this section into two parts...
 - Before we unpackage it.

1) Gifts that **EXPOUND** the word (Rom. 12:6-8(a):

- Prophecy = Declares the truth
- Ministry = Depicts the truth
- Teachers = Define the truth (shared systematically)
- Exhortation = Directs OR stirs you up in the truth

2) Gifts that **EXPAND** the word (Rom. 12:8(b):

- Giving = Expands the work of the church
- Leading = Organizes the work
- Mercy = Cares for the people in OR out of the work

LET'S PUT THESE IN ACTION:

1. Prophecy = Speaking forth (public proclamation of the word / God's truth).

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- In the OT *prophecy* was foretelling = (i.e. predicting the future)!
 - In the NT *prophecy* is proclaiming what is ALREADY written.
 - (Forth telling / heralding the written word).
- 2. *Ministry NKJV / Serving NLT* = From the same Greek word for deacons...
 - These folks love to help... they practice the truth.
 - They see a need and fill the need.
 - They jump in & begin working... there's a hunger *“to do!”*
- 3. *Teaches* = Interpret, clarify, systematize, & explain.
 - This gift points out principles & gives application.
 - This person loves to study, learn, read, & research.
 - They love to explain – details, details, details.
 - (Accuracy & details are associated with this gift)
- 4. *Exhorts NKJV / Encourages NLT* = Very interesting...Calls other to obey...
 - Because it calls other to obey truth...
 - Which a person drives home passionately.

Positive: They encourage, comfort, & strengthen believers to do right

Negative: They admonish & corrected... which can feel painful.

- 5. *Gives* = Sacrificial sharing of resources.
 - This person does it willingly & generously.
 - They are spiritually sensitive to giving opportunities...
 - And they get excited about giving!
- 6. *Leads* = Lit. “*Standing before*”... meaning to guide or steer a ship.
 - This person points out the way... and gives a specific direction.
 - This applies in the church & at home.
 - A valuable gift for staying on course.
- 7. *Mercy* = Sympathy and sensitivity to those suffering or sorrowful.
 - They do it with incredible cheerfulness!
 - This person has a God given ability to sense the needs...
 - Of hurting people & comes alongside with comfort.

* This person is great at visiting sick people or ones who are depressed.

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~ IN CLOSING ~

WHY DID WE COVER THIS?

SO WE CAN UNDERSTAND...

- It's ALL part of what started in (Acts 2:4).
- These are all part of the special abilities given by the Holy Spirit.
 - It is POWER from on high.

AND THE TAKEAWAY IS...

- **This week**... I want you to prayerfully ask God...
 - To show you the spiritual gifts He's given you.
 - AND then ask God how you're to use it in this fellowship.

(Eph. 4:16) NLT

Now as we know this...

- We can follow the Lord into His will for our lives...
 - To be healthy & fruitful.

~ LET'S PRAY ~