

God's Government...

God's Gifts...God's Offices

...there are four diversities of tongues and, for those who accomplish the art of enduring prayer, they will eventually come to recognize that there are also four separate distinct POWER FLOWS that can take place during prayer.

I hear people preaching and saying things like, God was really moving at the turn of the century and the big thing at that time was tongues and the out-pouring of the Holy Spirit.

Then, the big thing in the 1930's and 1940's was the great healing crusades. Then, according to some people, God decided to stop healing people so that they would pay more attention to the Word during the 1970's and the 1980's and there was WORD ... WORD ... WORD.

But, it would take something out of me ... it would kill my initiative if I could not believe in a God of now, a God who would heal me, fill me, and teach me His Word no matter what generation I lived in or the place where I lived whether that be America, Russia, or China.

The truth of the matter is that everything God has promised to the early church is available to us today. Sure, there will be a generation that will see Christ's return and it could be us. Meanwhile, until that time comes, we can draw as close to God as we want to and attain to everything He said we could have! We can attain to ministries, anointings, and power ... fulfill our lives, businesses, and ministries ... as fully and completely as any man, woman, or child has ever done anywhere at anytime under any condition.

To make sure this is possible, God has given us the Holy Spirit Who has been fully commissioned to reveal Jesus in us and has worked towards that end in every generation. I realize phrases like "reveal Christ in us" or "the commission of the Holy Spirit" are phrases that a person may hear religiously almost every Sunday.

But, the thing we must realize is that God instigated a system of government some two thousand years ago that was to govern the church body through the church age right up to the return of Jesus. At that time, many of the governing tools He has given us will cease.

Meanwhile, we are operating in the Kingdom of God and belong to a government that constitutes the operation of His Body upon this earth and we need the gifts of the Holy Spirit to help us fulfill the part He has called us to before His return. This is why I Corinthians 12:1 says: (1) "*Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.*"

He called them spiritual gifts because their origin is of the Holy Spirit. We cannot scheme, bargain, or mentally appropriate them to ourselves. They are given by the Holy Spirit to those who hunger and thirst after righteousness. They cannot be obtained through natural means. The problem we run into with men and religion is that men step in with their giant intellects and try to run their offices without the assistance of the Holy Spirit.

In I Peter 5:2-3 Jesus said to, "*feed the flock of God ... taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint (forced into it against one's will), but willingly; not for filthy lucre (money), but of a ready mind;*". What makes money "filthy lucre" is when a person will render a service for the Kingdom of God only when he is getting paid for it.

"Neither as being lords (demanding unquestionable submission), but being EXAMPLES to the flock." As elders, we are not only to be teaching the sheep the Word, but teaching them by example how to turn themselves over to the Holy Spirit so that He can turn them over to Jesus.

That is what I want to talk about - how God's government works and how the gifts of the Spirit work in our personal lives. There is a way we can turn ourselves over to the Holy Spirit so He can build into us what no man can give us, such things as love, initiative, perseverance, and peace as well as the ability to overcome and to be led by the Spirit to fulfill our calling.

Let us begin to look at this government. There are nine gifts of the Spirit listed in I Corinthians 12 which are the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, faith, gifts of healing, working of miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, divers kinds of tongues, and interpretation of tongues. These nine gifts empower the five offices or ministry gifts listed in Ephesians 4:8 and 11.

(8) "*Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave GIFTS UNTO MEN. (11) And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers.*"

These nine gifts of the Spirit empower the five-fold ministry offices much the same way that a power plant supplies the power to the different appliances of a home. Each appliance is designed to perform a different function. Yet each appliance is hooked up to the same power plant. One wire runs to the apostle, another to the prophet, and still another to the pastor. When the power is switched on, just as surely as a toaster will act one way and a blender another, the Holy Spirit will anoint certain offices with certain gifts and it is a blend of these nine gifts working in the five-fold ministry that not only qualifies but constitutes the kind of office it will be.

The government of God extends itself much farther than just the operation of the nine gifts and the five offices. There are eight complete operations of God. It does not matter what God has called you to do, your calling, your job description, your title, can be found enveloped in one of these EIGHT OPERATIONS.

I Corinthians 12:28 says: (28) "*For God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.*"

Notice that in these eight operations you not only find the five-fold ministries but the nine gifts of the Spirit are also poured out into the whole of these eight operations of God from the apostle all the way down to the eighth operation of divers tongues. So, we have nine gifts of the Spirit empowering five offices and the whole thing is enveloped in the eight operations of God that make up the entire Body of Christ.

Let's just suppose that a person was called to be a prophet, or a pastor, or helps, or governments. The last two support those who handle the Word of God by doing what they do not have time to do such as running businesses, giving, etc. How does that person turn he switch on? How do they get the power of the Holy Spirit to activate the operation they have been called to do?

Think about this very carefully. Where is the dividing line between Christians who believe in the Power of God and the gifts of the Spirit and those who do not? I can tell you exactly where it is. The dividing line between those who enjoy the Power of God and those who do not is in the eighth operation of God, DIVERS TONGUES. How many denominations do you know that DENY the virgin birth or believe in something like Jehovah's Witnesses or the Mormons AND speak with tongues? Not only is the dividing line divers tongues but the switch we are looking for that pulls our operation from a natural one to one that is empowered by the Holy Ghost lies within that eighth operation of divers tongues because this gift is designed to equip us from the inside out; the part of us that all permanent change comes from ... the human spirit.

I want you to notice where Cornelius and his household entered into the government of God when Peter preached to them the salvation through the remission of sins ... they entered in at the level of the eighth operation of God ... DIVERS TONGUES.

Acts 10:43,44,46 says: (43) *"To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins. (44) While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the Word. (46) For they heard them speak WITH TONGUES, and magnify God."*

I can guarantee you that the devil is already hating the day that this letter is scheduled to arrive in your home. I wish I could have fulfilled the office of an apostle or prophet instantly after I was born-again but I could not. If I was called to such an office, it would take years of seasoning and training by the Holy Spirit. For that matter, it is the same with all the other operations of God including helps and governments because a man must be found faithful.

There is only one operation that a man can fulfill instantaneously with his rebirth and that is the eighth operation of divers tongues. The day you and I spoke with tongues a viable, powerful working of God's government came into operation on the inside of our spirit that was designed to cause us to understand and to give us what no man is able to give us through natural means, spiritual power and authority.

This spiritual power and authority is to be the means to overcome torment, worry, and fear and to overcome the hopelessness that can take over our lives from continually losing ground to one overwhelming situation after another. This operation will supply the power to overcome the character flaws, those deep-seated character traits that keep us from ever really succeeding - the ones that keep cropping up and robbing us of our stamina and initiative to overcome in the face of the common testings and trials that precede almost every major victory and promotion by God.

So, let's you and I take this eighth operation, DIVERS TONGUES, farther than we have before. I want you to understand what God has made available to us through this lowly, humble gift of speaking

with tongues, a gift that Satan has deceived many into believing is almost insignificant.

God gave me a commission eight years ago to teach the walk of the Spirit versus the walk of the flesh. As much as possible, I have been faithful to do so in meeting after meeting until the time came when God pulled me aside and began to teach me things about prayer that I had never really understood before; things like why people get wierd over prayer and why the same things are still true today as was with the SAINTS OF OLD. There is still no substitute for ENDURING PRAYER to win out, not only over circumstances but to win out over the negatives of life.

In a world where the devil is contending for control, this message is worth its weight in gold. The word "DIVERS" means diversities" or different manifestations of the supernatural languages of tongues. The church world, as a whole, has been confused because they have tried to put the same set of rules on all the different manifestations of tongues and you cannot do that.

In fact, there are four diversities of tongues and, for those who accomplish the art of enduring prayer, they will eventually come to recognize that there are also four separate distinct POWER FLOWS that can take place during prayer.

First, let's take a look at the four different manifestations of tongues and then, in more detail, the four power flows. The number one diversity is tongues for personal edification, the revelation gift; number two, tongues for interpretation, usually designed for use in a public assembly; number three, tongues that extends itself into the deep intercessional groanings of the Spirit which empowers a believer to stand the gap between hell, destruction, and people trying to get there; and number four, tongues as a sign to the unbeliever. This last gift transcends the intellect and all language barriers to empower a believer to communicate Christ to the lost in any language which they had no previous knowledge of.

Of these four different manifestations of tongues, two are designed to be used in public assembly, tongues for interpretation and tongues as a sign to the unbeliever. Two are designed to be used in the individual prayer life of a believer ... tongues for personal edification and tongues that extends itself into the deep intercessional groanings of the Spirit.

The ones we are going to look at are the last two because contained within these last two are the four different power flows that can completely change the life of a believer.

THE FIRST POWER FLOW: This is phase one of tongues that flows through us believers for our own personal edification. This is a revelation gift and is used by God to transfer divine secrets and mysteries from His Spirit to ours.

I Corinthians 14:2 says: *For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he SPEAKETH MYSTERIES.*

This power flow is responsible for helping to build into our spirits the things that no man can give us ... things like love, wisdom, and divine insight into His Word. It is one thing for a teacher to tell us we should walk in love but he cannot give us the strength to do it. That comes from the Holy Spirit.

Praying in tongues is like any other prayer in the respect that IT IS DESIGNED TO BE ANSWERED. When God does answer, it shows up in an inner strength that can literally change our whole life to give us the power to mortify the flesh, to stop doing the things that control us that are wrong, and to help us to do those things that are right.

Of all the different manifestations of tongues, this flow of tongues for personal edification, the revelation gift, is the only one we can pray in anytime we want to as long as we want to because God designed its use to build us up and to change our lives.

It is this power flow that we will spend the most of our time operating in while in prayer and it will eventually bring us to a place where God can activate the second power flow in our prayer lives which deals with the removal of those strongholds or fortresses that the devil uses to put a ceiling on our lives and calling until we look back and one day is like the rest until days turn into years and nothing ever really changes.

THE SECOND POWER FLOW: Most people, when they get excited over prayer and join some intercessory prayer group, do not have stamina, commitment, or dedication. In fact, what they usually have is a whole boat load of excitement and a ton of character flaws. So, they join these groups thinking that the time they spend praying in tongues is pulling down great spiritual strongholds over the city when, in reality, all they are really doing is making EDIFICATION instead of INTERCESSION.

This edification, if they will stick with it, will eventually deal with the character flaws that have stopped them in the past by building them up on their most holy faith into a place in God where they are spiritually prepared for God to begin to pull out their character flaws and put them on display so they can, not only understand why they are failing but, what it is that causes them to fail.

When this happens, whether it takes six months or a year praying five or six hours a week, the Holy Spirit will bring this person face to face with what it is that causes them not to be a good mama, a good daddy, or a good provider, etc. To break the cycle of failure when a person is most edified, the most built up, the SECOND PHASE OR POWER FLOW will kick in and begin to put these things to death. At this point, when we are face to face with our character flaws and the power is available to put them to death, we may feel all the emotional effect of our short-comings as they declare EMOTIONAL WAR on our intellect.

At this point, we do not feel like praying ... we have to force every word out ... our emotions are fighting praying in tongues ... our feelings are so anti-prayer that we not only do not want to pray but we do not even want to WANT TO pray. Please believe me when I say, "It is at this point the second power flow, that incredible power, is flowing through your spirit and supplying what you have never had before ... the power to put to death those things you could never put to death before."

So, keep on praying. It is important! You are heading towards the **THIRD POWER FLOW** when the Holy Spirit can finally get you to a place where he can take the emphasis off of your own edification and release his power through you on the behalf of others and this is called INTERCESSORY PRAYER.

It is very important to understand just how powerful this third power flow, intercessory prayer, can be. It is just as powerful a move of the Spirit as the workings of miracles when a person jumps up out of a wheelchair, suddenly and completely made whole by the power of God. I can no more operate in the true intercessional groanings of the Spirit anytime I want to anymore than I can operate in the working of miracles anytime I want to. They are both a separate, distinct power flow that only operates as God wills.

Let me tell you why ... when the power is delivered to a person through intercessory prayer to genuinely stand in the gap, God actually places you between Hell and people trying to get there or He uses you to curb a catastrophe, and then the kind of spiritual activity that goes into operation is phenomenal. Not only does this kind of power authorize a host of angels to take legal action into your affairs to ward off, stop, and change things but it will also attract powers and principalities to challenge your authority. They will move in on you with the power and vengeance of a freight train. Their target will be any weaknesses or character flaws that they can use to control and destroy you with, such things as your susceptibility to persecutions, afflictions, and ungodly lusts or just plain procrastination.

This is why the first and second power flows are so important in the eighth operation of the diversities of tongues. They are designed to isolate, build you up above, and put to death the forces of the flesh and character flaws that gives the devil authority and power to hinder and control your life. This is all so God can bring you to the place where He can slip you over into the true intercessional groanings of the Spirit and use you ... and I mean really use you to change things in your family, church, and city.

Although we can pray in tongues for personal edification any time we want, we cannot activate the deep intercessional groanings anytime we want. The edification is designed to change US, the intercessional groanings is designed to change THINGS, and He cannot use you to change things until you have edified yourself enough to stand against the onslaughts of Hell that can be released against any person who is really blocking the pathway of people trying to get to Hell ... **THROUGH INTERCESSION ... which brings us to THE FOURTH POWER FLOW.**

The fourth POWER FLOW of enduring prayer is when the Holy Spirit begins to activate incredible waves of glories ... power that will flood over a persons' soul in the form of supernatural joy and hilarious laughter. These waves of glory are enjoyed by prayer people who have mastered the art of enduring prayer and are being used by God to pull down strongholds (real ones) and the supernatural joy and laughter is a report from the spiritual realm that something has changed ... something has been pulled down. Change will be immediate ... it is inevitable. A person will cycle around through these four power flows.

ALWAYS REMEMBER, THE UNSUNG HEROES HERE SHALL BE SUNG IN HEAVEN ... THE PRAYER PEOPLE.