



CITY CHAPEL SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

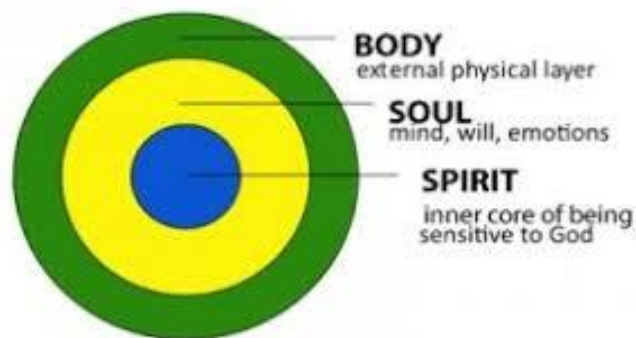
DISCIPLESHIP: LESSON 9 ACTIVATING YOUR GIFTS

Introduction

Every true Believer in Christ has the Holy Spirit within them. Therefore, we are starting from the premise that you already have the source of all the gifts within you and have the capacity to express ANY of the nine gifts mentioned in the first epistle to the Corinthian church.

SPIRIT COMMUNICATION

In Foundation School we learnt about the three parts that make up the Human Being; Spirit, Soul and Body.



We communicate with our physical world through the five senses of the body. When it comes to Soul, we communicate through our emotions and thoughts and imagination. The capacity to think and analyse and imagine, is a function of the soul which uses the brain. Our spirit discerns and communicates with the spiritual dimension either the kingdom of darkness or the kingdom of God.



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The gifts of the spirit originate from the spiritual dimension but find expression through the soul and body. Once you grasp this simple but profound understanding, you will be able to flow in the gifts of the spirit easily.

The voice of God or the communications of the Spirit find their root in your spirit. However you will find that to give voice or confirmation to what is being said in the spirit, the soul and body are involved.

PETER'S CASE STUDY – Acts 10:9-17

⁹ The next day, as they went on their journey and drew near the city, Peter went up on the housetop **to pray**, about ¹⁰the sixth hour. ¹⁰ Then he became **very hungry** and wanted to eat; but while they made ready, he fell into **a trance** ¹¹ and **saw heaven** opened and an object like a great sheet bound at the four corners, descending to him and let down to the earth. ¹² In it were all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air. ¹³ And **a voice came** to him, "Rise, Peter; kill and eat."

¹⁴ But **Peter said**, "Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean." ¹⁵ And **a voice spoke** to him again the second time, "What God has ¹⁶cleansed you must not call common." ¹⁶ This was done three times. And the object was taken up into heaven again.

¹⁷ Now while Peter ¹⁷**wondered within himself** what this **vision** which **he had seen** meant, behold, the men who had been sent from Cornelius had made inquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate

We can learn many things from this spiritual experience of Peter:

- Firstly, he was praying
- Prayer helps to 'trigger' spiritual gifts and spiritual experiences
- He was hungry which is a physical feeling
- The Holy Spirit contextualises this feeling into a spiritual message

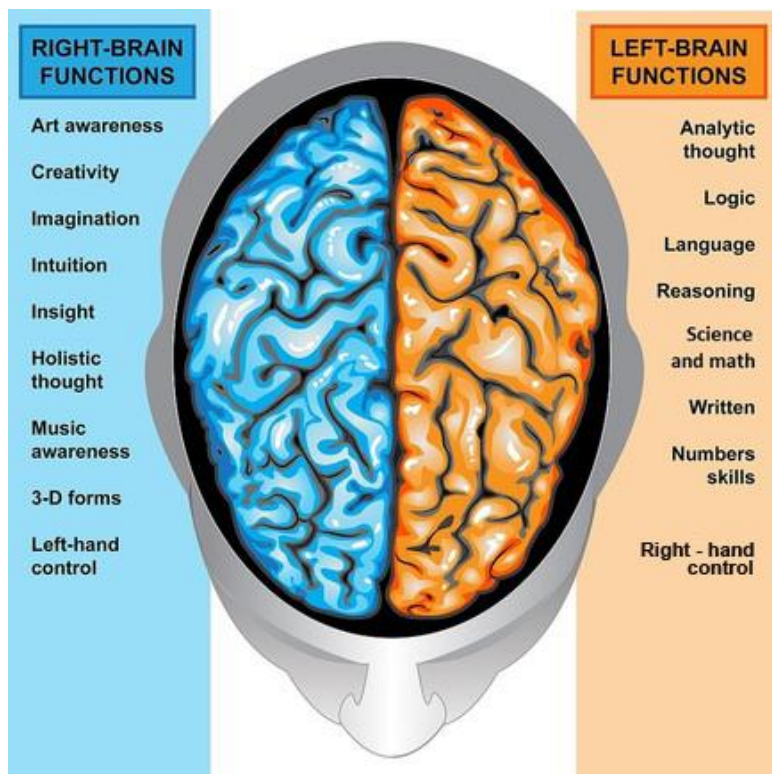


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- He 'fell' into a trance is an interesting phrase
- It means the centre of perception 'moved' from body to spirit
- You 'fall' asleep which means your centre of perception shifts
- Peter saw Heaven open which was a spiritual perception
- He heard a voice which means you and I can 'hear' in the spirit
- He spoke which also means we can communicate in the spirit
- He saw, which shows we have spiritual eyes
- We can see, hear, smell and feel in our dreams
- We also have the powers of perception in the spirit
- When the trance ended, Peter was wondering about the vision
- This means our brain and cognitive processing can be involved

THE CREATIVE HEMISPHERE





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As a medical doctor, I was fascinated with psychology. We learnt that our brains have a right and left hemisphere. The two parts of your brain seem very much alike to the naked eye but there is a massive difference in how they function and process information.

The left side of the brain processes data sequentially, linearly and relates everything in facts and logic. It is my theory that this side of your brain is more connected to the physical realm.

The right side of your brain however processes things intuitively, holistically and this where we get our creative thoughts, spontaneous gut instincts and imaginative thinking. It is my personal theory that this part of the brain is more closely connected to the spiritual and soulish realm.

When you have a book in front of your eyes and you are reading and processing data, which side of your brain is more engaged? Your left side of course! If you have a beautiful picture of an open field with mountains in the distance and you begin to imagine yourself inside the picture, which part of your brain is more engaged? The right side of course! You get the picture!!

WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?

So when you are praying or meditating and a spontaneous thought of your friend just suddenly pops into your mind out of nowhere, you can begin to understand how the creative and spiritual dimension works

Communication generally comes from three dimensions; the physical, the mind and the spirit. What you focus on becomes the main source of your perception and reality. What you sow into, you reap from. It is as simple as that. Everyone listening to or reading this right now is spiritual, soulish and physical. The dominant driver is whatever you decide it should be. The decision is yours.

Do you not know that when you *continually* offer yourselves to someone to do his will, you are the slaves of the one whom you obey, either [slaves] of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness (right standing with God)? Romans 6:16 AMP



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We are made with overlapping parts that work in symphony and in sequence to the way the Lord made us. It is difficult to separate spirit soul and body functionally and pragmatically. It is best to describe overlaps of our being.



HOW DOES THIS WORK?

Let us now use the information about our make up to understand very simply how God by His Spirit uses us to minister the gifts or spirituals.

One of the places to start is from the platform of PRAYER.

Therefore I remind you to **stir** up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.
2Tim 1:6

²⁰ But you, beloved, build yourselves up on [the foundation of] your most holy faith [continually progress, rise like an edifice higher and higher], pray in the Holy Spirit, Jude 1:6

A prayerful Christian will see the activation and deployment of the gifts of the Spirit.:

While I was praying....Gabriel whom I had seen in the vision...Daniel 9:21

Jesus also being baptized and praying, the heaven was opened Luke 3:21

Peter went up upon the house top to pray...Acts 10:9

And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered

TO BE CONTINUED.....