

Become Mighty in Spirit

*“¹But, brothers, I do not want you to **continue being ignorant** about **the things of the Spirit (pneumatics)**... ⁴Now there are various kinds of gifts (**charismata**, gifts), but the same Ruach. ⁵There are various kinds of service (**diakanion**, ministries), but the same Lord. ⁶There are various kinds of working (**energeia**, operations), but the same God who works all things in all people. ⁷But to each person is given the manifestation (**phanerosis**, manifestly declare and make manifest, appear, express) of the Ruach for the benefit of all. ⁸For to one is given through the Ruach (1) a word of wisdom, to another (2) a word of knowledge according to the same Ruach, ⁹to another (3) faith by the same Ruach, to another (4) gifts of healings by the one Ruach, ¹⁰to another (5) workings of miracles, to another (6) prophecy, to another (7) discerning of spirits, to another (8) different kinds of tongues, to another (9) the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹But one and the same Ruach activates all these things, distributing to each person individually as He wills. (1 Cor. 12:1 CJB, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 TLV, emphasis mine)*

The Spirit can choose any of these nine manifestations (expressions) for the common good of the congregation. It is His choice and it is His Will. If the Spirit chooses to use one to give a prophecy, or someone to give a Word of Knowledge or whomever to speak a Word of Wisdom, so be it! If that is the case you and I need to relax if God did not use you or I. God is not mad at you! He uses whomsoever He Wills. He is sovereign. He is in control. Let Him be the *Ruach Elohim*. Let Him be Lord of all!

It has often been said that happiness in life is based on fulfilling our purpose in life. I agree. Fulfillment however is ultimately based on our service to Him. How can we be useful to the creator of the universe? *“⁸Owe no one anything except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the Torah. ⁹For the commandments... and any other commandment are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fullness of the Torah” (Romans 13:8-10).* Therefore, every person born into Messiah's kingdom takes on a “debt of love” to fulfill the *Torah* of Adonai. The Lord gave us His Spirit to help us pay our debt of love to Him and to one another.

Since I have a purpose in life, I know why I exist. Because I know why I am here, I understand God's purpose in allowing me to become part of His body, and I can be greatly fulfilled and happy in His service. People are in unhappy spaces because they are not used in His service like they want to be. *Yeshua* said: “*blessed is the man who gives*” and the more we give to the Lord, the happier we become/are. Similarly, the less you give to the Lord, the more frustrated and depressed you become/are. The key to happiness is usefulness – being used while you are here in this world to serve the Lord.

The Lord has placed us in His Body as it pleases Him (*“¹⁸But now God has placed the parts—each one of them—in the body just as He desired... ²⁷Now you are the body of Messiah, and members individually” (1 Cor. 12:18, 27) because (“Unless Adonai builds the house, the builders labor in vain...” Ps 127:1) – and we are all in the Body of Messiah. The apostle Paul also wrote: “For just as we have many parts in one body—and all the parts do not have the same function—so we, who are many, are one body in Messiah and everyone parts of one another” (Romans 12:4-5).* We did not choose Him – He chose us. It is not up to us to gift ourselves in His service – He gifts us. We are not “*like a body*” – we ARE the Body of Messiah. He gave us the privilege. He did not (and does not) have to use us because, in reality, He doesn't need us. He could use rocks as easily as He could use you and I – and perhaps rocks would be easier! Therefore, He has given us both the privilege and the opportunity of being used. He has placed us in His body. WE ARE THE BODY OF MESSIAH. So If *Yeshua* desires to: (1) express tears of compassion – He uses our eyes; (2) speak words of comfort – He uses our mouths; (3) extend a helping hand – He uses our hands; (4) hug someone in need of love – He uses our arms; or (5) walk across the street to visit someone – He uses our feet. In His sovereignty, *Yeshua* has chosen us, His Body, to accomplish His Ministry on the earth today. You are a part of it and so am I. You have a function, and so do I. We will only be personally fulfilled if we fulfill the function in the Body of Messiah that He has intended for us, individually and collectively. What is a member to do? How do we know? The most effective way is to become Mighty in Spirit.

To be mighty in Spirit is to know God intimately and to experience the power of *Adonai Messiah Yeshua* in daily victory over the power of sin and the flesh. We are to keep growing in our spiritual life: ¹⁸*“Instead, keep growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Yeshua the Messiah” (1 Peter 3:18a)*. When we begin to grow in *Yeshua*’s character, obedience, understanding, love, and faith, we grow in maturity. We begin demonstrating evidence of His life inside us by developing spiritual muscles that will make us mighty in spirit. When we are mighty in spirit, we will be able to better discern truth from error. Being mighty in spirit will train you to live victoriously in personal lifestyle and character issues. When you are mighty in spirit, you will gain, utilize, and give true wisdom, which comes from above. When you are mighty in spirit, you will more consistently win in spiritual warfare through prayer and personal disciplines. Being mighty in spirit will enable you to send forth light instead of propagating darkness for the salvation and deliverance of many. Being mighty in spirit will enable you to send forth light instead of propagating darkness for the salvation and deliverance of many. When you are mighty in spirit you can demonstrate great faith, genuine love, exhibit practical creativity, mature wisdom, keen discernment and be joyfully enthusiastic about everything. When you are mighty in spirit you exercise and exhibit the Holy Spirit’s expressions and are instantaneously ready to let the Spirit manifest through you anyway He wishes to. You have said *Hineni* to the Holy Spirit and you mean it. *Hineni* is much more than a simple response to a call. *Hineni* is a covenant response. It is the response of a child of God to his Abba, and it emphatically declares, *“You have my full attention and nothing is distracting me. Everything that I am and have is at your disposal.”*

The Holy Spirit has at His disposal Seven Motivational Gifts (Greek *charismata*, Romans 12:6-8), Eight Ministerial Administrations (Greek *diakanion*, 1 Cor. 12:27-31) and Nine Operational/Working Manifestations (Greek *energema*, 1 Cor. 12:4-7). They are all expressions of the many sided grace of God: *“As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of the many-sided grace of God” (1 Peter 4:10)*. They are Spiritual drives, opportunities, and results given by the Holy Spirit (*Ruach HaKodesh*) to achieve His supernatural goals. We all have access to these because at salvation His Spirit united with our spirit ¹⁶*“The Ruach Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. 17 And if children, also heirs—heirs of God and joint-heirs with Messiah...” (Romans 8:16-17a)*. How effective have you been at being available to the Holy Spirit to say that you are mighty in spirit? I am very safe in saying that many if not all of us have and are lacking in our ability to let the Spirit of God do whatsoever He wishes with us. I need “more of Him, more of His Spirit.” Fortunately, all we as believers have to do is ask: ⁹*“So I say to you, ‘Ask, and it shall be given to you. Seek, and you shall find. Knock, and it shall be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.’ 11 What father, if his son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? 12 And if he asks for an egg, will he give him a scorpion? 13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Ruach ha-Kodesh to those who ask Him!” (Luke 11:9-13)*

Allowing more of the Spirit of God to dwell in us is a very important concept in being mighty in spirit. *We have not because we ask not*. We lack effectiveness because we are unaware of the spiritual tools available to us by empowering ourselves with more of Him and His Spirit. How do we grow in the Spirit? Is it not by letting God be God in everything we endeavor to do? He is a Gentleman; He does not overrule our will. We get more of Him only if we allow Him to (by asking!) His Holy Spirit festival is coming! Let us begin getting ourselves ready for His outpouring. Shabbat Shalom!