

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH

THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND SPIRITUAL GIFTS

We affirm that the baptism of the Holy Spirit occurs at conversion and is the placing of the believer into the Body of Christ. At conversion, the Lord sovereignly bestows spiritual gifts upon his children. Each believer is responsible to seek to develop his or her God-given spiritual gift(s) to serve others in love and humility. The proper focus of godly ministry is to glorify Christ and build others up, not to draw attention to oneself. Particular spiritual gift(s) are neither essential, nor do they prove the presence of the Holy Spirit, nor are they an indication of deeper spiritual experience (I Corinthians 12:7, 11, 13 and Ephesians 4:7-8). It is the privilege and responsibility of every believer to minister according to the gift(s) and grace of God that is given to them.

The filling of the Holy Spirit refers to the work of empowerment the Holy Spirit readily bestows in the life of his children as they humble themselves and seek by faith to walk in his presence and will. The evidence of the Holy Spirit's work in the life of the believer is a pattern of obedience and an increasing evidence of the fruit of the Spirit; love, joy, peace, meekness, gentleness, etc. This in-filling is not a second work of grace, but the normal state of the believer who is walking in humble faith with Christ. For some, the Holy Spirit's work may be accompanied by a significant emotional experience, for others it is not. His work is primarily about life-change that affects our attitudes and actions.