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The Presence: The Real Deal

Acts 1:4, 8 - *And while they were gathered together, He commanded them: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift the Father promised, which you have heard Me discuss...⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

1 Corinthians 12:4-6 - *There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all.⁵ There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord.⁶ God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us.*

The Holy Spirit Honors Jesus By Providing A “Different Kinds” Of Spiritual Gifts

Philippians 2:13 - *For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.*

Part Of Following Christ Is Discovering Our Gift(s) And Using Them For God

Matthew 10:16-20 - *“Look, I am sending you out as sheep among wolves. So be as shrewd as snakes and harmless as doves.¹⁷ But beware! For you will be handed over to the courts and will be flogged with whips in the synagogues.¹⁸ You will stand trial before governors and kings because you are my followers. But this will be your opportunity to tell the rulers and other unbelievers about me.¹⁹ When you are arrested, don’t worry about how to respond or what to say. God will give you the right words at the right time.²⁰ For it is not you who will be speaking—it will be the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.*

John 16:1-2 - *I have told you these things so that you won’t abandon your faith.² For you will be expelled from the synagogues, and the time is coming when those who kill you will think they are doing a holy service for God.*

Acts 6:8-15 - *Stephen, a man full of God’s grace and power, performed amazing miracles and signs among the people.⁹ But one day some men from the Synagogue of Freed Slaves, as it was called, started to debate with him. They were Jews from Cyrene, Alexandria, Cilicia, and the province of Asia.¹⁰ None of them could stand against the wisdom and the Spirit with which Stephen spoke.¹¹ So they persuaded some men to lie about Stephen, saying, “We heard him blaspheme Moses, and even God.”¹² This roused the people, the elders, and*

the teachers of religious law. So they arrested Stephen and brought him before the high council. ¹³ The lying witnesses said, "This man is always speaking against the holy Temple and against the law of Moses. ¹⁴ We have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy the Temple and change the customs Moses handed down to us." ¹⁵ At this point everyone in the high council stared at Stephen, because his face became as bright as an angel's.

Seek To Be Filled With God's Grace And The Power Of The Holy Spirit

The Anointing Of The Holy Spirit Was On Their Obedience And Faithfulness

The Holy Spirit Could Use Stephen Because He Reflected The Character Of Jesus

Micah 3:8 - *But as for me, I am filled with power—with the Spirit of the LORD...*

A Literal Reflection Of God's Glory, A Sign Of Having Been In God's Presence