

## Welcome to CCV!

Christ's Church of the Valley is a church whose passion is to love God passionately, love each other deeply, and love our world to Jesus. In order to do that, we must be solidly grounded to both the truth of God's Word and the power of God's Spirit: The Word to stay anchored...and the Spirit to have life and vitality.

God's Word clearly portrays the New Testament church to be a church whose life and ministry flowed from the breath of the Holy Spirit. Those early bands of believers were shaped by, formed by and energized by the Holy Spirit...resulting in a New Testament church that literally was *bursting forth* with life! Souls were being saved. People were being set free. The church was exploding with growth....and Jesus was exalted as Lord.

At each point in the history of the church, God's people are privileged to have the opportunity to experience this same dynamic. History records this to be true. Whenever and whenever God's people have opened their hearts and sought passionately for more of God, the Lord has breathed the fresh wind of the Holy Spirit into them ... and life and revival have flowed.

Our heart at CCV is to realize this is our time. This is our moment. This is our chance to say, "Lord, fill us freshly with your Holy Spirit. Our hearts are hungry, because we know You have more for us than we could ever ask."

For this reason, we want to pursue God passionately and nurture what the Holy Spirit is doing in the lives of His people here at CCV—including in the area of spiritual gifts. In our heart to follow God, we want to nurture the gifts...and provide appropriate places for their Biblical expression and use, both individually and in our church life.

This requires Biblical insight and sensitive hearts. In order to create an atmosphere where the Spirit is free to minister and the body built up, we have created this brochure to help you understand what we believe about the gifts of the Spirit...and also to give you some guidelines to follow when ministering in the gifts.

(“Guidelines...” ...Continued from inside)

Spirit. We, as the leadership of CCV, ask for your prayers as we continue to learn how to move in the gifts of the Spirit as well.

- ◆ The gift of spiritual language (tongues) is a gift God gives to certain people to deepen their prayer and praise as they walk with Him. This gift, the Bible indicates, is directed to God and is primarily for personal edification, not for the edification of the church. However, God also makes provision for its use in the public life of the church. We believe that generally the most appropriate context for the public use of this gift in our church life is in our small groups, our retreats, or in services such as *The Gathering*. However, there may be appropriate times in our Sunday service as well. As 1 Corinthians 14:27-28 indicates, **when this gift is shared publicly, it should be accompanied by an interpretation so that those present can be encouraged and strengthened.**
- ◆ Please remember, in any public expression of the gifts, to be careful so that you don't dramatically shift the focus and direction of the group meeting, gathering or assembly in which you are sharing. **Let God orchestrate the gathering through the leadership of that group or assembly.**
- ◆ If you believe you have a prophetic word during an assembly, **please make your way to one of our pastors or elders and submit this word to them for their discernment.** The pastor's or elder's role is to help you discern if what you heard is for the whole body and when (or if) it should be shared in the assembly. Please remember, if you have heard the Lord and submitted His word to a leader, then you have done your part obediently whether the word is shared publicly or not.
- ◆ Keep in mind that in our Sunday morning services, there are many people who are either unbelievers, or who have had little teaching regarding the gifts of the Spirit. For this reason we would encourage those with the gift of tongues to use the gift more quietly during our Sunday morning services unless there is an appropriate time and place to do it from the microphone at the front during times of prayer and worship. If you have a prayer/praise in tongues at other times during the service which you believe is to be shared with the body, **please submit this to one of the pastors or elders.** If the pastor believes this is appropriate to share with the entire body, they will ask you to give the tongue and/or interpretation over the microphone for the whole congregation to be able to hear.
- ◆ Finally, please keep in mind that the gifts are *grace* gifts. Therefore, **let every expression of the gifts at CCV be done in a way that honors Jesus and expresses his grace** to those to whom you are ministering.

## Spiritual Gifts: Beliefs and Guidelines for Ministry



## Christ's Church of the Valley

PO Box 2742  
Appleton, WI 54912  
920-832-0829  
[www.ccvappleton.com](http://www.ccvappleton.com)

# What We Believe About the Spiritual Gifts

CCV is a church that is seeking hard after God and growing in the gifts of the Spirit. However, as a church we find our understanding of the gifts to not fit neatly into either the “charismatic” box or the “non-charismatic” box. Therefore, the following statements regarding our understanding of the spiritual gifts may be helpful.

- **We believe in the Holy Spirit.**

We believe the Holy Spirit is fully God and an important part of the Trinity. We believe the Holy Spirit has a vital role to play in God’s plan for each disciple of Jesus...and for God’s church.

- **We believe in all the spiritual gifts.**

Spiritual gifts are really an overflow of the Holy Spirit being in one’s life. The Bible lists many of these gifts in 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 and Romans 12:6-8. We believe all the gifts of the Spirit are for today and are significant for what God would do in and through his church.

- **We believe we are to accept and celebrate the unique expression of the Spirit in each believer.**

Scripture teaches that God gives different spiritual gifts to the different members of the church body. Not everyone will have the same experience with God’s Spirit when it comes to the spiritual gifts. Yet, because the various gifts are from God, we celebrate the unique way in which the grace of God overflows into each believer’s life through the Spirit’s ministry. (Romans 12:6)

- **We believe God imparts to each believer the specific gift(s) He desires, at the time He desires.**

Many today teach that every believer who is filled with God’s Spirit will manifest the gift of tongues. While we do believe God invites each believer to an ever-deepening experience with the Holy Spirit, we find scripture indicating that God gives a variety of gifts...of which *no single gift* (including the gift of tongues) will be experienced by everyone. (1 Corinthians 12:27-30).

- **We believe spiritual gifts are something we should desire.**

While we do not believe we should ever pursue the gifts as a means of validating ourselves to others—or to serve some other self-serving purpose, we do believe that out of a pure heart we should seek the Lord for what He would bless us with through the Spirit. The scripture tells us in 1 Corinthians 14:1 to “*Follow the way of love and eagerly desire the spiritual gifts...*”

- **We believe the gifts are to be used in an orderly and sensitive manner.**

The scripture is very clear that God is not a God of disorder, but of order. 1 Corinthians 13-14 lays down some important principles for God’s people to follow when ministering with the gifts. Elsewhere in this brochure you will find some guidelines for the appropriate use of the spiritual gifts in our church life here at CCV.

- **We believe spiritual discernment is vital to a healthy Spirit-formed ministry.**

God’s word is clear that not every “gift” of the spirit is from the Holy Spirit. Therefore, we believe that all spiritual gifts have to be evaluated and judged according to the Scripture.

- **We believe that gifts, while important to how God’s church functions, are not the heart of the gospel message.**

While we embrace the gifts, we want to be careful that the gifts do not become our “focus” as a church. The heart of the gospel is not the gifts...but the cross of Jesus Christ. For this reason, our hope is that you will find CCV to be a church focused on Christ, grounded in the Word, walking with the Spirit, and loving a lost world to Jesus.

- **We believe we are on a journey, still growing in our understanding of the ministry of the Holy Spirit.**

We certainly don’t have all the answers when it comes to the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Nor do we expect each person to be at exactly the same place on their spiritual journey as others are. Our invitation is to come and grow with us as we discover together the enormous riches of God’s grace towards us through His Spirit.

# Guidelines for Spiritual Gifts at CCV

At CCV, we want to hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to the church and create an atmosphere where He is free to do what He wants. We know, though, that God is not a God of disorder or abuse, that the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets, and that all spiritual gifts have to be evaluated and judged by the Word of God.

So, to help us walk powerfully in the gifts of the Holy Spirit while we grow to maturity as a body, the Pastors and Elders at CCV ask that everyone attending CCV observe the following guidelines when moving in the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

- ◆ We ask that you **use the gifts in a loving way.** 1 Corinthians 13 teaches that *how* we use the gifts has a greater impact than the gift itself. Please review this passage so that each expression of the gifts is bathed in love for those we are ministering to and with. Ultimately all expression of the gifts must be done with view toward the good and growth of God’s church.

- ◆ **Engaging in ministry by using our spiritual gifts is not to be done in a way which intends to draw attention to one’s self.** Always keep in mind that the gifts God has given are to be used in a way that points people to Jesus and lifts Him up. The best way to do this is to minister in a humble and direct way that avoids any attempt at being “sensationalistic” or overly-spiritual looking. The Lord will work through you just fine when you are simply yourself. Remember...kookiness is not what God is looking for...nor is it a spiritual quality. Sincerity and authenticity work just fine.

- ◆ Whenever you move in the gifts of the Spirit, please remember to **remain teachable in the use of your gifting.** Occasionally one of the leaders may believe there is an area you may need to mature in so that you can use your gift more effectively. Please do not take this as a personal affront. The leaders at CCV will always try to do what is best for the congregation as a whole and for you personally as you mature in the gifts of the Holy

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*We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man’s gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.*

Romans 12:6-8

*Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.*

1 Corinthians 12:7-11