



*As there was no Sunday service this week due to snow, Connect Groups for the week of February 18th 2018 will be covering Russ' sermon from January 18th 2018

Key References:

1 Thessalonians 5:16–20 (ESV)

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit.

Ephesians 4:22–24 (ESV)

²² to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Galatians 5:22–24 (ESV)

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

2 Corinthians 12:8–10 (ESV)

⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. ⁹ But he said to me, “**My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.**” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰ For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

So far, has this series at Oceanside impacted you on a theoretical / head-knowledge level or on a practical level?

Read 1 Thes 5:16-19. **How is it possible to quench the Spirit?**

1 – The gifts operate in line with the nature of God

In Russ' preach he said that God's giving nature can be seen through the gifts as they are given without cost to each of us. **Can you think of other attributes of God and how Spiritual Gifts are a compliment to them?**

Read Eph 4:22-24. **What attributes or characteristics do you still have from the “old self” that get in the way of the Spirit working through you?**

Can you explain the process in Eph 4:23-24 and how it gets rid of the old self & its negative tendencies? How have you seen this in your own life?

2 – The gifts are in line with the fruit of the Spirit

How would you link “Spiritual Gifts” and “the fruit of the Spirit” together?

Read Gal 5:22-24. **As someone experiences the fruit of the Spirit is it a forgone conclusion that the Spiritual Gifts will grow as well?**

What happens if someone tries to operate in their Spiritual Gifts without also growing in the fruit of the Spirit?

3 – The ultimate goal of the gifts is to bring glory to God

Russ in his preach said; “*We don't get to determine our gifts, or determine the outcome of using our gifts. But, we do get to choose who gets the glory from the gifts*”. **What do you think about this statement?**

When you think about God using you, do you first think about your own abilities or God's abilities? Which one is it better to focus on?

4 – Conclusion

Have there been any roadblocks that have come between you and operating in your Spiritual Gifts recently?

Read 2 Cor 12:8-10. **What does the Lord mean when he says “my power is made perfect in weakness”?**

Why doesn't God always align Spiritual Gifting with natural ability? Why does God want to use you despite your shortcomings?