

The Gift of God that's Within You

Part 2: Impartation

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Full Text (for reading on your own)

Fear of Flying - No More!

While she lives a fairly fear-free and anxiety-free life, Lois has a specific fear of flying since she was a child. Two Sundays ago Amber prayed for her. Lois has prayed for the fear of flying before - and has had other people pray for her likewise. But this was the first time someone prayed very simply to cast out the spirit of fear. That was Sunday.

Lois flew on Monday - to Florida, and then from Florida to Europe (8 hours in the plane). She slept! She was so excited she wanted to text Amber right away but she waited "to make sure!" Lois boarded 7 planes in 7 days. Her last flight across the Atlantic was so turbulent for 2 hours that people were losing their lunch in the aisle of the plane. Lois was queasy like anyone else, but she boarded her next flight and flew home - normally she would have just rented a car to drive back from DC!

That was a 40 year stronghold of specific fear about flying. It felt completely different after one simple prayer. It's over. It's gone. Amber's prayer was so simple and yet so powerful. Our God is powerful and He will set you free from fear too!

Power for Everyone

Who prayed for Lois? Amber! I (Peter) did not pray for Lois. Lois got set free when Amber prayed for her. This is a two-part testimony. First, 40 years of fear removed. Now Lois has freedom even when people are having trouble in the aisle. The second part of the testimony is that Amber is doing the work! Amber is the one who was partnering with God in faith!

That is everyone's story at Agathos. I am not functioning in a 5-fold way (which I am called to function in) if the saints are not being equipped for the works of service. That's the goal. The goal is not for me to do the work.

I consult in education and I was talking with a newer leader in that sphere. I shared with that person something Brad taught me - "the goal of leadership is not to do the work." The goal of leadership is to make sure the work gets done. A quarterback that ran the ball every single play would probably be (1) dead, and (2) not very effective. A quarterback needs to distribute the ball.

We already have been, but more than ever before, the people of Agathos are going to be doing the works of God WITH POWER. It's already been happening, but it is going to be more than ever before.

How this Message Came to Be

As of yesterday afternoon, I had 4 sermons (3 written up and 1 on my mind). It is not just about the right word. It is about the right word in the right season. The sons of Issachar (1 Chron. 12:32) knew what Israel should do - and WHEN they should do it. We too are as the Sons of Issachar - we will know the "what" and the "when." The message I keep not preaching (Part 12 of Valuing what God Values - "Clarifying the Eternal Security of the Believer") is a great word, but it will have to wait until it is in-season again.

I decided to pray in tongues in order to "turn off my ideas" and hear His about the sermon. I then asked God a question. Often I find God wants me to ask Him a question. Sometimes when I ask a question I will sense His witness "that's a good question - my answer to that question is really going to be what you need to hear." Remember Jesus talked in parables to mixed audiences. Some had ears to hear and others did not have ears to hear. So if He talked in parables He knew it would have to be by the Holy Spirit that they received it. "To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom, but to them it has not been given." Who gets the mysteries of the Kingdom? Children! Not the wise and understanding - revelation is hidden from them. If you want to know how to get more out of your time in the Word, ask God to make your heart like a child - and then you will start to hear.

So I asked God "what is this season / sermon series about?" Immediately - without hesitation - He said "activation." Sometimes we hear God but we don't have conversations with Him. Do you know what the key is to having a sustained conversation with someone? Ask them follow-up questions! They will give you one answer, but if you ask a follow-up question you get another answer. When God answered "activation" I could have gotten all excited "man I just heard from God!" but the reality is I don't know what He means by that! I could guess, but why don't I just find out? He's talking to me :)

So I asked Him "what are you wanting to activate?" Instantly He says "My fire." Then I ask "how do I do that - how do I partner with you to do that?" Instantly He says "lay hands on people." So that's what we're going to do today - pray impartation for people!

I then reached out to Ryan and Amber to ask if they would share testimony about what has happened since I prayed impartation for them a month or so ago. Ryan said yes and Amber also wrote back "*Ryan just talked to me about sharing tomorrow! So excited! About halfway through the week (actually it was Wednesday) I had this thought "Peter should maybe teach about impartation at church*

and we should share what's happened to us since receiving the impartation at his house." I had prayed for the sermon on Wednesday at noon and Amber had it by 4pm Wednesday! I finally got it on Saturday afternoon! What a beautiful confirmation from the Lord through Amber!

We are stepping into what God is doing! God is going to do it because He's the one that dialed it up! What are you doing in this season? "Activation!" What are you wanting to activate? "My fire!" How do you want to do that? "Laying hands!"

Power, Love, and a Sound Mind through the Laying on of Hands!

2 Timothy 1:7 says "*For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*" Last time we talked about how the power of God is ALWAYS His! As much as we operate in it was always His, it is His, and it will remain His! Your's the Kingdom, Your's is the Power, Your's is the glory, forever! May we not touch the power or glory of God! We just guard our hearts about that, but we do not shrink back about operating in the power of God because Jesus said "you do err, knowing neither the scriptures, nor the power of God." (Mt. 22:29) Half of what you can err in as a Christian is not knowing His power.

Now, do you know what verse comes before verse 7? Verse 6 comes right before verse 7 of course and it says "*Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.*" Where is the Spirit Paul is saying to stir up coming from? It came from having had hands laid on him - through impartation!

God said to me "*Last week was not a high point, it was just a starting point!*" It was not a high point, it was just a starting point.

This is a season of activation where God is not so much looking for words as He is looking for power. "*For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power.*" (1 Cor. 4:20)

Our church will always be founded on the Word. You cannot separate the Word and the Spirit. John 6:63 says "*It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.*" The Word of God is the Spirit of God. The Spirit of God is the Word of God. You can't separate the Two. It is like separating water from water. They are the same.

Like I said, churches do get in error by either not knowing the scriptures or by not knowing the power. I personally believe it is caused by the disposition of people (and perhaps getting into judgement towards other believers of one persuasion or the other). Some people are more experiential-type people. They will tend to lean toward the power-type-church. "THAT WAS INCREDIBLE!!! DO YOU SEE WHAT HAPPENED?!?!?!?" Others are very analytical in nature ... "that was a very well done sermon - could I have your notes? And next time could you use roman numerals in your outline?"

Believe it or not, I tend to be an analytical thinker but God has me outside my box. Praise God! You don't want Peter-power ... you want GOD POWER! Paul did not come to the Corinthians with persuasive words of human wisdom but with demonstrations of the Spirit and of power! This was so that their faith might not be in man but IN THE POWER OF GOD!

Paul wrote deeper revelation in his letters than anyone. Even Peter said "it's tough to understand some of his stuff!" Yet Paul, when he came to preach to the Corinthians he didn't come with persuasive words. He had them! But he came with demonstrations of the Spirit and in power. And just a few chapters later he clarified "*For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power.*" (1 Cor. 4:20)

This series is not about me "building something." Normally with teachings I am building something. He told me this series is not about "building something" but instead just "holding the reins." Bill Johnson says "revival never ends because of excess." He is not saying you don't need to pastor revival. Agathos is a free church, and it will also be a safe church. That doesn't mean someone might not be weeping on the floor - or dancing wildly during worship. Wild dancing might be God - but it might not be God. If it's not God, that's where I (Peter) step in or just address it lovingly. It will safe church and a free church. I will address things.

Bill Johnson has carried revival for 25 years and has studied what makes revival stop. He said "revival never because of excess, it always ends because of control." This doesn't mean you don't pastor the revival, but "revival never because of excess, it always ends because of control."

Brenda came into prayer this morning and heard the Lord speak "quit relying on what you can do so that I can move says the Lord - I am the Lord!"

This is a little different sort of series because it is a different sort of season. Luke was like a chronological, line upon line, sermon series. He put his gospel in order so that certainty could be had about the accounts. Matthew was written as an argument to the Jews that Jesus is indeed the Messiah - that is like a topical sermon series. Mark was testimonies! Miracles, signs, wonders "Jesus did this, then He went here and did that!" God designed the 4 gospels and He is saying that each of these approaches has value! A topical sermon series (akin to Matthew) is great. A chronological, orderly series (akin to Luke) so that you can be certain is very good. Testimonies (akin to Mark) is really good. And John was about impartation. "This is how He was! He was like this!" 1 John starts like this "Here's what I've heard, what I've seen, what I've looked upon, and what I've handled" ... the invitation is clear "and you can encounter Him too!" It's impartation that you get from John - it's like the disciple next to His heart. You get a emphasis from each of the gospels. This is a different sort of sermon series. God is saying I want to activate something - My fire!

Scriptural Basis of Impartation

Impartation is all throughout the Bible. The first example of it is with Adam and Eve (more on that in a minute). There are 5 types of impartation I am aware of in the Word:

1. Impartation of blessing (such as with Isaac blessing Jacob and Esau, or with Jesus and the children)
2. Impartation for baptism of the Holy Spirit
3. Impartation for spiritual gifts
4. Impartation for leadership authority / mantles (this why Paul tells Timothy to be slow to lay his hands on anyone - that doesn't mean not to lay hands on visitors today; it just means I am not going to commission someone as an elder today. There is a type of impartation that is for leadership transfer. When Brad prayed impartation for me, he imparted the mantle of leadership for the church to me - it is a spiritual exchange that is through the laying on of hands.)
5. Impartation for healing (We generally lay our hands on people for healing. Sometimes people just reached out and touched Jesus' cloak and the impartation came to them. Sometimes handkerchiefs get sent places and it imparts healing to people. Sometimes people just get in the shadow and the shadow is enough for impartation. The point is healing is another form of impartation).

Now let's look at Hebrews 6:1-3. *"Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of **laying on of hands**, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this we will do if God permits."*

Paul (or the writer of Hebrews) is sharing 5 elementary principles of Christ - the basics! The first, repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, is not a surprise. That refers to realizing you need a Savior and receiving Christ. It also means turning as a believer from self-righteousness and relying completely on being a new creation in Christ! "It's no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me!" No surprise that leads the list of 5 elementary principles of Christ.

Next we see "the doctrine of baptisms" and we will come back to that. Then we see "laying on of hands." Did you realize that impartation (the laying on of hands) is one of the 5 elementary principles of being a Christian? This is why I am praying impartation at main service. We need to value impartation as one of the elementary principle of Christ. I am deliberately spending time on impartation in main service so you can not only see on a page that it is an elementary principle, but you can see from the time I am giving it that it is an elementary principle.

We also see “resurrection of the dead” in the list of Hebrews 6. Paul said it well - we would be the biggest of fools if the dead don't raise. Likewise, if we don't know about the eternal judgment - about a fiery judgment coming for those who have not received Christ - you will not act wisely as a Christian. You will not redeem the time in getting out there and sharing the gospel. So there are 5 elementary principles of Christ listed in Hebrews 6 and one of them is “laying on of hands.”

Now let's look at Acts 19:1-7 *“And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples he said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” So they said to him, “We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.” And he said to them, “Into what then were you baptized?” So they said, “Into John's baptism.” Then Paul said, “John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.” When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when **Paul had laid hands on them**, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. Now the men were about twelve in all.”*

There are three types of baptisms. Remember how the “doctrine of baptisms” is one of the elementary principles of Christ? When I share Hebrews 6 with believers they often read it out-loud as “doctrine of baptism” (SINGULAR). They drop the “s” off “baptisms.” They think “I know about baptism - it is when you get dunked” and they read right past the “s” subconsciously. There are three types of baptisms. The first baptism is a baptism of repentance. John the baptist is no longer baptizing, but when I am sharing the gospel with someone and I can see on their face “oh God, I need a Savior” - they have then been baptized with a baptism of repentance. John's ministry was to take those who were self-righteous and turn them into “not righteous” in their thinking. We see here that they were then baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. That's the baptism that we do outside here in the pool. Finally we see that the Holy Spirit came upon them - that's the 3rd baptism. The baptism of the Holy Spirit comes through the laying on of hands. I am not saying you can't get it otherwise, but it is often through the laying on of hands.

The laying on of hands is also for the impartation of spiritual gifts. *“Therefore I remind you to stir up **the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.**”* Romans 1:11 likewise says *“For I long to see you, that I may **impart** to you some spiritual gift, so that you **may be established** ...”* Paul as a minister longed to come to them to pray impartation for them. The impartation was going to release spiritual gift. Paul actually believed this was part of them being established in the faith - “that you may be established.”

We also know that impartation can be for leadership transfer. Deuteronomy 34:9 says *“Now Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, **for Moses had laid his hands on him**; so the children of Israel heeded him, and did as the Lord had commanded Moses.”*

Sometimes God gives an impartation sovereignly - you can sometimes receive an impartation without someone even touching you. Numbers 11:16-17 recounts *“So the Lord said to Moses: “Gather to Me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tabernacle of meeting, that they may stand there with you. Then I will come down and talk with you there. **I will take of the Spirit that is upon you and will put the same upon them;** and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, that you may not bear it yourself alone.”* That happened - they started prophesying and were filled with the Spirit - the whole thing!

A few other points about impartation:

- **Children Qualify** Matthew 19:13 *“Then little children were brought to Him that He might put His hands on them and pray ...”*
- **God decides the level of impartation** ... The impartation is from God, it is not from the person. I don't totally understand that. In some way I can only impart what I have, but I also know God can supersede what I have. In Acts 9:17-20 we see that Ananias came and laid hands on Paul and scales fell from Paul's eyes. In Greek, Ananias means “grace.” Grace laid hands on Paul and scales fell from his eyes because you cannot see correctly in God's economy until you understand grace. Paul was blinded because of his self-righteousness, but he started to see and have revelation when he encountered grace. Now listen ... what else do you know about Ananias? Nothing! What do you know about Paul? One of the greatest ministers of all time. The impartation came from Ananias but it was greater because God had something greater for Paul! When someone prays impartation for you, the goal is that you would supersede them in some areas - particularly the areas that you are called to.
- **God gives us what He knows we are ready for** ... new wine is for new wine skins. He is not in to bursting things.
- **Recognize two schools of thought** ... and KNOW it is “BOTH / AND” not “EITHER / OR”
 - One school of thought says that everything in the kingdom is by faith, so if you know what His Word is, you just receive it by faith. That's 100% right.
 - The other school of thought is that it is by impartation. You will hear someone say “that person is “anointed” for healing; they have healing in their hands; Bill Johnson prayed impartation for them.” That is right too! Both are right. “Both/and” not “either/or.” Recognizing the two schools of thought is very helpful. They don't need to mesh ... they are just “both/and.”

- The weakness of the impartation school of thought by itself is that you will tend to think you need to feel something in order to be anointed ... NOT TRUE. God's promises aren't made void because you don't have tingling in your hands.
- The weakness of the "faith school" can be that you miss out on impartation! Impartation is something like receiving an inheritance for free. Impartation is so strong that Jacob supplanted Esau. If you think "I am a son or daughter of God; I've already got it" ... it wasn't by birthright there! It was about who put on the sneaky clothing so they could trick their father who was blind, into praying for him. After Isaac had prayed with faith for Jacob, Esau came in and said "don't you have anything left for me?" Isaac replied "I already gave the blessing to Jacob and you will be serving him." Wow! Isaac knew he had released an impartation of blessing to Jacob. Impartation is like receiving an inheritance for free - so why not?
- *It's always freely RECEIVED / GIVEN!* (Remember Acts 8:14-24 ... Simon the Sorcerer? The impartation he was observing was so powerful that the sorcerer was asking to PAY for the ability to impart it!)

Impartation Testimony

About a month ago Ryan and Amber received a prayer impartation. Amber said she has seen prayer work before but she has never felt a physical manifestation of prayer like that before. As Amber was receiving prayer, she opened her eyes and realized she was falling over and Ryan was holding her up. She didn't even realize she was moving - she knew God had done something.

Just two days later, Ryan and Amber were talking and Amber knew the answer to something that had been bugging him since college - she had a word of wisdom! God showed her what the issue was - behind the scenes! Immediately Ryan says "you are reading my mail. How could you have possibly known that? This makes so much more sense now. Praise God!" Amber thought "more God!"

Two Sundays ago Amber was in line in prayer from Brenda and Amber felt the Holy Spirit so strongly (just standing next to the person receiving prayer) that she almost was going to fall over again! Then after church Amber prayed for Lois - who then flew 7 flights without fear! Amber had asked Lois for her phone number because she anticipated Lois having been set free and wanting to send a message to her to say so. Sure enough the text came and Amber was visibly excited to receive it. Someone seeing her excitement asked about it. Amber shared the general testimony and then that person wanted prayer too! That person was then healed of a cough he had all day!

Later, after Lois had left, Amber prayed for another person as well. That person started receiving prayer and Amber realized “oh they are falling over” and Anna and her caught her. Amber thought “oh my God is this even real!?” She said “impartation is real - you want this!”

Ryan also received powerful impartation about a month ago. When he got saved here at Agathos about 4 years ago he realized that he didn't understand most of what was being taught. He purposed to read the entire Bible and did so - cover to cover - in 9 months. Ryan said he was “very studious, but not very powerful.” Over the last few years, life was getting in the way a bit, but when he received impartation, he got lit on fire again!

The Lord recently asked Ryan “how full is your plate? How much time do you really spend before me quietly?” In the last week, probably 5 days in a row God has come to visit Ryan such that he really felt a strong presence - and as a result has had a lot of different experiences of words of knowledge and got to pray for someone's shoulder that experienced improvement. Ryan said “(we've been) experiencing a lot of great things and it (the impartation) is real if you've never actually experienced it.”

Thanks both to Ryan and Amber for sharing! Impartation doesn't have anything to do with us! God is saying “if you'd just get out of the way, I'd come!”

We Need Touched!

Adam and Eve received the first impartation ever. God spoke the animals into existence but He did something different with Adam and Eve. Genesis 2:7 says *“And the Lord God **formed** man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.”* The Hebrew for “formed” is to “mold into a form - especially as a potter.” God used His hands with man!

This is not a teaching - I am speaking to you prophetically. The Lord formed man as a potter. He laid His hands on man. God did not just speak to man. He laid His hands on man! Far be it from me to just speak to you all.

I then saw the word “dust” and I said “God what are you saying about dust?” Matthew 3:9 came to mind *“do not think to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.”*

I started asking God “is that related to Adam and Eve being formed? What does it mean?” John the Baptist was talking to the Pharisees and was telling them “Abraham had been touched by God. Abraham had encountered God. Do not presume to say that you have Abraham as your father, because Abraham had encountered the Lord, but you (speaking to the Pharisees) have not.”

God (speaking through John the Baptist) said “I don’t need awesome starting material - stones will do.” Man was formed out of the dust of the earth (the stones). God got His hands on it and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life - and so man was made in God’s image!

God is saying “until you’ve been touched by Me, you will not see your destiny!” It’s enough to just hear My words. Until you’ve been touched by Me you will not see your destiny. It’s enough to just hear My words. Until you’ve been touched by Me you will not see your destiny.

God can raise up children for Abraham from the stones. God can raise up ANYONE that He can touch! He can raise up ANYONE that He can touch! He does not just want to talk to you - He wants to touch you! He wants you to encounter Him! He does not just want to talk to you - He wants you to encounter Him! He wants to touch you.

This is beyond our intellect. He wants to activate HIS FIRE.

John declared Jesus would baptize in the Holy Spirit and in Fire. (Mt. 3:11) Some say today “that was just the fire of judgment that will come that John was talking about.” No! Acts 2 clearly displays tongues of FIRE! It’s part of being baptized in the Holy Spirit, but what’s the fire?

Fire falls on sacrifice! Romans 12:1 says we should present ourselves a living sacrifice. Fire falls on sacrifice! Fire falls on sacrifice!

Peter had his own zeal and denied the Lord 3 times before the rooster crowed twice. The fire fell on Peter and he comes out of hiding and preaches to thousands of people from whom he had previously been hiding! Fire falls on sacrifice. Fire consumes the sacrifice. Fire causes you to do what you would never do without the fire!

Todd White has shared a testimony in which he was at a Randy Clark event. Randy was teaching on healing and Todd couldn’t think of anything but the fire of God. Todd began to get hot and sweat - burning inside. Randy stops the message, points out Todd, and says “son, stand up ... you’ve been asking God for the baptism of fire haven’t you?” Todd crumples straight to the ground and start screaming. People think he is getting delivered but he had already been delivered. Todd is screaming on the ground because he is on fire. He thinks he is going to die and when he thinks that Randy says front the stage “son, don’t be afraid, you won’t die.” Todd said he has never been the same since being electrocuted there by the fire of God.

I have been having these encounters with God and at the last worship night I started singing “I’ve made up my mind, I’m turning back. I’ve made up my mind, more of you at any cost!” That’s the cry of my heart! “More of you at any cost!” That’s the baptism of fire that produces that. I’ve told Megan “I’ve got two more gears in worship I’ve never had in my gear box that I have never had.” It is not out of self effort - it is because I have encountered His love in a way that I never have. I knew His

love but now I have been TOUCHED by His love! I am saying that is what God is wanting to do now!

It is not enough to know what He says, you've got to be touched by Him! He will raise up whoever He can touch! But I will tell you what - our pride will get in the way of getting touched and one of the fruit of the spirit is not dignity! Dignity is not a fruit of the Spirit. He just wants to be able to touch you! He says "will you let me love you? Will you let me touch you?" God wants to touch you today!

Jesus told us to be a lamp on top of a stand! We are supposed to be a lamp on a stand and they did NOT have incandescent bulbs! What was on top of that light? Fire!!!! Fire fire fire!

You may have been baptized in the Holy Spirit, but fire is supposed to come with it!

Ground Rules for Impartation

God is going to give you what He wants to give you! It could be the baptism of the Holy Spirit and of fire. It could be spiritual gifts. It could be a prophetic blessing over your life.

Don't ever try to fall. You don't need to resist falling either. We will have a spotter. Falling is not a goal. Amber leaning - who cares. Ryan learning - who cares. Set back on fire in the Lord at a higher level than ever before ... having encounters with the Lord that are new ... that is what we are after. Amber set on fire and seeing people set free of things - that's what we're after. Judge it by its fruit.

You never have to receive impartation. You can always be free to sit it out.

Points to Ponder and Act on . . .

- Describe the scriptural basis for impartation
- What is something that was a new-to-you revelation about impartation?
- What was encouraging about the testimonies of impartation?
- If you are hungry for it, who could you have pray impartation for you?