

our experience at the verification level in toward the inductive level. However, it is right and appropriate to share our experiences (such as speaking in tongues) as verification of a doctrine. According to the truth delivered in narrative form (in the book of Acts), speaking in tongues is normative Christianity.

4. Spiritual Gifts and Spiritual Warfare

- A. Spiritual Gifts are given to the believer to minister more effectively. The Father, the Son and the Spirit each give gifts (1 Cor 12:4-6).
1. The Holy Spirit gives Supernatural Gifts (1 Cor 12:7-11): word of knowledge, message of wisdom, faith, gifts of healing, miraculous powers, prophecy, discerning of spirits, speaking in tongues, interpreting tongues.
 - a. We are encouraged to desire and pursue the Gifts of the Spirit for the benefit of others (1 Cor 14:1).
 - b. The Gifts of the Spirit confirm God's Supernatural power and that He is at work (1 Cor 2:4-5).
 2. Jesus gives the Office Gifts (Eph 4:7-13): apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers.
 - a. Jesus calls certain individuals to lead the church and minister in the Office Gifts. Jesus calls a person to minister in this capacity and the church confirms that calling.
 - b. God uses each of the Office Gifts to build and equip the church. Some scholars believe that pastor and teacher are linked together, as pastor-teacher, so that there are four Office Gifts (not five).
 3. The Father gives the Functional Gifts (Rom 12:3-8): prophecy, serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leadership, mercy.
 - a. God the Father has created each of us with a unique personality. He has designed us to function in a certain way.

- a. Elders (*presbyteros* in Greek) in the church are to oversee God's "flock" and have the heart of a shepherd (1 Pet 5:1-4).
- b. Deacons are to serve and minister in the church. The Scriptures do not give a specific job description of a deacon, but it is possible that the early church viewed the men in Acts 6:1-6 as fulfilling the role of deacons.
3. Those that are called to lead the church must be spiritually mature. They must be individuals of character who are filled with the Spirit. Some in the Body of Christ believe that only men should be Elders and Deacons. Others believe that only men can be Elders, but women can be Deacons. A third group believes that women can fill the role of both Elders and Deacons.

7. Redemption, Sanctification and Spiritual Fruit

- A. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we have been bought back from the control of sin and Satan. We have been redeemed. Our relationship with God and our ability to live victoriously has been restored (Ps 103:1-5, Titus 2:11-14).
 1. Redemption is the process of bring back that which was lost. It is the idea of purchasing a slave with the intent of setting the person free. To redeem is to regain (Eph 1:7, 1 Pet 1:18-21).
 2. Adam and Eve were created to rule and to reign (Gen 1:27-28). Much of what God originally gave to Adam and Eve was lost in the Fall. It needed to be redeemed. Jesus Christ, the Second Adam, came to redeem that which the First Adam lost (Rm 5:17).
- B. Sanctification is the ongoing process of yielding to God's Word and His Spirit so that the development of Christ's character can be completed in us (1 Th 5:23). The word "sanctify" (*hagiazō* in Greek) means to set something apart for holy use. We have been sanctified (1 Cor 6:9-11) and we are in the process of being sanctified (Jn 17:13-19) for God's holy purposes (2 Tim 1:9, 2 Tim 2:20-21).

- C. God has called us to be spiritually productive and fruitful (Jn 15:8). Maturity in Christ and walking in the Spirit will produce genuine Spiritual Fruit. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness and self-control. These attributes are inherent to us as “born again” believers, but they need to be developed as we walk with the Lord and grow in our relationship with Christ (Gal 5:22-25). Simply said, the “fruit” of the Spirit needs to “grow” in our lives.

8. The Second Coming of Christ and the Final Judgment

- A. Jesus Christ will physically and visibly return to earth for the second time to establish His Kingdom (Acts 1:9-11, 1 Th 4:16). This will occur at a date undisclosed by the Scriptures (Mk 13:26, Mk 13:32-37).
- B. Everyone will stand before the judgment seat of God where they will receive eternal life or death. We refer to this as The Great Judgment or The Final Judgment (Rev 20:11-15). There are two judgments: the first one determines destination (heaven or hell), the second one determines rewards (2 Cor 5:10).
- C. The Bible describes some major events that take place around the Second Coming of Christ: The Great Tribulation- a period of intense, unprecedented suffering (Mk 13:17-20), The Antichrist- a leader who will embody evil and be Satan’s main instrument to resist God in the last days (1 Jn 2:18), The Rapture- the sudden departure of all Christians to heaven (1 Th 4:17), The Return of Christ to earth (Rev 19:11-16), The Millennium- the time that Christ reigns on earth (Rev 20:4-6), The New Heavens and The New Earth (Rev 21:1-4).
- D. There are significant current events that will indicate the soon Return of Christ: the re-emergence of Israel as a nation (Ezekiel, chapters 36-37), the invasion of Israel (Ezekiel, chapters 38-39), a dominant empire (Daniel, chapter 7), the rise of the Anti-Christ (Revelation, chapter 13), the rebuilding of the temple (Daniel, chapter 9).