
GIFTS WORTH GIVING

PART 2: THE GIFTS

What are Spiritual Gifts?

You have a gift worth giving – You have been given someone so very special

A Definition:

A spiritual gift is a divine capability entrusted to Christ followers for the purpose of strengthening the church.

The Purpose of Spiritual Gifts

The gift of the precious Holy Spirit releases gifts to His body – the church – to demonstrate that the kingdom has broken through into this present world.

(‘Spiritual Gifts’ by Ron Phillips p37)

In welcoming the gifts we are welcoming the third person of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit. The greatest gift given is the Holy Spirit.

The gifts of the Spirit make co-labouring with God possible to bring about His purposes in the world.

Good Stewards

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

Knowing about spiritual gifts will:

1. Help you to find your place in ministry.
2. Help you to determine your priorities.
3. Help to bring fulfilment.
4. Help discern God's will.

The Gift

The three main passages that people use to talk about spiritual gifts:

1 Corinthians 12

Paul's main talking point in this passage is about the "manifestation of the Spirit" during worship rather than "spiritual gifts" per se. God's gracious activity is manifesting itself through the individual for the benefit of others in some of these ways.

It's not an exhaustive list.

This is not so much a categorised list of spiritual gifts but instead they are gifts that the Spirit gives to the church.

Romans 12:6-8

Paul mentions a rich variety ministries or ways to serve, where the body can minister to the body.

Paul clearly is telling us to use what God has given you as God has apportioned it to you at this point (verse 3).

Paul's emphasis again is diversity and the way the body ministers to each other and to the world.

Ephesians 4:11

This again is not so much about a list of gifts (although they are), as it is about the gift of people who function in these ministries in these ways for the building up of the body so it can minister effectively.

Conclusion

THE GIFT is the Holy Spirit! The Spirit is the absolute essential key to life in Christ, everything is to be a Spirit activity. Everything we are and do is ultimately divinely Spirit given, Spirit directed, a Spirit gift.

Some of the gifts can be seen as given to an individual, as well being a gift to the church of a person operating in a ministry/serving in a certain way, and others are manifestations, a sign of God's supernatural ministering presence.

His gifts are diverse! We want to be a church that welcomes Holy Spirit and it starts with recognising we can't do without His empowering presence and a deep cry of our hearts to invite Him to have His way.

Steps to Finding Your Gifts

1. **Intimacy.** The key is not so much 'finding' your gift as staying close to God and allow Holy Spirit to work through you.
2. **Asking.** Begin to ask God to show you your gifts. God wants you to discover and implement the gifts He has given you, and this is a request you can make with confidence and expectation.

3. **Become Aware.** Read carefully the biblical teaching on spiritual gifts by studying Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12-14 and Ephesians 4. Sign up for the Engaging Course on 26 March. This course takes a close look at the gifts.
4. **Get Involved.** Discover your spiritual gifts by experimenting with several of the available gifts through serving.
5. **Practice.** Don't be premature in your personal evaluation, because ability increases with practice. Step out in faith in areas that will require you to use your spiritual gifts.
6. **Ask Others.** Spiritual gifts are best recognised by other members of the body. It has been said that desire may indicate it, ability will confirm it and blessing will accompany it.

Discussion Questions

1. Read each of the following passages: 1 Corinthians 12; Romans 12:6-8; Ephesians 4:11. Is there any context that stands out in all three passages?
2. How would you rate your stewardship of God's gifts according to 1 Peter 4:10?
3. Discuss the importance of unity and diversity when it comes to spiritual gifts.
4. Why do you think the emphasis should be on the Holy Spirit as the gift rather than specific gifting?
5. How can you take steps towards discovering your gifts?
6. Pray a fanning into flame of one another's gifts and invite the presence of the Holy Spirit to manifest Himself as you worship together.