

Spiritual Gifts

Discover Your Personal Gifts, Passion & Place!

Master Notes: (Session #1) The Spiritual Gifts Introduced

Spiritual Gifts are given to **All** believers at their **New** birth. See 2 Corinthians 5:17

A Spiritual Gift is the **Primary Means** by which the Holy Spirit can minister *through* the believer.

1 Cor. 12:7 says, “Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.”

We define a spiritual gift as a supernatural **Ability and Motivation** given by God.

These gifts are distributed by the **Holy Spirit** for the benefit of the body of Christ.

“These are the work of the *Spirit*, and he gives them to each one, just as *he* determines.” 1 Cor. 12:11

Chart of Spiritual Gifts (see handout)

Most Bible scholars see similar words as referring to the same gifts or associated roles and therefore agree on **19** Spiritual Gifts.

1 Cor. 12:4-6 says, “There are different kinds of GIFTS, but the same ***Spirit***. There are different kinds of SERVICE, but the same ***Lord***. There are different kinds of WORKING, but the same ***God*** works all of them in all men.”

Note the Trinity (in bold *italics*) at work in these gifts.

These spiritual gifts can be divided into three basic classifications:

Confirming (or Miraculous) Gifts

Enabling (or Catalyst) Gifts

Serving (or Team) Gifts

Keep in mind... every gift is “according to the **grace** given to us.” (Romans 12:6)

“So since we find ourselves fashioned in all these... marvelously functioning parts in Christ’s body, let us go ahead and be what we were made to be, without enviously or pridefully comparing ourselves with each other, or trying to be something we aren’t.” Romans 12:7-8 (The Message)

Point: There is NO place for pride or envy but only gratitude & responsibility.

The Enabling Gifts are given to **everyone** and we have the ability to increase the measure of these as we mature in Christ.

It is **OUR** responsibility to **know, use, and develop** our spiritual gift.

“Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do *not* want you to be *ignorant*.” 1 Corinthians 12:1

“Each one should *use* whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully *administering* God’s grace in its various forms.” 1 Peter 4:10

CONFIRMING, ENABLING, & SERVING GIFTS (see handout w/Bible passages)

REMEMBER: God can do anything He pleases and without our **permission**.

See: Isaiah 46:9-11 Point: God can dispense of or dispose of any of the spiritual gifts as He so chooses.

The Enabling gifts act like a catalyst. They help to speed up the **process** and increase the **effectiveness** of using the other (Team) gifts.

“We have different gifts...let him use it in *proportion* to his faith.” Rom. 12:6

The Serving (Team) Gifts will be the concentration of this class. They are ministry or **Service-oriented** gifts.

Some Final Thoughts (Review)

God gives **every** believer at least **one** spiritual gift at the time of the New Birth.

He does not give every **gift** to any believer.

It also seems that you receive this gift at the **time** of your salvation along with the Holy Spirit, the Enabler, who **enables** us to use those gifts effectively.

The Six Million Dollar Question!

How Do I Discover **MY** Spiritual Gift?

Examine the options by taking a Spiritual Gifts Inventory such as the *Uniquely You* Profile offered in this class.

Explore the possibilities by reviewing the various opportunities for ministry currently available in and outside of the church (last week meet the pastors/leaders).

Experiment with the gifts by not being afraid to jump in and try something. Do it on a trial basis for a limited time (1-3 months).

Evaluate your effectiveness by getting feedback from those who observe you or are the benefactors of your ministry.

Something to Consider...

Was there one or more of the spiritual gifts discussed today that was of particular interest to you? If so, which ones were they? (write down your interests)

Complete the ***Uniquely You*** Spiritual Gifts & Ministry Profile for next time!

Any questions about the questionnaires/profiles? Call Tom Kehn at 602.463-2202 or Barb Kehn at 602.301.6003

Master Notes: (Session #2) The Spiritual Gifts Explained

The Gift of Evangelism

Definition: An Evangelist is one who has the Spirit-given ability and desire to serve God by leading people beyond his or her natural sphere of influence, to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

- Greek word is euangelistes – means... **a messenger of good news.**
- Additional definition: “The ability to share the gospel with great ease, courage, and effectiveness.” Charles Swindoll

Bible Characters with this Gift?

- **Philip & Timothy** are clearly identified as evangelists in scripture.
- “Philip the evangelist...” (Acts 21:8)
- “Do the work of an evangelist.” (2 Tim. 4:5)

This gift in action: See: Acts 8:5-6,13 & 34-35 - “Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed Christ there....”

Remember...not everyone is called to be an evangelist, but all are called to share their faith.

- “Always be prepared to *give an answer* to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do it with gentleness and respect.” 1 Peter 3:15
- “I pray that you will be *active* in sharing your faith.” Philemon 6

Avoid...the danger of abusing this gift by...

- being overly zealous
- being too pushy
- others thinking you are more interested in numbers than in the people.

The Gift of Prophecy/Proclaiming

Definition: The Prophet is one who has the Spirit-given capacity and desire to serve God by proclaiming God's truth.

- Greek word is *prophetes* – means “to speak forth or...to shine forth.”
- “The Prophet is a **foreteller** (predicting truth) and/or a **forthteller** (proclaiming truth). ”
- Additional definition: “The ability to communicate an immediate message from God to his people...to declare God’s truth.” Peter Wagner

Bible Character with this Gift?

- **Agabus** is an example of a New Testament prophet.
- “During this time some *prophets* came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of them named Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit, *predicted* that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world.” Acts 11:27-28.
- Philip also had four daughters who had the gift of *prophecy* mentioned in Acts 21:8-9.

This Gift in Action:

- “As his custom was, Paul went into the synagogue and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving... this Jesus I am *proclaiming* to you is the Christ.” Acts 17:2-3
- “We *proclaim* him, admonishing and teaching everyone...struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.” Colossians 1:28-29

Remember... **All** believers are expected to proclaim God’s **truth** to an unbelieving, ignorant, and lost world.

- “We do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of god. On the contrary, by *setting forth the truth plainly...even* if our gospel is veiled. It is veiled to those who are perishing.” 2 Cor. 4:2-3

Avoid the danger of abusing this gift by...

- being a **quarreler** rather than a proclaimer.
- See: 2 Timothy 2:24-26 – “The Lord’s servant must not quarrel; instead he must be....”
- trying to **convict** rather than letting the Holy Spirit do the convicting.
- looking at the **negative** side of things only.

The Gift of Teaching

Definition: The one with the gift of teaching has the Spirit-given capacity and desire to serve God by sharing of the Word of God with accuracy and simplicity.

- Greek word is *didaskalos* – means **to give instruction, cause to learn.**
- Additional definition: “The ability to delineate carefully the word of God in detail with understanding, spiritual power and impact resulting in spiritual growth.” Bob Griffin

Bible Characters with this Gift?

- **Apollos & Ezra**
- “Ezra devoted himself to the *study* and *observance* of the law...and to *teaching* it decrees and laws to Israel.” Ezra 7:10
- “Ezra opened and...read from the book of the Law of God, *making it clear* and giving the meaning so that the people could *understand* what he read. Nehemiah 8:5-8

The gift in action: “A Jew named Apollos...was a learned man, with a thorough *knowledge* of the Scriptures. He... spoke with great fervor and *taught* about Jesus *accurately... proving* from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.” Acts 18:24-25, 28

Remember...each and every believer can and should **know** the scriptures well enough to be able to **instruct** others in God's word.

- "Let the word of Christ dwell richly in you as *you teach* and admonish one another with all wisdom." Col. 3:16

Avoid the danger of abusing this gift by...

- digging too **deep** into a passage and overwhelming others with too much information.
- judging others by the **amount** of Bible knowledge they have or show.
- expecting others to share the same level of **enthusiasm and excitement** about God's word as you do.

The Gift of Exhortation/Encouragement

Definition: The Exhorter is one who has the Spirit-given capacity and desire to serve God by **motivating others** to action by urging them to pursue a course of conduct.

- Greek word is *parakaleo* – means to call a person **to one's side, to admonish, exhort**
- Additional definition: "The ability to call to action and get people moving, to speak as to motivate or encourage." Bob Smith

Bible Character with the Gift? **Barnabas** called "son of encouragement"(Acts 4:36

The gift in action: "The church in Jerusalem... sent Barnabas to Antioch...he was glad and *encouraged* all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts." Acts 11:22-23

"They (Paul & Barnabas) returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, strengthening the disciples and *encouraging* them to remain true to the faith." Acts 14:21-22.

Remember....Scripture teaches that every believer has the **responsibility** to encourage each other on a **regular** basis.

- “See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But *encourage* one another *daily*, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.” Heb. 3:12-13

Avoid the danger of abusing this gift by...

- **Talking** too much (Acts 20:7-12)
- Being too **direct or harsh** with others.
- “Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him *gently*.” Galatians 6:1

The Gift of Pastor/Shepherding

Definition: The Spirit-given ability and desire to **oversee** the training of and the caring for the needs of a **group** of believers.

- Greek word is *poimen* – means **one who guides, directs and protects the sheep (shepherd)**
- Additional definition: “The...pastor assumes responsibility for the spiritual welfare of a group of people. He or she feeds them, guides them and ministers to them as much as a Shepherd does.” Allen Odell

Bible Character with this Gift is... **Peter**

“Be *shepherds* of God's flock that is under your care, serving as *overseers*—not because you must, but because you are willing.” 1 Peter 5:2

The gift in action: “When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them...when they had *testified and proclaimed the word* of the Lord, Peter and John returned to Jerusalem, *preaching* the gospel in many Samaritan villages.” Acts 8:14-25

Remember:

- Although we may not be a paid pastor or elder (shepherd), we still have a **calling to lead** others into a closer walk with Christ.
- “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but *set an example* for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.”
1 Timothy 4:12

Avoid...The danger of abusing this gift by...

- trying to do **everything** by himself/herself.
- taking advantage of other’s **trust** for personal profit.

The Gift of Mercy

Definition: The Spirit-given ability and desire to serve God by identifying with and comforting those who are in distress.

- Greek word is *eleos* – means **to have compassion on, to pity, show grace**.
- Additional definition: “The special ability to feel genuine empathy and compassion for individuals who suffer...and to reflect Christ’s love to alleviate the suffering.” Peter Wagner

Bible Character with the Gift...**Onesiphorus**

“May the Lord show *mercy* to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often *refreshed* me.”
2 Timothy 1:16-17

This gift in action: “Each according to their ability, decided to *provide help* for the brothers living in Judea (during a severe famine).” Acts 11:29

Remember: All believers have a **mandate** from God to show mercy to others in their time of **need**.”

- “Religion that God our father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to *look after* orphans and widows in their *distress*.” James 1:27
- “Be *merciful* to those who doubt; snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show *mercy*.” Jude 22-23

Avoid...The danger of abusing this gift by...

- being **critical** of others who do not seem to share your same concern for others.
- being guided by one's **emotions** rather than logic and so easily taken advantage of or hurt by others.

The Gift of Serving/Ministry

Definition: The Spirit given ability and desire to serve God by providing **practical help** in both physical and spiritual matters.

- The Greek word is *diakonia* - means **to minister aid or service, attendant**
- Additional definition: The ability to assist and support others in practical ways, often behind the scenes, with great faithfulness." (Swindoll)

Bible Character with this Gift? **Epaphroditus**

"Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to *take care* of my needs." Phil. 2:25

The gift in action: "Widows were being overlooked in the daily *distribution* of food. So...in order to *wait* on tables. Brothers, choose...from among you." Acts 6:2-3

Remember: All believers are **commanded** to assist in meeting **others** needs and not just taking care of their own agendas.

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but with humility *consider others* better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests but also the *interests of others*." Philippians 2:3-4

Avoid...The danger of abusing this gift by...

- taking on too many **tasks/roles** and becoming overwhelmed.
- neglecting one's **family or job** while serving the church.

The Gift of Giving

Definition: The Spirit-given ability and desire to serve God by giving of his/her material time and resources, beyond tithes and offerings, to further the work of God.

- The Greek word is *metadidomi* – means **to give a share of, to impart, contribute.**
- **Additional definition:** “The spirit motivated capacity to minister to the material needs of others with unmixed motives and a single desire to glorify God.” Ray Steadman

Bible Character with this Gift? Tabitha/Dorcas

“In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha...Dorcas...who was *always* doing good and *helping* the poor.” Acts 9:36

This gift in action: “Barnabas...sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the Apostle’s feet.” Acts 4:36-37

Remember: All believers are expected to give of their time, energy, and material resources to carry on God’s work .

“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us *do good* to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.” Gal. 6:10

“Excel in this grace of *giving.*” 2 Cor. 8:7

Avoid...The danger of abusing this gift by...

- judging others’ spirituality by the amount of their giving.
- expecting everyone else to get as involved and give as much as he/she does.

The Gift of Administration/Leadership

Definition: The Spirit-given ability and desire to serve God by organizing, administrating, or leading the various affairs of the church.

The Greek word is *kubernesis* – means **to guide or steer** (idea of piloting a ship through stormy weather)

Additional definition: “The special ability to devise effective plans and execute them...to communicate goals to others so that they work together and accomplish them for the glory of God.” Peter Wagner

Bible Character with the Gift? **Nehemiah**

“We are in great distress. In view of all this, we are making a binding agreement, putting it in writing, and our *leaders*...and our priests are affixing our seals to it. Those who sealed it were: Nehemiah the *governor*...” Nehemiah 9:37-10:1

The gift in action: “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables...we will *turn this responsibility over* to them.” Acts 6:1-3

Remember: At times, you may seek out or find yourself in a **leadership role** regardless of whether you have the gift or not.

- “If anyone wants to provide leadership in the church, good. But there are preconditions. A leader must be well thought of...” 1 Timothy 3:1 *The Message*

Avoid...The danger of abusing this gift by...

- **expecting** too much of others.
- becoming too **proud** of his/her successes.

What’s New?

- Have you gained any *new* insight or *fresh* perspective on **YOUR** spiritual gift from this study? If so, share it with us!
- **See** and review the *Spiritual Gifts Descriptions* handout.

Master Notes: (Session #3) The Spiritual Gifts Applied

PASSION is an intense, driving feeling or conviction. It compels us to action. What drives you? Compels you?

We often have gifts that are related to our passions.

See: 1 Cor. 9:16 & 1 Timothy 3:1

Our Call to Serve

John 12:26 - "My father will... **honor the one who serves me.**"

Joshua 24:15 - "As for me and my household... **we will serve the Lord.**"

1 Peter 4:10 - "Each one should use whatever gift he has received... **to serve others.**"

What's Next?

Explore the opportunities to serve!

Express your willingness to serve!

Expect some growing pains & spurts! (Gal. 6:9-10)

A Word of Warning:

"*Without* a maturing spiritual character, our spiritual gifts are of *little value.*" See: 1 Cor. 13:1-3 & 2 Peter 1:5-8

Our Spiritual gift(s) must be combined with spiritual fruit !

Remember: Be a lifetime student of God's word and servant of God's kingdom!