



## An Introduction to Spiritual Gifts

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### **Lesson #1: An Introduction to the Gifts**

Can you remember a great gift you got when you were a kid? What was it? How did you react initially? How did you respond to that gift a year later?

Can you recall discovering a talent you had? How did you feel when you discovered that particular talent? How are you using that talent today? (You are using it, aren't you?)

Now, can you recall first discovering a spiritual gift?

Are you having a bit more trouble with that one? Many of us do. WHY? Could it be that we don't know what the spiritual gifts are? (Paul lists 16 of them in his letters.) Maybe we don't know what a spiritual gift is? Or maybe we just never examined ourselves that closely?

As we work through this spiritual gift course, we are going to look at spiritual gifts in the bible and in our lives. Short of preaching the Gospel itself, I think this is one of the most important lessons the bible has for us.

Why is that? I believe all Christians want to do God's will. But many of us have a hard time understanding what his particular will for US might be. We search for it, yearn for it, and struggle with it. By understanding what the spiritual gifts are, we can better understand what he wants us to do. We can know his purpose for our lives, and better serve him in our life, our work, and our personal ministry.

But before we learn what the gifts are, it is essential that we understand the source of the gifts. We need to know that the gifts have power and where that power comes from. And we need to know what the purpose of the gifts is.

Paul knew this. In Corinthians 12:1, he writes: *"Now concerning spiritual Gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be un-informed."* He wrote of them often: In Romans, In Corinthians, in Ephesians. He wrote of them in the body of his letters, where he generally put his most important doctrines. His message is clear - Spiritual Gifts are important to Christians.



So let's learn the basics...

Read 1st Corinthians 12:1-11

- \* What is the source of the gifts?
  
- \* Where does the power of the gifts come from?
  
- \* What is the purpose of the gifts? ( vs. 7 is part of it, but this is sort of a trick question, it's not all there, so read on.)

Read Ephesians 4:10-13

- \* What is the source of the gifts?
  
- \* Where does the power of the gifts come from?
  
- \* What is the purpose of the gifts?

Pay special attention to the purpose of these gifts. Purpose is important as we study and we will return to it in our last lesson. Now, let's make a list of the gifts themselves in lesson #2.



## **Lesson #2 - What Are the Gifts?**

Almost every Christian knows the term "spiritual gifts". Many of us know what the term means (gifts of the Holy Spirit). We may even know that Paul writes of them in several of his letters (Romans, 1st Corinthians and Ephesians). But what are the gifts exactly?

*In 1st Corinthians 12:1-11, Paul writes: "Now, to each one the manifestation of the spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same spirit, to another faith by the same spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another the ability to speak in different tongues and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same spirit and he gives them to each one, just as he determines."*

*In first Corinthians 12:28, he reasserts the same thing: "In the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different tongues."*

*Later, in Ephesians 4:11, Paul writes: "It was he who gave to some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists and teachers, to prepare God's people..."*

*In Romans 12:6-8, Paul writes: "We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophecy, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is giving, let him give; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully."*



So what are the Gifts of the spirit?: According to Paul, they are the gifts of the holy spirit and include...

Helping	Mercy
Giving	Healing
Teaching	Knowledge
Wisdom	Leadership
Prophecy	Discernment
Encouraging	Ministering
Faith	Evangelism
Apostleship	Miracles
Tongues	

Are there others? Most likely (who among us is going to try and limit what God can do?), but these are the spiritual gifts mentioned directly by Paul in the New Testament, and are the gifts we focus on in these lessons.

Soon we will begin looking at the gifts one by one. But before we do, let's take a quick look at what gifts we think we might have by taking a quick self examination in lesson #3.



**Lesson #3 - A Self Evaluation**

Do the following self evaluation before you go any further in our mini-study of spiritual gifts.

Simply look at each gift and rate yourself based on what you know about the gifts at this point. We will do this again at the end of the series after you have studied more. A "1" means the gift is weak, and a "10" means the gift is strong. Sign and date the sheet.

When you are done with our course, We'll do this sheet again, and see what has changed.

HELPING 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

PROPHECY 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

MERCY 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

DISCERNMENT 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

GIVING 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

EXHORTATION\* 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

HEALING 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

MINISTERING\*\* 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

TEACHING 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

FAITH 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

KNOWLEDGE 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

EVANGELISM\*\*\* 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

WISDOM 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

LEADERSHIP 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

APOSTLESHIP 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Also called encouragement by some translations

\*\* Also called pastoring in some translations

\*\*\* Also called preaching in some translations

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#### **Lesson #4: The Gift of Helping**

Begin by giving your definition of helping...

The dictionary's definition (Oxford American Dictionary) is...

- \* To do part of another person's work for them.
- \* To make it easier for a person to do something
- \* To do something for a person in need

Most people have experienced help from another in their lives. What are some examples of help you have experienced?

Can you think of any helpers in the bible? Who were they? Some that come to mind are Caleb, who was so helpful to Moses and Joshua both. Or the disciple Andrew, who always seemed to be bringing people together at just the right time. Or Barnabus, without whom, Paul might have been scorned and rejected by the other apostles.

Do you think help is undervalued by others? Somehow we always refer to helping as "just helping". It is not high profile. It rarely gets attention unless something is not getting done.

So it is often undervalued by many people. Worst of all, it is undervalued by those who have it.

But Paul did not undervalue it. And God valued it enough that he made it one of a select group of specific gifts and set people apart to serve, and to help by giving them this gift.



Try the following questionnaire. A "1" means the indicator is rarely in your life. A "5" means the indicator is strong in your life.

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 1 2 3 4 5 | I take action to meet physical and practical needs instead of merely thinking, talking and planning to help. |
| 1 2 3 4 5 | I am quick to see and recognize valid needs of other people.   |
| 1 2 3 4 5 | I am oriented towards the practical rather than the emotional needs.   |
| 1 2 3 4 5 | I would rather do the helping task than to get someone else to perform the service.                          |
| 1 2 3 4 5 | I make an effort to help without being asked.  |
| 1 2 3 4 5 | I have a continuing desire to help, even when the one helped gives an ungrateful response.                   |
| 1 2 3 4 5 | I often have a greater concern for the well-being of others than for myself.                                 |
| 1 2 3 4 5 | I am just as happy doing the less-recognized service as the high-profile service.                            |

Now look at the list. Are there a lot of fours and fives? If so, you may have the gift of Helping.

Notice that there are aspects to the gift that go beyond the action. All of us are called to help from time to time. But some people get a particular happiness from helping. Some of us have a joyful attitude about helping. And some of us have the knack of knowing just what kinds of help is needed. These people are often the ones we say have the spiritual gift of helping, something far beyond duty.

Does the questionnaire make you re-think helping. Do you realize the value of helping more than before? Look around your class, or among your friends. Who has this gift? Make a list here.

Let them know that you recognize the gift of helping in their lives. Helpers often undervalue their gift, and need encouragement to continue do God's

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work. Your kind words may be just what they need to be re-energized.

### The Value of the Gift of Helping

\* Why do you think God gave us the Gift of Helping? (Remember his purposes for the gifts!)

\* What is our responsibility if we have it?

- How can you develop the gift (if you have it)?

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### **Lesson #5: The Gift of Mercy**

How would you define Mercy? Write your own definition below..

The Oxford American Dictionary defines it as "refraining from inflicting punishment or pain on an offender, or someone in your power." The Oxford English Dictionary defines it as " Forbearance & compassion on one who is in his power and who has no claim to his kindness; a disposition to show compassion or forgiveness. Strong's Bible dictionary lays it out this way: " God's forbearance towards his creatures and forgiveness for their sins.

There are many examples of mercy in the bible such as this parable.

*Luke 10:30-37 (NIV) In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."*

Jesus forgave the very people who had persecuted him. And after his death and resurrection,



Jesus once told this parable about mercy

Matthew 18:23-34 (NIV) *"Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. "The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. "But when that servant went out, he found one of his*

*fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened. "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.*

Don't forget that Paul and Peter were two recipients of God's mercy. So are we. In all of these examples, there was someone in a position of power, who could make a decision about how a person might be treated. Perhaps the person in power had the right to punish or harm the other, but a decision was made to treat the weaker person kindly, with mercy.

This is, after all, how we were treated. Jesus' mercy, and his proclamation of mercy to sinners, was a core part of his ministry:

Matthew 9:10-12 (NIV) *While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?" On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.*

The people who sin (wrong) against us or God need mercy, not the nice people who never bother us. And it is hard for many of us to treat those people with mercy and forgiveness. We know we are supposed to, and we may do the right things, but it is hard, and all too often we fail.

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But a few have the gift of mercy, that gift that flows naturally, that allows them to forgive and be gracious, even to those who have harmed them.

How important is mercy? Why do you feel that way?

Listen to the scriptures....

Matthew 9:13 (NIV) *But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."*

Matthew 12:1 (NIV) *At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick some heads of grain and eat them. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, "Look! Your disciples are doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath." He answered, "Haven't you read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? He entered the house of God, and he and his companions ate the consecrated bread--which was not lawful for them to do, but only for the priests. Or haven't you read in the Law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple desecrate the day and yet are innocent? I tell you that one greater than the temple is here. If you had known what these words mean, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the innocent.*

What could this mean?

We are not to judge, that is God's job. We are not to make sacrifices of the offending person. That too is God's job. We ARE to show as much mercy as we can.

Matthew 23:23 (NIV) *"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices--mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law--justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.*

Jesus placed Mercy higher than the man-made "laws" and rules of the Jewish faith. All are called on to be merciful, but for some, it comes easier. For some, the forgiveness of others come easier, and those are the people who have the Gift of Mercy

Why do we call mercy a GIFT?

Obviously we do it because Paul lists it, but also because for many of us, it is hard to do. But for a few, the spiritually gifted, mercy comes naturally, like the gift it is.

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How do we use the gift of mercy if we have it? How can we use it to accomplish what God would have us do? Do you remember why Paul said we were given Spiritual Gifts and how we were to put them to use? Then read this scripture.

*1 Timothy 1:13-15 (NIV) Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners--of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life.*

Mercy shown to a person can be what makes them finally look up to God, who makes them realize that God is merciful, that he loves us. Mercy and kindness can draw a soul back to God in a way rules and laws cannot. It gets people's attention in the deepest part of their hearts.

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## THE GIFT OF MERCY IN OUR LIVES

Once again, **THIS IS NOT A TEST**. This is strictly a tool to help you discover if you have the gift of mercy in your life. The following questions are indicators of the gift of mercy in your life. A score of one means this is rare in your life. A score of five means this is common.

- 1 2 3 4 5 You are sensitive to the needs of others, even those who do not tell you what is happening in their lives.
- 1 2 3 4 5 You find it easy to forgive, even those who hurt you or those you care about. (remember, forgiving is not the same as forgetting)
- 1 2 3 4 5 You tend to be able to see and understand other people's points of view and feelings.
- 1 2 3 4 5 Even when you have the opportunity to hurt a person (who may deserve it), you go out of the way to avoid doing so.
- 1 2 3 4 5 You avoid talking about people who harm you or others.
- 1 2 3 4 5 When you talk to a person who has hurt or offended you, you tend to speak to them in a conciliatory manner rather than in a confrontational manner.
- 1 2 3 4 5 You find yourself wanting to help someone who offends you instead of wanting to "get even"



## **Lesson #6 - The Gift of Giving**

Giving needs no definition does it? Or does it? What does it mean to you?  
What do we give? Make a list

Traditionally, when we think of giving what do we think of? If you are like most people, you think of money. But Money is not all we give, is it? . What other sorts of things do we give? Make a list of those things.

When we think of God's gift(s) to us what do we think of? Make a list.

If you are like most people, money came pretty far down your last list. Typically people list, peace, strength, courage, faith, and a few list Jesus himself as a gift: ( John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life"). What God gives is most precious, and can serve as a reminder that giving involves much more than a check.

Who do we give to? Jesus had a few words for us on the subject...

Matthew 5:42 *"Give to the one who asks you..."*

Matthew 6:2 *"So when you give to the needy..."*

Matthew 11:28 *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."*

How should we give? It seems that attitude has a lot to do with the "right" way to give.

Matthew 10:8 *"Freely you have received, freely give."*

Matthew 6:2 *"So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by me. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full."*



Matthew 6:3 *"But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."*

1 Corinthians 13:3 (NIV) *"If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing."*

All of us are capable of giving, and indeed, are commanded to share what we have. But some seem to have a gift for it, and that attitude, that spirit of love, seems to be a key indicator of whether we do it as a duty, or have the gift of giving.

Is it ever wrong to give? Now there is a question we rarely look at. Look again at the scriptures.

Matthew 4:8 *"Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. "All this I will give you," he said, if you will bow down and worship me."*

Satan tried to give what was not his. And that would be wrong for us as well.

Matthew 7:6 *"Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, They may trample them under their feet and turn and tear you to pieces."*

Some people do not appreciate your gifts. Some people will not benefit from your giving. Some will turn your gifts against you. This scripture seems to denote some responsibility in our giving, a responsibility to know when our giving will make a difference. Otherwise, the giving is simply throwing money away.

Is it hard to give? It is for some

Matthew 19:20 *"All these I have kept," the young man said. "What do I still lack?" Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." When the young man heard this he went away sad, for he had great wealth. Then Jesus said to his disciples, "I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven."*

Jesus did not routinely ask those who followed his way to give up everything. But when the things of life become a barrier to following God's way, it is time to shed them. And for many it is hard to give back the gifts they have themselves been given. So, why do we give?

For some it is just their nature. For others it is a tough duty.

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For some it seems that we give because we have been given to.

Some give as a commandment as per Luke 6:38 - *"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."*

How do we know if we giving is our gift? Here are some indicators....

- \* If you have a desire to give generously...
- \* If you have a strong sense that possessions and talents are things to be shared rather than things to have...
- \* If giving brings as much (or more) joy than gaining or having....
- \* If you are able to sense just WHAT a person needs to be able to give them the right things.
- \* If you are happy to do without things in order to be able to help others (sacrificial giving)
- \* If it seems natural to give, rather than being something you have to work at....

...Then you probably have the spiritual gift of giving.

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## **Lesson #7: The Gift of Healing**

Many spiritual gifts thrive in both the Old and New Testament. Can you think of some? Prophecy comes to mind, as does miracles and certainly leadership.

But healing comes into it's own only in the New Testament. There are more instances of healing in Matthew than the entire OT. Why do you think that may be? Some believe it is because of how Jesus stressed love and compassion in his ministry, and healing is a compassionate gift.

When we think of healing what do we think of? Whether by modern medicine or miraculous healing, more than likely we think of the healing of physical illness, And certainly there are a host if instances of physical healing in the New Testament, such as these...

*Matthew 4:23 -24 " Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed, and he healed them."*

Jesus healed diseases of all sorts. Illnesses. Fevers. Lameness. Blindness. Leprosy. The list goes on and on. He healed them, letting God's power work through him and through the faith of those who were healed.

Do you believe in instances of "miracle healing" today? Stories abound, even today, of healing that defies the laws of science. And when we are confronted with such healing, we must ask ourselves how we tell a real miracle healing versus a fraud. This is not easy, but it may help to see how Jesus healed.

Look at these stories of Jesus and his healing. They are typical of him.

*Matthew 9:21-22 She said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed." Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, daughter," he said, "your faith has healed you." And the woman was healed from that moment.*

*Mark 6:2-5 When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. "Where did this man get these things?" they asked. "What's this wisdom that has been given him, that he even does miracles! Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. Jesus said to them, "Only in his hometown,*

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*among his relatives and in his own house is a prophet without honor." He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them.*

What do these stories say about the role of faith in healing? What does this say about the role of building faith as a part of healing? Clearly faith has a key role in healing, and in the gift of healing.

And Healing is a spiritual gift when done in the name of Christ...

*Acts 9:32-34 (NIV) As Peter traveled about the country, he went to visit the saints in Lydda. There he found a man named Aeneas, a paralytic who had been bedridden for eight years. "Aeneas," Peter said to him, "Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and take care of your mat." Immediately Aeneas got up.*

Beyond the physical, what other forms does healing take? Emotional. Mental. Even Spiritual healing is often needed. And there are people who have an uncommon ability to heal people suffering. They listen. They care and show that caring. They may even be particularly effective in referring people to just the right help they need. This special form of discernment may well be part of the gift of healing. Even Jesus let others sometimes be part of healing. For instance, look at the following story from Luke...

*Luke 17:12-14 (NIV) As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!" When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed.*

Jesus knew that his physical healing was only part of the healing these men needed. They had been isolated from their families and from their faith by this sickness that made them spiritually unclean. In their own minds, only a priest could make them clean and acceptable to God and to Man. Jesus could and did cleanse them completely, but their spirits needed the priest and Jesus did not hesitate to send them to the place where healing could best take place.

There is another aspect of healing you may not have thought of: the healing of relationships.

*Revelation 22:2 (NIV) ...down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.*

So healing may be of something physical, or it may be spiritual, mental or emotional. It may even involve the healing of relationships. And some people have an ability to heal

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that goes beyond medical science, self-help books, or any natural law.

It may be that you have the gift of healing, even if you haven't performed any miracles lately. How can we recognize our gift(s) of healing? Ask yourself some questions.

Are you...

- \* ...concerned about AND sensitive to those who suffer physical, mental, emotional or even spiritual anguish?
- \* ... able to believe that God wants to, and is able to heal.
- \* ...eager to be the instrument of the healing?
- \* ...Do you see yourself as the instrument, not the doctor?
- \* ...Do you have the faith to ask for healing?
- \* ...Do people turn to you to heal their spirits, hearts and relationships.

... If so, you may well have the gift of healing.

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### **Lesson 8 - Knowledge and Wisdom**

Normally I would ask you for a definition of Knowledge & Wisdom. But I won't, not yet. We all recognize that there is a difference and we'll come back to it later in the lesson.

When do you go to people for advice? What sorts of situations do you need advice for?

For most of us there are two types of advice, 1) practical (knowledge related), and 2) internal (wisdom related, or concerning feelings or spiritual matters)

How important is that advice? Very. It gives us information on which we base actions and our actions tell the world what sort of Christians we are. And our actions influence others closer to, or further from God. Our actions influence our future, even beyond life as we know it.

Why do we choose the people we choose to give us advice? We choose them because we trust them.

- We trust their caring spirit
- We trust what they know
- We trust their insight
- We trust their confidentiality
- Perhaps we trust them not to judge

This is another reason knowledge and wisdom are so important

#### **Knowledge as a spiritual gift**

How can we call knowledge a spiritual gift? Isn't it just something we just pound in our brain?

Or do some gain it easier than others?

And do some retain it better than others?

Could there be some aspect of learning that goes beyond hard work, and could that be a spiritual gift?



Look at Paul's purpose for spiritual gifts, and figure out how we can best use them for the proper purposes.

Wisdom as a spiritual gift

How can we call wisdom a spiritual gift? Isn't it just something we just get with experience?

Or do some gain it easier than others?

And do some some seem to have it early on?

And do some seem to glean lessons from life the rest of us miss?

Look at Paul's purposes for spiritual gifts, and figure out how we can best use them for the proper purposes.

**Now** define Knowledge vs. Wisdom. And understand that each is important, and each is a gift from God.



## **Lesson #9: Teaching**

Anyone, with study and practice, can teach. There are tools and techniques to help anyone do a competent job teaching, but some people have the gift. That gift is sometimes hard to define. Is it method? Probably not, since good teachers may use widely different styles. So what is it.

To begin, we may want to take a look at Jesus, because he was the model teacher.

Jesus taught from personal knowledge. Jesus knew scripture and study, but his relationship with God was direct. The most spiritually gifted teachers will have a personal spirituality that is real, deep, and unmistakable.

Jesus used a variety of methods. Not everyone learns things the same way. Jesus knew this and so we see him lecturing, teaching, preaching, telling parables and teaching by example. At one point he even sends his disciples on a field trip!. Likewise, a gifted teacher knows that his students all learn differently, and will bring a variety of methods to his or her teaching.

Jesus was a genius at taking complex theological subjects and making them understandable. Likewise, a gifted teacher can do the same thing.

Jesus taught for the student. His was no canned curriculum. He knew his students, be they the disciples, the Pharisees, the rich young ruler, Nicodemus, or the woman at the well, all needed something different. He took the time to know his students and then gave them just what they needed.

Jesus loved his students. Don't dismiss the power of love to motivate and teach. Jesus didn't.

If you have the gift of teaching, you may or may not know it. But your students do. And so, if you are studying with a gifted teacher, make sure they know their gift.



### **Lesson #10: Leadership**

Name some leaders today you respect and are willing to follow. These may be in government, at church, at work, or even within your family.

What is it about them that makes you willing to follow them?

Do they all do things the same way? Then what sets them apart?

Are all leaders spiritual? No. Then is leadership a spiritual gift? I would assert that it is. Despite all we know about what it takes to be a good leader, there is an intangible quality that sets a gifted leader apart. They touch something in our spirit that make us willing to follow them, even anxious to follow them.

But we often misuse this gift, for it comes with a real temptation: Power. There is a real temptation to think it is ours, not a gift from God.

If we have this gift, we probably realize it. People come to you. People look to you for guidance, inspiration, direction and leadership.

Properly used, leadership is a powerful witnessing gift, use it well.



## **Lesson 11: The Miraculous Gifts**

Three of the most misunderstood gifts of all are Miracles, Prophecy and Tongues  
They are also among the most rare gifts

We sometimes get a distorted view of their frequency  
The Bible seems to be full of INCREDIBLE MIRACLES  
PROPHET AFTER PROPHET  
PEOPLE TALKING IN TONGUES (nt)

But we must remember...

- ...The Bible took place over thousands of years
  - \* sometimes hundreds of years separated events or people.
  - \* EXAMPLE: There had been over 500 hundred years between the last OT prophet and John the Baptist. Jews thought the era of the prophets were surely over until John the Baptist emerged.
  - \* writing was still rare, unlike today. Only the most unusual and important events and people were recorded.

Today we have an additional problem, Defining the gifts.

We have diluted the meaning.

- \* A miracle can be finding a twenty dollar bill in your coat pocket.
- \* We may call a person a prophet if they are merely observant, noticing people and trends well enough to predict a result.
- \* tongues have most of us bamboozed to the point that we don't discuss them.
- \* It's hard to believe that these are what Paul meant when he wrote about spiritual gifts.

Maybe we can develop a definition by example:

- \* Make a list of your your favorite miracles in the New Testament.
  - what happened?
  - who performed the miracle?
  - who was it performed on?
  - what were the circumstances?
  - how was faith involved?



Matt. 13:57-58 *And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "Only in his hometown and in his own house is a prophet without honor." And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.*

Galatians 3:5 (NIV) *Does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you believe what you heard?*

- what were the results?
- did the miracles make anyone mad or upset?
- how was the miracle-worker received after the fact?
- were there false miracle workers?

Think of some examples of Prophets - what did they prophecy?

Isaiah - attacks social injustice, wants us to have lives that reflect our faith.

Jerimiah - concerned with rewards and punishments for our lives.

Ezekial - emphasised tGod's hand in events

Daniel -told how the faithful could triumph over anything

Amos & Hosea - social injustice

Obediah - punishment to God's enemies

Micah - champion of pure worship of the Lord

Zephaniah - doom to those who deny the Lord

Zacheriah - second coming & a new temple

- what were the times like?
- do you think the prophets enjoyed thier roles?
- what part does faith play in prophecy?

Romans 12:6 (NIV) *We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith.*

- what were the results?
- did the prophets ever make anyone mad?
- were there false prophets?

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Let's look at some Examples of tongues

- When did it happen?

Acts 2:3-11 (NIV) *They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. Utterly amazed, they asked: "Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs--we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!"*

Acts 10:44 (NIV) *While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.*

Acts 19:5-6 (NIV) *On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.*

- Was it rare?
- What was accomplished by the tongues?
- did they ever upset anyone?

Do you see anything in common between these three?

Or maybe we need definitions by the book

Miracle: A remarkable and welcome event that is impossible to explain by means of the laws of nature, and are therefore attributed to a supernatural agency (God)

Prophet: A divinely inspired revealer of the truth.

Tongue: The ability to speak, or manner of speaking.  
(We may need the bible on this one.)

1 Corinthians 14:2-3 (NIV) *For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit. But*

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*everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort.*

*1 Corinthians 14:18 (NIV) I thank God that I speak in tongues, However, I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct and edify others than to speak to ten thousand in tongues.*

*1 Corinthians 14:21 (NIV) In the Law it is written: "Through men of strange tongues and through the lips of foreigners I will speak to this people, but even then they will not listen to me," says the Lord. Tongues, then, are a sign, not for believers but for unbelievers; prophecy, however, is for believers, not for unbelievers. So if the whole church comes together and everyone speaks in tongues, and some who do not understand or some unbelievers come in, will they not say that you are out of your mind?*

Are there rewards for these gifts? You might be surprised.

*Matthew 11:20-23 (NIV) Then Jesus began to denounce the cities in which most of his miracles had been performed, because they did not repent. "Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you, it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you. And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to the skies? No, you will go down to the depths. If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained to this day.*

*John 7:3-5 (NIV) Jesus' brothers said to him, "You ought to leave here and go to Judea, so that your disciples may see the miracles you do. No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world." For even his own brothers did not believe in him.*

### The rewards of Prophecy

*Matthew 13:57-58 (NIV) And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "Only in his hometown and in his own house is a prophet without honor." And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.*

*Matthew 23:29-31, 34 (NIV) "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You build tombs for the prophets and decorate the graves of the righteous. And you say, 'If we had lived in the days of our forefathers, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.' So you testify against yourselves that you are the descendants of those who murdered the prophets. Therefore I am sending you*

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*prophets and wise men and teachers. Some of them you will kill and crucify; others you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town.*

*Acts 7:52 (NIV) Was there ever a prophet your fathers did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him--*

The rewards of Tongues  
*say that you are out of your mind?*

We are often skeptics, is that good or bad?

Not all bad

*2 Peter 2:1 (NIV) But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them--bringing swift destruction on themselves.*

*1 John 4:1 (NIV) Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.*

What can we do to test the things we hear and see?

*John 10:25 (NIV) Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The miracles I do in my Father's name speak for me,*

\* listen to their actions, not their words

*1 Corinthians 13:2 (NIV) If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.*

\* Look for love. If they re inspired by the holy spirit,  
the things they do will be inspired by love.

\* Do we run a risk of dismissing true miracles, etc.? We do. But if we are dilligent, and test the miracles and prophets among us, we may find that these miraculous gifts, though rare, are still with us today

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### **Lesson 12: The Gift of Discernment**

The dictionary defines Discernment as being to be able to distinguish between things, or to be able to make out things over a long distance, or to be able to make out separate elements of a thing or concept

The Bible talks about discernment too. The bible not only lists discernment as a spiritual gift, but it talks about discernment throughout, in Old and New Testaments alike. Here are some instances where it mentions discernment.

Genesis 41:33 (NIV) *"And now let Pharaoh look for a discerning and wise man and put him in charge of the land of Egypt."*

Any idea what this might be about? Joseph has just explained Pharaoh's dream. Dreams are perhaps the most illusive thing to discern. Some are just the imagination gone amok, a few may be prophetic, and even fewer may be visions.

Pharaoh's reaction? - Genesis 41:39 *Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. "*

Here's another example...

1 Kings 3:9 (NIV) *So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?"*

Any idea what this might be about? It is King Solomon's request of God. He was given his choice of gifts, and he asked for discernment. And how did God react?

1 Kings 3:10-12 (NIV) *The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. So God said to him, "Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be.*

Job 6:30 (NIV) *Is there any wickedness on my lips? Can my mouth not discern malice?*

What's going on here?



Job is having a hard time here (understatement), and others are urging him to curse God. Yet he knows that his inflections are not caused by God, for Job had discernment.

The Proverbs tell us much about Discernment

Proverbs 3:21 (NIV) *My son, preserve sound judgment and discernment, do not let them out of your sight;*

Proverbs 10:13 (NIV) *Wisdom is found on the lips of the discerning, but a rod is for the back of him who lacks judgment.*

Perhaps judgement is another word for discernment. Why do you think he says a rod is for him who lacks judgement? Because bad judgement leads to bad decisions and we suffer from bad decisions

Proverbs 14:6 (NIV) *The mocker seeks wisdom and finds none, but knowledge comes easily to the discerning.*

Some people struggle to know right from wrong, while others just seem to "know". This is a gift.

What do you think you can do to prepare yourself to have discernment?

Proverbs 16:21 (NIV) *The wise in heart are called discerning, and pleasant words promote instruction.*

Discernment is a special kind of wisdom. What separates it from the garden variety of wisdom, and why do you think Paul, and others, set it apart? It focuses on knowing God; his will, his right and wrong, and his directions. It comes from the heart, not the mind.

Proverbs 17:24 (NIV) *A discerning man keeps wisdom in view, but a fool's eyes wander to the ends of the earth.*

Discernment keeps wisdom in view - we have to STAY focused on God to have discernment. If we do not, we will lose this gift.

Proverbs 17:28 (NIV) *Even a fool is thought wise if he keeps silent, and discerning if he holds his tongue.*

Beware the person who always claims to speak for God. The unwise, and the foolish (and

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sometimes even the evil) will talk more than they know.

Proverbs 19:25 (NIV) *Flog a mocker, and the simple will learn prudence; rebuke a discerning man, and he will gain knowledge.*

A discerning person understands that they too have a lot to learn, and do learn.

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### **Lesson #13: Encouragement**

Paul obviously felt encouragement (exhortation in some translations) was important - He listed it as one of the 16 spiritual gifts

Romans 12:8 (NIV) *If it (his gift) is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.*

Paul valued and used encouragers. He sent several people to various churches primarily to encourage. He sent Barnabus to Jerusalem for the same reason. And he sent Tychus to the Ephesians & Corinthians.

There were encouragers in the Old Testament as well.

Joshua encouraged Moses, as did Moses' father in law. Caleb, in turn encouraged Joshua.

The word is not used about Jesus, but did he ever encourage?

Absolutely. Early in his ministry Jesus encouraged disciples to preach and perform miracles in his name. He often encouraged those he forgave, and those who had faith. He often encouraged the lowly, poor and despised

After his resurrection, he encouraged Peter to rise above his denial of Christ the night of Jesus' trial.

What is encouraging/Exhortation?

If you begin with dictionary definitions you will read that encouraging has changed a little over the ages. In the 1500's it meant "to inspire with courage." In the 1500's it mean "to inspire with courage sufficient for any undertaking, to embolden." By the 1600s, it had also come to mean "to stimulate a person or a person's efforts by approval, reward or assistance."

How have you been encouraged through your life? Think back not just on who encouraged you, but what they did that provided you with encouragement. Make a list of their actions.

If encouragement is one of your gifts, these actions probably come easily to you.

If encouragement is one of your gifts, you probably have a knack for knowing what will encourage certain people.

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If you are an encourager, you probably encourage people often, almost as a second nature.

So, if you are an encourager, how can you put this to work spiritually?

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### **Lesson #14: Evangelism and Ministry**

Ministry and Evangelism are often confused with each other. Quickly go write and give your own definitions of Ministry & Evangelism:

Now read the definitions of Minister/Evangelism:

Minister (verb) to attend to people's needs; the rendering of any service to another. In a spiritual sense, the ability to build up, equip and guide Christians in spiritual growth.

Evangelism (noun) the preaching or spreading of the gospel; one who brings the Gospel to others.

Pretty different, aren't they?

Can you think of specific people from the bible who had the gift of Ministry or Evangelism? How did they use the gift? What needs did they meet?

Ministry - you might mention Jesus, Andrew and Barnabas

Evangelism - you might think of Jesus, John the Baptist and Paul

Look around your group of friends. Is there someone here who has the gift of ministry? Let them know that you see this gift in them and that you appreciate it's value.

Have there been specific instances when a person with the gift of Ministry or Evangelism has made a difference to you? How? Was it ministry, or evangelism?

For many people, the gift of Ministry has more to do with running a church or preaching sermons than the caring of an individual's needs. Is there anything we can do to change that view?

For some people, Evangelism has a bad connotation. Why is that? Is there anything we can do to change that view of evangelism?



### **Lesson #15: The Gift of Faith**

Faith may be one of the easiest gifts to define. The dictionary definition is a reliance or trust in something or someone.

Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5:7 (NIV) *We live by faith, not by sight.*

What do we have faith in? When we talk about trust in God, what are we trusting him to do, or what are we trusting him for?

We are trusting him with our physical needs.

*Matt 6:28-30 "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?"*

We trust him to heal.

*Matthew 8:6-10 "Lord," he said, "my servant lies at home paralyzed and in terrible suffering." Jesus said to him, "I will go and heal him." The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard this, he was astonished and said to those following him, "I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith."*

How does faith help us heal? It provides help in times of trouble.

*Matthew 8:24 Without warning, a furious storm came p on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!" He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.*

Note a few things. First, the disciples were in trouble beyond thier ability to save themselves. And while Jesus rebuked their faith, they DID show faith in going to him to be saved. Are we like then?



What happens to us when we have no faith, or loose faith? We loose the benefits of faith: Matthew 13:58 *And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.*

We may loose our ability to do good

Matthew 17:19-20 *Then the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked, "Why couldn't we drive it out?" He replied, "Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to his mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you. "*

All gifts are tested, is a test of faith harder than most tests?

Faith can rarely be used for evil, but it can be denied or manipulated

John 12:42 *Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not confess their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue;*

Acts 13:8 (NIV) *But Elymas the sorcerer (for that is what his name means) opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul from the faith.*

How important is faith? For most of us, it is vitally important.

How hard is it for us to gain faith? For some it comes naturally. For others it is a journey. And for others of us, it is a real struggle. The answer to that questions says a lot about whether or not is is our GIFT.

Questions you may ask to rate your faith:

- \* Is it easy to believe and trust that God can, will, and does intervene in history?
- \* Are you convinced that God is concerned about, and is active in the affairs of individual believers?
- \* Do you feel assured that any event can be turned to the glory of God?

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\* Do you find it easy to have faith even when things are going badly for you or those you care for?

\* Do you have a strong tendency to see God's hand in events around you?

\* Are you willing to accept what happens to you without always questioning why?

If your answer was yes to these questions, faith is probably a strong gift in you.

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### **Lesson 16: The Gift of Apostleship**

What difference would it make in your life if you actually got to spend time with the person of Jesus?

Would your faith be stronger? Would you feel more comfortable preaching/teaching? Would you be more passionate in your love for him? Of course it would. And many of us know such people. They are exceptional witnesses to the gospel simply because for them, Christ, and God are as real as the neighbor next door. That "realness" gives their lives and witness a real power.

This is an important for us to understand in our look at apostleship

What is an apostle? By definition, an apostle is one who has seen Jesus - strict definition

By this definition one could make the argument that there are no more apostles, for Jesus died on the cross 2,000 years ago.

But Paul experienced Jesus after the death and resurrection. He referred to himself as an apostle because he had a direct experience with Jesus. Jesus had a reality to Paul that others around him lacked, and that reality made him the powerful man of God he became. He was inspired by a living Christ, not a crucified Christ. And that made all the difference.

Are there people like that today?

There are. For, like in the case with Paul, our Christ remains a risen Christ. And many of us know people like who would qualify as apostles.

Are those people effective witnesses? Of course they are.

If you are one of those people, and only you can know the "realness" of Christ in your life, then you have this gift.

How can you put it to work? How will you?



### **The Final Lesson: Dangers of the Gifts**

It is our hope that these lessons have helped you discover some of your particular spiritual gifts. before you go any further with this lesson, go back and re-take the self evaluation to see if you have made any discoveries in your own life.

Over the past few lessons we looked at spiritual gifts. Short of preaching the Gospel itself, I think this is the most important lesson we can all learn. Most of us are looking for God's will for our lives. And one way to know what God expects of us is to look at the gifts he has bestowed on us.

It is good for us to know what our gifts are, but we must also be aware that these gifts bring both responsibility and dangers.

#### **Danger #1: We must use the gifts**

Remember the purposes of the gifts? From 1st Cor. 12: 7 *Now, to each one the manifestation of the spirit is given for the common good*

Ephesians 4:12-13 *...to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*

We must remember that the gifts were given to us for a purpose, and that we are to use them for that purpose.. Paul makes this abundantly clear.

Romans 12:6-8 *We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.*

#### **Danger #2: We must not misuse the gifts**

Paul is constantly warning churches about false prophets & false teachers and teachers, spiritual gifts that were misused.

Make a list of how you might possibly misuse each of the gifts. Do you see a pattern developing as to how gifts can be misused? More than likely you will see that gifts are misused when we use them primarily for our own gain, our own power, and our own glory, rather than focusing them at the purposes they were intended for.



Danger #3: We must not overrate OUR gifts (pride)

Paul uses the metaphor of the body to make this point.

1st Corinthians 12:14-20 *The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though its parts are many, they form one body. For we were all baptized by one spirit into one body, whether Jews or Greeks or slaves or free - and we were all given the one spirit to drink of.*

*Now the body is not made up of one part, but of many. If the foot should say, "because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not cease to become part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not cease to be a part of the body.*

*If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them just as he wanted them to be. If they were on part, where would the body be?*

*Where we would be if we all had one major gift, the same major gift? No matter how powerful that gift might be, the church would be a mess without a full compliment of gifts.*

The other implication is that we all have a place in the church (the body of Christ). We may not know where the other's place is, but it is there.

Danger #4: We must not under rate our gifts

This can be as big a danger as over rating them

1st Corinthians 12:21-22 *The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!". On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are INDISPENSABLE." The tendency is for us to say that our gift, particularly if it is one of the less spectacular gifts, is less important. Nothing could be further from the truth. Each of us was made to be a vital and important part of God's kingdom.*



Now, do the self evaluation from the beginning of this course again. Compare the two self evaluations, the one you took at the start of this course, and the one you took just a few minutes ago. Any changes?

This is the last lesson of our survey course on Spiritual Gifts. Our workshops and seminars are more in-depth, more fun, and more useful. If you are interested in learning more, have your own spiritual gifts success story to tell, or just want to write, visit our website or contact us at Summit Manor. We'd love to hear from you!

- Tom Atkins  
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