

DISCOVERING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT - Lesson 6

5.24.09

“Exploring the Serving Gifts” (1 Peter 4:10-11; 1 Cor. 12:8-10,28; Romans 12:6-8)

Personal Definition:

PP Slide #1

SPIRITUAL GIFT ✓ *A ministry characteristic of the Holy Spirit,
✓ which God has given me in special abundance,
✓ through which I can supernaturally serve the body of Christ, the church*

1 Peter 4:10-11 gives two primary categories for spiritual gifts: speaking and serving

1 Peter 4: 10-11 As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

The 16 Gifts Mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12 and Romans 12 put into 3 categories:

Speaking (5)

PP Slide #2

Prophecy, Teaching, Exhortation, Wisdom, Knowledge

Serving (7)

Faith, Discernment, Helps, Administration, Giving, Leading, Mercy

Sign (4)

Healing, Miracles, Tongues, Interpretation of Tongues

The 5 Speaking Gifts

PP Slide #3

PROPHECY	(proclaiming the Word)
KNOWLEDGE	(understanding the Word)
WISDOM	(applying the Word)
TEACHING	(explaining the Word)
EXHORTATION	(ministering the Word)

PP Slide #4

PROPHECY The supernatural enabling to **proclaim** God’s truth in a timely, winsome way

KNOWLEDGE The supernatural enabling to **understand** God’s truth so as to observe and share deep spiritual truths

WISDOM The supernatural enabling to **apply** God’s truth with practical application to behavior

TEACHING The supernatural enabling to **explain** God’s truth so as to pass it on to another

EXHORTATION The supernatural enabling to **minister** God’s truth to another to comfort, strengthen and challenge

The 7 Serving Gifts

PP Slide #5

LEADING	(guiding God's work)
ADMINISTRATION	(coordinating God's work)
FAITH	(believing God's work)
DISCERNMENT	(protecting God's work)
GIVING	(funding God's work)
MERCY	(personalizing God's work)
HELPS	(aiding God's work)

LEADING ("shepherding" = guiding others spiritually - Romans 12:8)

PP Slide #6

The supernatural enabling to guide, cast vision and motivate the body to harmoniously accomplish God's purposes

Needed: (1) **diligence** (Romans 12:8 "he who leads, with diligence") consistency
(2) **direction** - vision, motivation, guidance from God to others; confidence
(3) **decency** (1 Cor. 14:40 "let all things be done decently and in order")
humility, order, sensitivity

- People with this gift often focus on the greater goal of the group ("big picture") and tend not to be overly concerned with the details.
- Leaders delegate tasks and details to others to accomplish the greater goal.
- Leaders have followers - a visionary without followers is not a leader.
- Good leaders will model the values of the ministry
- Leaders take responsibility for the direction of the church
- Although this gift is rightly associated with pastors of the church, the gift of leadership is needed in many areas of church ministry

ADMINISTRATION (Gk: kubernesis = the steering of ship; from which we get "cybernetics" = the science of the brain relative to its governing of the body - 1 Cor. 12:28)

PP Slide #7

The supernatural enabling to coordinate the proper working of the body so as to accomplish its goals through planning, organizing and supervising

Titus 1:5 " For this reason I left you in Crete, that you might set in order what remains . . ." ("set in order" = Gk: "ortho" = orthopedic, as in the "setting" of bones in order)

- People with this gift are able to understand immediate and long term goals and able to devise and execute effective plans to accomplish them

- People with this gift are motivated to steer others to remain on task
- People with this gift are concerned with the details of how to accomplish tasks and good at delegating to others according to their strengths
- People with this gift tend to create order out of organizational chaos

FAITH (Intercession - 1 Cor. 12:9)

PP Slide #8

The supernatural enabling to believe God for great things, praying and acting with confidence in God's ability to accomplish His purposes

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

- People with this gift have an intensive ability to trust God and believe God in the face of obstacles. moving forward in confidence when others are hesitant
- People with this gift feel compelled to pray and are more comfortable than others in longer periods of intercession and praise
- People with this gift often scare others with their confidence
- People with this gift will experience a greater occurrence of specific answers to prayer
- People with this gift tend to have a greater awareness that prayer is genuinely a conversation with God and often find themselves talking to God
- People with this gift are often motivated to pray with confidence for situations when they are not entirely sure what they are praying for, believing that the Spirit of God is interceding on their behalf
- People with this gift will ask what is needed and trust God for His provision

DISCERNMENT ("... of Spirits" - 1 Cor. 12:10)

PP Slide #9

The supernatural enabling to protect God's work by being able to accurately distinguish truth from error and good from evil

John 4:1 "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God . . ."

- People with this gift can more easily sense the true motives of others and recognize distortion of truth or communication of error
- People with this gift can often recognize when Satan or evil spirits are at work in a person or situation
- People with this gift are defenders of the faith, particularly interested in exposing counterfeits of faith
- People with this gift have a heightened awareness of the presence of evil
- People with this gift have a strong desire to protect their church from error

GIVING (Gk: "metadidomi = "super giving" ; Romans 12:8)

The supernatural enabling to fund God's work by joyfully and generously contributing finances and resources

2 Corinthians 8:3 "For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, they gave of their own accord, begging us with much entreaty for the favor of participation in the support of the saints."

- People with this gift consistently support God's work with generous and sacrificial gifts
- People with this gift have an acute awareness that all they have belongs to God, they are merely stewards of their possessions and God will supply their needs
- People with this gift tend to manage their finances and limit their lifestyle so as to joyfully give as much of their resources as possible
- People with this gift don't give with "strings attached" or need for notice
- People with this gift have an especially high regard for the importance of the ministry of the local church and God's work in the world

MERCY

The supernatural enabling to personalize God's work by showing compassion and relieving suffering through practical actions that reflect the love of Jesus

Luke 15:33-34 "But a certain Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion, and came to him, and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him."

- People with this gift feel genuine empathy and compassion for individuals in distress and in difficult circumstance
- People with this gift translate their compassion into deeds which help meet the need and suffering
- People with this gift enjoy visiting and assisting those who are alone and cut off from society
- People with this gift feel a deep desire to help those who seem less fortunate than themselves and have a hard time understanding why others don't feel as they do
- People with this gift do well in ministries involving visiting hospitals, nursing homes, orphanages, prisons and shut-ins
- People with this gift make great ambassadors of the church as visible representatives of Jesus' love

HELPS

The supernatural enabling to aid God's work by cheerfully accomplishing practical tasks to meet the needs of the body and support the ministry of others

Romans 16:1-2 "I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea; that you receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and that you help her in whatever matter she may have need of you; for she herself has also been a helper of many, and of myself as well."

- People with this gift serve "behind the scenes" whenever needed to support the ministry of others
- People with this gift often identify the need and rise to meet it without needing to be asked
- People with this gift enjoy investing their time and energy in practical projects and menial tasks that serve the body of Christ
- People with this gift appreciate thanks, but don't need undo attention
- People with this gift usually prefer the privilege of doing the task themselves rather than have someone else do it for they receive great personal reward in serving
- People with this gift attach spiritual value to their ministry and find their "living sacrifice" in practical service

Final thoughts of application

Like a bouquet of flowers these are gifts which show the beauty and give off the fragrance of God's love in practical action

These gifts are like the primary colors of the rainbow, but many variations and combinations of color and gift are possible

These are 7 beautiful gifts that God has given to you, through others in the body for which He deserves our praise

These are the palate of ways that we can serve God's work through the church. All are available to us in some degree and some are especially strong in us, as assigned by the Holy Spirit

The 5 speaking gifts and the 7 serving gifts are the primary "spirituals" or characteristics of the Holy Spirit as revealed in the Bible – mostly in Jesus' teachings in the upper room about the coming "Paraklete"

"Paraklete" is a word picture – (1) bringing to one's side to help and (2) lifting up to encourage and exalt – truly, HELPER and COMFORTER