

Getting Our Hands Dirty

Spiritual Gifts Week 2

The Gifts of Romans 12

(Motivational Gifts)

Intro Humor:

'I hate butter milk'

A story is told of a young pastor fresh from seminary in his first church in the south. He wanted to include every age so he called on the oldest deacon to open in prayer.

The elder deacon started out, "Lord, I hate buttermilk!"

The young pastor opened one eye a little and looked at the elderly deacon. The young pastor was a little concerned where this prayer was going!

The deacon continued, "Lord, you know lard is not something that I enjoy. And Lord, I'm not real fond of flour by itself. But Lord, when you mix all those up in just the right quantities, and bake a little, it makes some delicious bisquits! And Lord, you know I love those bisquits! Lord, help us to see each other as You have made us, as You called us, and as You use us! Amen!"

The young pastor found a man who understood what gifts are all about!

Our goals are:

1. To seek a more intimate relationship with God
2. To glorify God
3. To understand spiritual gifts better
4. To better relate to our brothers and sisters in the Church
5. To strengthen the army of the Lord

Introduction

Many Christians today seem to be unaware of the gifts of the Spirit, or spiritual gifts. We struggle with what they are, who has them, how do we get them, what is their purpose and many other questions.

As we go through this study, here are some **hints** to make it more beneficial:

1. Do so prayerfully.
2. Search the scriptures.
3. Make notes in the margins of this text or your Bible.
4. Think about your past experiences serving God.
5. Discuss with others, who have been with you in ministry situations, to gain their insights into the possible nature of your gift.
6. Try to remember how you felt/ served during the past.

7. Consider your passions in life also. E.g. children, youth, adults, homeless, Your passion is different from your gift!

Some things we have learned (aka Review!)

1. No spectators!
 - a. Every believer has a gift at salvation
 - b. Every believer is commanded to use their gift
 - c. Every believer is to get their hands dirty
2. One Body!
 - a. We are all members of the same body
 - b. Every believer has a unique function
3. Gifts do not limit ministries!
 - a. When God call you to do a job outside your motivational gift, He will also give you a manifestation gift that will enable you to do the job!

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. NASU

What is a spiritual gift?

A **spiritual gift** is a God-given ability to **serve** God and other Christians in such a way that Christ is glorified

and believers are uplifted. Spiritual gifts are not for personal gain! Spiritual gifts are for the building up of the body of Christ.

What is the difference between a talent and a spiritual gift?

A **talent** is a natural ability to do certain activities. - Talents can be in-born and/or learned.
-Talents do not necessarily produce spiritual results
E.g. music, sports, math

A **spiritual gift** is given by the Holy Spirit as He desires.

- Gifts cannot be learned from zero
- Gifts produce spiritual results
- The Gifts you have can be developed spiritually

What is the difference between a gift, a ministry, and an effect?

1 Corinthians 12:4-6 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. NASU

We have already covered what a spiritual gift is.

A **ministry** is the act of serving others. A minister is one who serve others.

An **effect** is change that occurs when something is done or happens; an event, conditions, or state of affairs that is produced by a cause.

- God plans effects!

Can you see the interaction of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

Categories of gifts:

In the literature for spiritual gifts there are three major ways the gifts are categorized.

1. **No** categories. Each gift is seen as separate and not placed in any particular way.
2. Two Categories of **Speaking** gifts and **Serving** gifts. This is based on the passages following 1 Peter 4:10, 1 Peter 4:11-12
3. Two categories of **Motivational** gifts and **Manifestation** gift. This method is based on the text from Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12.
 - a. **Motivational** gifts are given by the Holy Spirit to individuals as He desires. They are seen as the basic motivation for how we live our Christian lives. They

are always present in our thinking and doing. These gifts are what motivates us!

- b. **Manifestation** gifts are used to minister specific needs in specific situations. As a general rule, we do not operate in these gifts continually but the Holy Spirit manifests the gifts when needed only. All believers can have the manifestation of these gifts at any time.

The difference? Motivational gifts are always at work, they are the way we interface with others, the way we see God, and even the way we serve! They are like the rhino horn in all of his paintings! Have you ever wondered why others are not working in the kitchen? Or why everyone doesn't enjoy hour long Bible studies each day?? It is because of our motivational gift! These are the gifts listed in Romans 12.

Manifestation gifts are for specific circumstances. These gifts are given for specific ministry needs by the Holy Spirit. These manifestation gifts are listed in I Corinthians 12.

Read Romans 12:1-8

Let's look at the gifts from Romans 12

- a. **Prophecy,**
- b. Service
- c. Teaching

- d. Exhortation
- e. Giving
- f. Leading (Administration, organization)
- g. Mercy

The Gift of Prophecy: Declares the will of God

Prophets give inspired delivery of warning, exhortation, instruction, judging, and make manifest the secrets of the heart.

Prophets are gifted to receive and communicate an immediate message of God to His people.

1. They speak the **truth**.
2. They proclaim the principles of **God**
3. They **cannot** be silent in the face of any lie or deceit, or tolerate an error against God's word or His nature.
4. They strongly want to see the church back on the right **track**
5. They speak **boldly** in the presence of injustice

As we search through scriptures, it is interesting to try to identify the spiritual gifts of Biblical characters! When we are able to see their 'giftedness', we are more able to understand the why of their actions. It adds to the character of the person. it is no longer just a story about an event but the revealing of the characters in the event!

When we recognize spiritual gifts in a person (or ourselves) it is easier to see why God chose that specific person for that specific task/ministry!

Peter is a good example of the gift of prophecy!

Let's look at some scriptures:

Acts 2:14-17 But Peter, **taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them:** "Men of Judea and all you who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give heed to my words. "For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only the third hour of the day; **but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel:** NASU

Acts 5:1-6 Now a man named Ananias, together with Sapphira his wife, sold a piece of property. He kept back for himself part of the proceeds with his wife's knowledge; he brought only part of it and placed it at the apostles' feet. **But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back for yourself part of the proceeds from the sale of the land?** Before it was sold, did it not belong to you? And when it was sold, was the money not at your disposal? How have you thought up this deed in your heart? **You have not lied to people but to God!"** When Ananias heard these words he collapsed and died, and great fear gripped all who heard about it.

Luke 5:4-9 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing! **But at your word** I will lower the nets." When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets started to tear. So they motioned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they were about to sink. **But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!"**

Acts 4:19-21 But Peter and John replied, "Whether it is right before God to obey you rather than God, you decide, **for it is impossible for us not to speak about what we have seen and heard.**"

Some other Biblical prophets are:

1. John the Baptist (Matthew 21:32; Luke 3:2-20, 7:18-29)
2. Anna (Luke 2:36-38)
3. Mary (Matthew 1-2, Mark 6:3, Luke 1:26-56)
4. Annias (Acts 9:10-17, 22:12-16)
5. Hosea (Hosea 1-14)
6. Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1-52)

7. Isaiah (Isaiah 1-66)
8. Jonah (Jonah 1-4)

A good memory verse for Prophets to respond to:

1 Cor 14:3 But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouragement, and consolation.

Some Characteristics of the Prophet we glean:

1. **Identifies** good and evil, and hates evil
2. Sees everything as **black and white**, no gray or undefined areas
3. Perceives the **character** of individuals or groups
4. Encourages **repentance** that produces a change of heart
5. Believes accepting **difficulties** can produce positive personal growth
6. Has only a few or no close personal **friends**
7. Views the **Bible** as the basis for truth, belief, action, and authority
8. Operates on spiritual **principles**
9. Is frank, outspoken, and doesn't mince **words**
10. Grieves deeply over the **sin** of others
11. Is eager to see his or her own **blind** spots and to help others see theirs too
12. Desires to see God's **plan** worked out in all situations
13. Is a very persuasive **speaker**
14. **Promotes** the spiritual growth of groups and individuals

15. Is called to intercessory **prayer**
16. Feels the need to verbalize or dramatize what he “**sees**”
17. Tends to be **introspective**
18. Has **strong** opinions and convictions
19. Has strict personal **standards**
20. Desires to be **obedient** to God at all costs

Some potential problem areas for the prophet:

1. Tendency to be judgmental and blunt
2. Forgets to praise partial progress due to goal consciousness
3. Is pushy in trying to get others to grow spiritually
4. Is intolerant of views that differ from their own
5. Struggles with self-image problems

The church needs prophets!

What is my response today?

1. Respond to God’s teaching specifically to you
2. Look at the questionnaire this week, be as honest as you can. Save the questionnaire until all the gifts are covered.
3. Please be patient if we haven’t covered your gift yet, we will!
4. If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know!

References:

1. Discover Your God-Given Gifts, Don and Katie Fortune
2. Understanding Spiritual Gifts, Kay Arthur, David and BJ Lawson
3. Ministering Through Spiritual Gifts, Charles F. Stanley
4. What You do Best In The Body of Christ, Bruce Bugbee
5. Discover Your Spiritual Gifts, C. Peter Wagner