

Sermon Notes: My Place: Spiritual Gifts

Things to consider this week:

10 truths about Spiritual Gifts:

1. Only believers have Spiritual Gifts
2. Every Christian has at least one Spiritual Gift
3. No one receives all the gifts
4. No single gift is given to everyone
5. You can't earn or work for a Spiritual Gift
6. The Holy Spirit decides what gifts you get
7. The gifts you are given are permanent
8. You are able to develop your gifts
9. It is a sin to waste the gift God gave you
10. Using your gifts glorifies God and helps you grow.

There are two purposes of Spiritual Gifts:

They are not for my benefit, but for others.

“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

They produce maturity and stability in our church family.

“It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 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.” Ephesians 4:11-13

Summarize the Sermon in one sentence:

Write at least one way you can apply this sermon to your life:

Memory Verse of the Week:

So it is with you. Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church.

1 Corinthians 14:12

Getting Started

Describe an accomplishment in your life. What did it feel like to know that your talents brought about a good result?

Describe a time in your life when you were put in a situation where you weren't equipped to handle it. How did that make you feel?

What one point sticks out in your mind from last week's sermon?

Digging Deeper

Read the following passages, each one describes something we receive at salvation. List the gift and talk about what it means for your life.

Romans 6:23

Romans 5:5

Romans 12:4-8

Read Ephesians 2:8-10 and 1 Peter 4:10. For what purpose are we to use our gifts?

Describe a time you have been tempted to use a gift from God for personal gain or for a purpose other than described above.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:22-27 and 12:4-7. Given that we are all the Body of Christ, how important does the Bible say our individual contribution should be?

Read Matthew 25:14-29. What point is Jesus making in this parable?

Read Ephesians 4:13-16. According to these verses; if everyone in the Body practices their gifts, what is the result? Explain.

Evaluating your S.H.A.P.E. - Spiritual Gifts

This Analysis is an exercise to help give you a better understanding of what your spiritual gift or gifts might be.

CAUTION: This Spiritual Gifts Analysis cannot finally determine what your primary gift is. The results must be compared with other findings that help to confirm your gift.

Here is how to do it:

Go through the list of 105 statements in this Analysis, and put a value for each statement.

Note: Since no one else knows how you really feel inside, only you can respond accurately to these statements.

Also, do not think that you must have shown yourself to be good at the statement. You only have to know whether or not the statement reflects the spontaneous promptings of the Holy Spirit within you, even though you may not have actually practice it.

When you are finished, transfer values to the score sheet and follow the directions:

List your top three possible gifts: (If more than one gift received the same score, write them on the same line

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

GIFT INVENTORY TEST

- 0 - The statement is not relevant to my experience, or not true of me
1 - Not quite zero, but close
2 - Only a slight response
3 - Medium or moderate response
4 - Greater than average response
5 - Strong agreement with statement
1. _____ I feel empowered to stand alone for Christ in a hostile, unbelieving environment.
 2. _____ I seem to have insight on when people are ready to give their lives to Christ.
 3. _____ God has shown me sources of sound teaching and rich fellowship, and I guide people to such.
 4. _____ I love to meditate on the patterns of God and His ways, and speak to others of such things.
 5. _____ I enjoy serving others so that they, in turn, may perform their ministries.
 6. _____ I can identify with weakness and temptation so as to encourage people to repent and believe.
 7. _____ When I give to others, they do not feel as if they owe me anything.
 8. _____ Other Christians have imitated me when I have led the way in serving the needs of others.
 9. _____ I often am overcome with emotion for the person I am praying for.
 10. _____ Sometimes God gives me an insight into the proper course of action others should take.
 11. _____ God often quickens Scripture to my mind that is useful for the moment.
 12. _____ I have an extraordinary confidence in God and an ability to embolden others.
 13. _____ I usually detect spiritual truth from spiritual error before fellow-believers.
 14. _____ The Spirit often leads me to do a favor for someone that touches them deeply.
 15. _____ I can serve others by organizing and harnessing their gifts to solve a particular problem.
 16. _____ I often think that God is calling me to be a missionary.
 17. _____ I find it easy to ask people to believe in and commit to Christ
 18. _____ I tend to be patient with Christians who are making slow spiritual progress.
 19. _____ I think it is very important to use words accurately and in context.
 20. _____ I believe my ministry in life is to be humbled before men by being obedient in service.

21. ____ I have a special gift of helping others get "reset" emotionally, mentally, and spiritually.
22. ____ I believe God has given me the ability to make and share money.
23. ____ I am willing to "go first" when it comes to meeting the needs of others.
24. ____ I believe that God wants to reach out to people by using me to share in their suffering.
25. ____ Other Christians seek my advice when they are uncertain of their direction.
26. ____ God has made me aware of a deep need in someone that they were careful to hide.
27. ____ I am not moved from my personal belief in the truth by ridicule, apparent failure, or pain.
28. ____ God has often used me to encourage others to accept difficult, but biblical teaching.
29. ____ People often try to give me glory for helping them, which I am able to direct to God.
30. ____ I can recognize talents and gifts in others, and find ways of using these for God.
31. ____ I desire to learn another language, culture, or religion so that I could be a better witness.
32. ____ I tend to conclude my vocal witness with an appeal for others to become Christians.
33. ____ I want to be in unity with other mature believers to earnestly seek God's will for the body.
34. ____ I get troubled by "testimonies" which contain false teaching or unsound advice.
35. ____ I often recognize ways that I can minister to others indirectly without speaking or teaching.
36. ____ I can challenge others without making them feel condemned.
37. ____ I have strongly sensed the Spirit leading me to give money to a specific person or cause.
38. ____ Obeying Christ *now* is my passion in life. It is not about mere words, but deeds.
39. ____ Sometimes God gives me a taste of other people's pain.
40. ____ God uses me to dispel confusion about God's will with supernatural insight.
41. ____ I often find I know things that I have never learned, which are confirmed by mature believers.
42. ____ I am totally convinced God will fulfill His Word even if He is not doing so yet.
43. ____ I often sense when people are moved by the Holy Spirit, evil spirits, or by their own flesh.
44. ____ In the church, I gravitate to undone work, even if unpopular.
45. ____ People often look to me for guidance in coordination, organization, and ministry opportunities.
46. ____ Strange customs, cultures, and unusual behavior don't offend me or my faith.
47. ____ I minister better to the spiritually "unborn" than baby, adolescent, or mature believers.
48. ____ God has shown fruit in my life in the effective discipling of other believers.
49. ____ I love to learn Biblical principles from my studies and then share them with others.
50. ____ I don't mind helping others even if they are not deserving or if they take advantage of me.
51. ____ People will take correction from me because they know I am on their side.
52. ____ I strive to seek ways to give to others without calling attention to myself.
53. ____ God has given me an ability to "rally the troops" in giving aid to others.
54. ____ Sometimes I feel so much love for others that I am at a loss for words.
55. ____ My advice to others has led them into mature Christian living.
56. ____ God has given me words to say in witnessing situations that surprised even me.
57. ____ I seem to be less "shakable" than most Christians.
58. ____ I sometimes get the sense that what I am reading or hearing is divinely inspired.
59. ____ God often supernaturally enhances my service to others.
60. ____ I have a knack for getting people together in the body of Christ, and enjoy doing this.
61. ____ I have a deep understanding of the Gospel, and I want to tell others about the good news.
62. ____ I'm troubled when salvation is not emphasized.
63. ____ I feel that I am responsible to help protect weak Christians from dangerous influences.
64. ____ I reflect on my own life so that I can learn to help others to grow and know what to expect.
65. ____ I would rather work in secret than have my work recognized publicly.
66. ____ The Spirit gives me the ability to call forth the best that is in others.
67. ____ Everything I own is Christ's, and this is no secret among the brethren.
68. ____ I can motivate others to obey Christ by the living testimony of my life.
69. ____ I have a desire to visit prisons and rest-homes in order to minister comfort and hope.
70. ____ God uses me to bring clarity to other believers when they are uncertain what to do.

71. ____ I often know about a real problem another person is hiding through a layer of deception.
72. ____ My hope in God, against all odds, is inspiring to others.
73. ____ God has used me to warn others of the danger of a certain teaching.
74. ____ I cannot stand idly by while things go undone.
75. ____ People come to me when they need help in desperate situations, and I know people who can help.

The next column of questions are a self-rating of God-placed desire to exercise a particular gift. Unfortunately, this can often be detected by "vain imaginings" surrounding fantasies of exercising the gift. These fantasies of self-glory must be repented of before the gift will be actuated by the Holy Spirit. God will not share His glory. We should use our imaginations to think about *how to give God the glory* if/when the Holy Spirit gives us an increased measure of a particular gift. In any case, dreams and desires can be useful clues to the reality of a latent gift. Rate your relative agreement from 0 to 5.

76. ____ I dream of being a missionary to some group of people who have never heard the gospel.
77. ____ I dream of winning many souls to Christ.
78. ____ I dream of myself and other leaders working together in unity, love, sound doctrine, and mutual submission.
79. ____ I dream of teaching God's Word so as to help others in the way of faith.
80. ____ I dream that I will experience the presence of God by serving others.
81. ____ I dream of speaking words of hope that God will confirm in others by the Holy Spirit.
82. ____ I dream of being used by God to meet someone's financial or material need.
83. ____ I dream of being first to lead the way in finding new ways to minister to others.
84. ____ I dream that God will use my emotions to feel His feelings for others.
85. ____ I dream of being used by God to help people know what God's will is.
86. ____ I dream that God will give me the knowledge needed to help at just the right moment.
87. ____ I dream that I will be stronger than others when persecution comes.
88. ____ I dream that I could help those who are confused about teachings, spirits, and events.
89. ____ I dream that God would anoint my every move as I give help to others.

90. ____ I dream of coordinating the gifts of others so that they will be at their best in Christ.

What gifts are lacking among the believer's you know? You may be surprised at how differently people perceive these needs. This can be a useful clue as to what problems God *wants you to solve* by allowing the Holy Spirit to give you grace. What requirement has God put on your heart to meet? Rate from 0 to 5 the relative intensity of need in the Body of Christ *from your perspective*.

91. ____ We need more people to take what we have and go out as missionaries.
92. ____ We aren't spending enough time trying to win souls to Christ.
93. ____ We need more people who are willing to take care of the spiritually newborn and young.
94. ____ We need more, and better teaching.
95. ____ We lack people willing to be humble and serve the brethren and outsiders.
96. ____ We need more exhortation and encouragement to do the right things.
97. ____ We have un-met, real financial or material needs among us.
98. ____ We need someone to take the first step in starting a new initiative to help others.
99. ____ We lack compassion for the hurts, pains, and struggles of people.
100. ____ We need wisdom from above to know what God would have us do next.
101. ____ We need the gift of divine knowledge to make up for our deficiencies.
102. ____ We need more examples of faith that has stood the test of adversity.
103. ____ We lack discernment in identifying unclean spirits, the flesh, and false teaching.
104. ____ We need to stop talking and start really helping people in practical ways.
105. ____ We need someone to direct the spiritual gifts of our group more effectively.

A Biblical List of Spiritual Gifts:

There are three gift lists listed in the New Testament: Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4. The gifts listed here and used in our analysis are not all the gifts mentioned in these verses. There is much debate about whether these verses are the extent of the gifts or just examples. Also, there are questions to whether some of the gifts have ceased. Our goal is not to put the focus on these issues but to help you discover where God might use you in the church. For this reason we have put the general gifts that are agreed upon by most with their common definitions.

Administration is a gift that provides insight into other people's spiritual gifting, as well as natural talent, which allows for placing people who want to minister in a particular way together with those who need just this ministry.

Compassion transcends both natural human sympathy and normal Christian concern, enabling one to sense in others a wide range of emotions and then provide a supportive ministry of caring and intercessory prayer. This is also called the gift of **Mercy**.

Discernment is the heightened ability to read or hear a teaching, to encounter a problem, or to consider a proposed course of action, and then determine whether the source behind the teaching, problem, or action is divine, merely human, or satanic. This will be a much-needed gift near the End of the Age.

Evangelism is a special ability to lead unconverted persons to a saving knowledge of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The person with this gift has the wisdom to know when, who, and how to call the rebellious into the Kingdom of God. Evangelists are the spiritual "obstetricians" in the church.

Exhortation is the gift of being able to encourage others by well-timed and wise counsel. This gift builds the Body of Christ by helping new, young and adolescent disciples to turn from sin and believe in the power of the Holy Spirit. Barnabas, whose name literally means Son of Encouragement, is the best example of this in the Bible. This is also called the gift of **Counseling**, or the gift of **Encouragement**.

Faith, as a gift, is an extraordinary confidence in God that is unshakable by situations, pain, apparent failure, or ridicule. While we are all called to have faith, this is an extraordinary amount of faith above and beyond that of Christians without this gift. This gift strengthens the individual and other believers (by example) to endure persecution and wait upon the Lord.

Giving empowers one in a sensitive way to detect material or financial needs and meet those needs with Spirit-inspired generosity. Recipients of help from Christians with this gift have a clear sense that God has provided, not man.

Helps enables one to assist people in skilled ways that are supernaturally enhanced by the anointing of the Holy Spirit. This is similar to the gift of serving except that it is specific concerning a certain skill - such as the goldsmiths who helped Moses build the items for the tabernacle. Those with this gift should be highly esteemed in the Body.

Knowledge is an ability to remember Scripture or have it supernaturally quickened, or to know a fact or truth about a person or situation revealed directly by the Holy Spirit.

Leadership in the Greek is actually "he who provides leadership in giving aid." These go first and lead by example, so that others are motivated to follow. (1 Cor 11:1) Those with the gift of leadership are quick to identify problems and show by doing how to minister to those in need.

Missionary is the ability to communicate across cultural barriers and plant churches where there is no knowledge of the gospel. It is usually accompanied with a distinct calling and a miraculous lifestyle. In Greek (apostolos) "a sent one", or "a messenger", a Missionary. Sometimes called the gift of **Apostle**, although true apostles were required to have seen the risen Lord.

Pastoring is the collective (plural in Greek) ministry of the Elders to "shepherd" an individual or community of Christian believers. This gift is a special passion and empowering to lead people into green pastures, steer others away from danger, fight off predators, and bind up wounds. Sometimes called the gift of **Shepherding**. You can have this gift without being a pastor, but instead use it to aid in the shepherding of the flock.

Serving is a gift which expresses the love of Christ by taking care of lowly or time-consuming tasks to allow others to be more effective ministers. Similar to the gift of Helps, but here the work performed is menial rather than skilled. Those with this gift are the truest and highest leaders in the church, and ought to be recognized as such.

Teaching is the ability to understand and communicate the Christian faith so as to make the truth clear to others. The result of this gift is the equipping and maturing of others in the Body of Christ so that they will grow in grace and be more effective disciples.

Wisdom is special illumination that enables one in a specific instance to grasp divine insight regarding a fact, situation, or context. This gift is useful in directing the Body in what to do next; in making God's will known.