

“Spiritual Gifts Pt. 1”
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
7/11/21
Message 23

Introduction

- Title of the Message is: “Spiritual Gifts Pt. 1”

- **Review**

- **We have been in a Study in 1 Corinthians**

- We have been asking What was wrong in the Church of Corinth?
- But in Reality - We can ask - What is wrong with the church of today?

- So MANY Similarities

- **This is a CORRECTIVE letter...**

- **The Corinthians didn't Like it –**

- Remember they tore up Paul's first letter

- **Today People are the same – Yes Sadly Even Christians**

- A lot of people don't like to be corrected
 - They ONLY want to hear the “GOOD News” in the “WORD”

- They may even say the Bible is Good News – lets focus on that

- And YES IT IS

- Good News that Jesus Came to Save – AMEN

- Sadly In Some cases - ALL they are really looking for is

- Therapeutic - Moralistic – Social – Feel Good Message
 - “Heaping up Teachers to tickle their ears” (2 Tim. 4:3)
 - THERE ARE A LOT of CHURCH ACROSS THIS LAND THAT DO THIS
 - BE CAREFUL – It sound like the BIBLE but IT IS NOT
- BUT they Forget that there is a lot of bad – hard news
 - And we have to talk about that as well
- The Bible Bring Conviction
 - Not just to the Non - Believer
 - But also - to the Believer
 - There will be many times when we read the Word that it will run against the grain of our flesh – Bring conviction
 - How we handle correction is the mark of your Christian Maturity
- **This is WHAT Paul had to do – CORRECT**
 - Paul is Correcting the Church at Corinthian
 - The Word is Correcting us
 - How will we respond?
 - Look for ways out?
 - Blame the massager?

- Or Will you hear HIS loving voice
- Respond to His Love and allow the correction to take place in your life?
- **Corrections SO FAR**
 - **Chapter 1-6 - Known SINS**
 - DIVISION
 - CARNALITY
 - IMMORALITY IN THE CHURCH
 - SERIOUS NATURE OF SEXUAL SINS
 - **Chapter 7 - FIRST Question - Marriage**
 - Celibacy - Marriage
 - Marriage is for LIFE
 - **Chapter 8 - How do you use your Christian Liberties?**
 - Can we Eat meat offered to Idols or NOT
 - Our Liberties MUST BE GOVERNED by LOVE
 - Love for GOD
 - Love For OTHERS
 - **Chapter 9**
 - Paul Uses Himself as an Example on how to use Liberties
 - He had a right to be paid
 - Did not – Because he did not want to stumble the Corinthians

- **Chapter 10**

- Paul uses Israel as an EXAMPLE OF WHAT NOT to do vs. 1-13
- Do All To The Glory Of God! vs. 14-33

- **Chapter 11**

- We Noted that this Marks Another Transition
 - This next section is All About
 - “Order In The Church”
 - “Body Life”
 - “How a Church should function”
- 1st The Roles of Men and Women (1 Cor. 11:1-16)
- 2nd The Lord Super was a Mess - Communion (11:17-34)
- 3rd Gifts NOT being USED and MISUSED (1 Cor. 12)
- 4th Using Gifts in Love (1 Cor 13)
- 5th Using Gifts in Order (1 Cor 14)

- **Now to Chapter 12 –**

- **This will be an Overview...**
 - Next week we will go verse by verse through this chapter
 - Today the Lord was leading to give us a BIG picture view of Spiritual Gifts
- **So we will look at 3 main points this morning**
 - Don't Be Ignorance v. 1

- Baptized By The Holy Spirit (How Do we Get these Gifts) vs. 1 & 13
- We are Each Given a Spiritual Gift v. 7-11

Don't Be Ignorance v. 1

• First: Now concerning spiritual gifts v. 1a

1 Corinthians 12:1 (NKJV)

1 Now concerning spiritual (gifts), brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant:

- **1st The word “gifts” is added by the translators**
 - Literally - Paul now addresses “Spirituals”
 - **The Text Should Read - Now Concerning Spiritual, Brethren**
 - Thing of the Spirit
 - BUT Adding gifts is justified by the context
 - Because that is what he goes onto talk about – GIFTS
- **2nd I find This Fascinating**
 - After all the discussing carnality
 - He wants to talk with Them about the Spirit
 - You can hear Paul say LET'S get focused –
 - Look to God
 - Stop looking to the World
 - God Has GIVEN you His Spirit – The Spirit has GIFTED you
 - Rejoice and get to the Lord's Business

• Second: I do not want you to be Ignorant v. 1b

1 Corinthians 12:1 (NKJV)

1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, **I do not want you to be ignorant:**

○ **1st The Holy Spirit was VERY Active in the church at Corinth**

▪ **Spiritual gifts were commonplace**

- But Common Sense, not SO MUCH

1 Corinthians 1:7 (NKJV)

7 so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,

▪ **BUT They were IGNORANT over the proper use of spiritual gifts.**

- These gifts were being abused and misused
- They used their gifts to...

- Promote themselves
- Show off
- Put Others Down
- Etc...

▪ **So Paul says DON'T BE IGNORANT**

- This is NOT the first time he said that in his letters
 - Don't be ignorant of God's plan for Israel (Romans 11:25)
 - Don't be ignorant of spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12:1)
 - Don't be ignorant about the Second Coming of Jesus and the eternal state (1 Thessalonians 4:13)

- Sadly, many Christians are ignorant on these exact points.
 - God doesn't want you ignorant of spiritual gifts. He wants you educated in them.
- **2nd Sadly - There is Still a LOT of Ignorance in regards to Spiritual gifts**
 - Before Encouragement lets look at some of the problems
 - **1st Gifts used for Competition**
 - We see the same things taking place in today's church that took place in Corinth
 - God intends for GIFTS to Unite US
 - Instead they often lead to
 - Division
 - Schism
 - Confusion
 - **2nd Body Life Ignorance – Non-Use of the GIFTS**
 - Sadly many Christians Aren't using their GIFTS
 - Reasons WHY – Who knows...
 - Maybe because they don't believe they have them
 - They don't feel qualified
 - Or Just lazy
 - Confusion in the Modern Church
 - Many see church as Organization not an Organism

- Many treat the church like Consumers
- Point out a FEW areas of concern
 - The NON - Committed
 - Consumers – Not Contributors
 - Sad to see – they are ripping themselves off from being used by God
 - Half Way – Committed
 - The Bumble Bee Mentality –
 - Leads to a lack of commitment
 - Perhaps even lazy
 - Produces Lack of Spiritual Maturity
 - BE CLEAR
 - YOU need to have a HOME church – be plugged in – committed to
 - Yes we can visit other church and yes we even help other churches
 - But to grow we need to be committed to one body
 - So ask the Lord where HE wants you and GET PLUGGED IN – and get committed
 - Pastors / Staff they do all the work
 - That's why we PAY them
 - There is are a LOT of Problems with this Attitude

- 1st Pastor Generally Don't have ALL the gifts
- 2nd Pastor who try – BURN OUT
- 3rd Produces LAZY believers
- Calvary CP
 - I will not micro manage anyone in their ministry
 - **Yes Manage, help, assist set vision but never Micro Manage**
- Critical we get this right –
 - WHY? –
 - 1st Christian Growth, Maturity and Reward are what we are talking about
 - 2nd Church Health and Growth
 - The Church is an Organism – The BODY of CHRIST
 - We must be Contributors

Ephesians 4:16 (NKJV)

16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

• **Third: There Are Different Views In Regards to Spiritual Gift**

- **1st Before We go on – we must address that good Christian see Spirituals Gifts differently**
 - The Camps - Cessationist vs Continuationist
 - Brief Definition
 - Cessationist –

- Believe the “SIGN” (healings, tongues, and miracles, etc...) Ended at the Apostolic Age
- That they were only need to APPROVE the Apostles work
- After their work was done - Scripture was written – the GIFTS Ended
- John MacArthur and other well-respected pastors are in this camp
- Continuationist -
 - Continuationist - is the belief that all the spiritual gifts, including healings, tongues, and miracles, are still in operation today
 - Just as they were in the days of the early church.
 - This Camp is called “Charismatics” or “Pentecostals”
- At Calvary Chapel
 - Calvary Chapels have sometimes been called
 - Too Pentecostal for the Baptists
 - Too Baptist for the Pentecostals
 - We have been called “Pentebaptist” or “Bapticostal.”
 - We're Charismatic not Pentecostal
 - We Do believe that ALL the GIFTS are for TODAY
 - But we also Believe that many of the “Sign” Gift are being misused and abused
- **2nd Let's Look the Issue**

- **1st Virtually NO Christian believes ALL the gifts have ceased in the church today.**
 - All Christians believe the gifts of teaching and administration are given and needed in the church today.
 - It is ONLY the “SIGN” gifts that are in dispute.
 - *Guzik; “Therefore, many people divide up the gifts into different categories: communicative, administrative, miraculous. Then, they often say the miraculous gifts died out with the apostles or when the New Testament came together. Yet it is important to observe that such divisions and categories are not Biblical. Nowhere does any Biblical writer categorize the gifts in such a way, and then say some categories of gifts will remain but others will cease.”*
- **2nd What does the Bible say about the continuation of all the gifts of the Spirit?**
 - Look at Acts 2:33 & 39

Acts 2:33 (NKJV)

33 *Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.*

Acts 2:39 (NKJV)

39 *For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”*

1 Corinthians 14:12 (NKJV)

12 *Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel.*

- The purpose for spiritual gifts, even miraculous gifts, is the building up of the body of Christ and individual Christians; that need remains today.
- *Martyn Lloyd – Jones; “The Scriptures never anywhere say that these things were only temporary — never! There is no such statement anywhere. I think it is quite without*

scriptural warrant to say that all these gifts ended with the apostles or the Apostolic Era.”

▪ **3rd Why do some Christians believe some gifts of the Holy Spirit are no longer given by God today?**

- We believe - They have a wrong understanding of 1 Corinthians 13:8-10 which says that tongues will cease

1 Corinthians 13:8–10 (NKJV)

8 *Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away.*

9 *For we know in part and we prophesy in part.*

10 *But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.*

- That which is perfect:
 - Paul says when that which is perfect has come, then the gifts will be “discontinued.”
- But what is that which is perfect?
 - Cessationist
 - Believe the SIGN gifts ceased with the apostles say it refers to the completion of the New Testament!
 - Continuationist
 - Perfect = Greek word - Teleios
 - The New Testament uses Teleios in other passages
 - When you look at this word and the way it is used in other passages, it certainly seems to speak about the coming of Jesus

- (1 Corinthians 1:8, 15:24, James 5:11, Revelation 20:5, 20:7, 21:6, and 22:13)
- MOST commentators agree that which is perfect is fulfilled when we are in the eternal presence of the Perfect One, when we are with the Lord forever, either through the return of Christ or graduation to the eternal.
- **4th Does Church History say about the Gifts?**
 - Clement of Rome, Ignatius, Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, and Tertullian all speak to the existence of miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit in their own day.
 - The position they CEASED didn't arise in the church until the middle of the fourth century

Baptized By The HS – How Do we Get these Gifts v. 1 & 13

1 Corinthians 12:1 (NKJV)

1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant:

1 Corinthians 12:13 (NKJV)

13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

• First: 3 Aspects of the Holy Spirit ministry

- **It is represented by three Greek prepositions**
 - 'Para', 'En', and 'Epi.'
- **1st "Para"**
 - Before Conversion
 - He is the One convicting him of his sin, convincing him that Jesus Christ is the only answer.
 - The Holy Spirit is constantly testifying of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment to come

John 16:8 (NKJV)

8 *And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:*

○ **2nd “En”**

- At the Moment of conversion
- HS indwells us
- Keeping us on the right track
- Comforter – Helper

John 14:26 (NKJV)

26 *But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.*

○ **3rd “Epi”**

- Empowering us for Ministry Acts 1:8

Acts 1:8 (NKJV)

8 *But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

- This is Different from Salvation

John 20:22 (NKJV)

22 *And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.*

- This is an EMPOWERING – Given GIFTS

• **Second: The Holy Spirit has SEALED - FILLED You**

○ **1st FINISHED TRANSACTION**

- When important legal documents are processed, they're stamped with the official seal to signify the completion of the transaction
- Ephesians 1

○ **2nd OWNERSHIP**

- The Holy Spirit is God's Seal upon our lives to prove His OWNERSHIP
- You see, Jesus Purchased you from the Slave Market
- You were once a slave to sin, but now you belong to Him.

1 Corinthians 6:19–20 (NKJV)

19 *Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?*

20 *For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.*

- We are really NOT OUR OWN to live as we please
- We MUST DIE to OURSELVES and LIVE FOR HIM

○ **3rd EMPOWERING**

- To Do His Will & Work
- Us your GIFT(S)

We Ere Each Given A Spiritual Gift(s) v. 7-11

1 Corinthians 12:7–11 (NKJV)

7 *But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:*

8 *for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit,*

9 *to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit,*

10 *to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.*

11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

- **First: Your Contribution As A Body Builder**

- **1st Every Christian Has Been Called to be in the Ministry**

- At the moment of salvation, in Christ
 - You were not only given the gift of eternal life but a “Call” to the ministry!
- The word for “ministry” is the Greek word “diakonos”
 - Which means TO SERVE
 - **God designed you to make a contribution to the church family**
 - Ephesians 4:16 puts it this way, “...every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”
- Now This call involves special abilities called “GIFTS”
 - That empower a Christian to make a contribution to the church family as a whole.
 - Everyone has something to offer, and every Christian is called to the “ministry”!
 - God’s call in your life; the gifts He has given you
 - Your own unique experiences, not to mention your unique “gene pool”
 - It says that there is no one else like you, and God wants to use your uniqueness to His glory!

- **2nd Scriptural Encouragement**

- Let's look at some Scriptures that really show us our calling & responsibility to make a contribution in the church family
- **1st We have been created for ministry (Eph 2:10)**

Ephesians 2:10 (NKJV)

10 *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

- You were created for ministry!
- You were created “in Christ Jesus FOR GOOD WORKS!”

- **2nd We've been identified as ministers! (1 Peter 2:9)**

1 Peter 2:9 (NKJV)

9 *But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;*

- Our identity is based on how our heavenly Father sees us!
- In other words, “I am not who I think I am; I am not who you think I am; but I really am who God says I am!”

- **3rd We have been gifted for ministry (1 Peter 4:10)**

1 Peter 4:10 (NKJV)

10 *As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*

- **4th We have been authorized for ministry (Matt. 28:18-20)**

Matthew 28:18–20 (NKJV)

18 *And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.*

19 *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*

20 *teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.*

2 Corinthians 5:20 (NKJV)

20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

- 5th We have been Encouraged to Serve (Matt. 20:25-28)

Matthew 20:25–28 (NKJV)

25 But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them.
26 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant.
27 And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—
28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

- 6th The body of Christ needs my ministry (1 Cor. 12:27)

1 Corinthians 12:27 (NKJV)

27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

- This means simply
 - Cheat yourself
 - If I don't fulfill the ministry God has given me, then you get cheated.
 - Cheat the Body of Christ
 - The Body Miss out
 - The church is a family and every person is designed to make a contribution.
 - Every believer needs a church home
 - They need a place where they're making a contribution, they're getting involved
- 7th We will be rewarded for ministry! (Matt 25:23)

Matthew 25:23 (NKJV)

23 His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

- A Great Reward awaits
- 1 Cor 3

○ **3rd Reason For Our Gifts**

▪ **1st To Contribute To People “Spiritually”**

2 Corinthians 5:18 (NKJV)

18 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,

▪ **2nd To Help People “Physically”**

Matthew 25:35–36 (NKJV)

35 for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in;

36 I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'

Matthew 10:42 (NKJV)

42 And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward.”

▪ **3rd To Serve People “Emotionally”**

Romans 12:15–16 (NKJV)

15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

16 Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.

1 Thessalonians 5:14 (NKJV)

14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.

▪ **4th Ultimately, the purpose is to “help the entire church!”**

Ephesians 4:16 (NKJV)

16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

- **Second: Brief Look at the Gifts**

- **1st Each Person is given at least ONE**

1 Corinthians 12:7 (NKJV)

7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:

- A gift is given by the Holy Spirit, it's a special "endowment" from God
- That is purposed to bless and strengthen the church family
- They are NOT natural talents or abilities
- They are not the same as the "FRUIT" of the Holy Spirit
- They are not evidence of spiritual maturity and growth (I Cor. 1:7)
- They are not given to you because you pray or ask for them (I Cor. 12:11)
- They are not acquired abilities or talents which a person is able to learn and/or produce
- They are the result of God's grace – we do nothing to earn or to deserve them - Romans 12:6

- **2nd There are a variety of gifts**

1 Corinthians 12:4 (NKJV)

4 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

- There are also varieties of ministries or "there are varieties of effects"
- For Example

- 2 people can have the same gift like “teaching”
- But the way in which they teach & who they teach & the impact of their teaching totally varies!
- There are “Varieties of gifts” – “Varieties of ministries” – “Varieties of effects!”

○ **3rd The Word Gift**

- Let’s look more closely at the term “gift” and what it actually means?
 - 1st In 1 Corinthians 12:1, the word for “gifts” literally means
 - “Things of the Spirit.”
 - 2nd The other Greek word for spiritual gifts is “Charisma”
 - Which is used five times in this chapter (4, 9, 28, 30, 31)
 - Thayer defines charisma as
 - “A gift of grace; a favor which one receives without any merit of his own.”
 - A spiritual gift is a special ability given by the Holy Spirit according to grace.
 - The gifts of the Holy Spirit are special “endowments” from God, that are purposed to bless and strengthen the church family
- It’s noteworthy that the following terms are derived from the same root word:
 - chara = joy
 - charis = grace
 - charisma = gift
 - charismata = gifts

- **Third: The Gifts**

- **There are 4 passages of Scripture that identify these “gifts”**

- Romans 12:3, 1 Corinthians 12:4, Ephesians 4:11 and 1 Peter 4:10
- NOT a complete list

- **PROPHECY**

- Forth-telling His Word vs. Foretelling God’s Word...
- The telling-forth of God’s message in a particular situation
 - Always in accord with His Word and His current work.
 - Sometimes this has the character of foretelling the future, as in
 - (Acts 21:10-11 and Acts 27:21-26)

Acts 21:10–11 (NKJV)

10 *And as we stayed many days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea.*

11 *When he had come to us, he took Paul’s belt, bound his own hands and feet, and said, “Thus says the Holy Spirit, ‘So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.’ ”*

- **EVANGELISM**

- Evangelism is the ability to communicate the Good News of Jesus Christ to unbelievers.
- The ability to sense opportunities to share Christ and lead people to respond with faith.
- People who have this gift are sensitive to how unbelievers feel and think.
- They have a love for lost people and a desire to see them saved.

○ **MISSIONS**

- The ability to adapt to a different culture in order to reach unbelievers and help believers from that culture.
- Paul had this gift. He wrote, “I become all things to all people, that I may in some way save some. When I’m with the Jew, I become like the Jew in order to reach the Jew. When I’m with those outside the Law, I become like those outside the law in order to reach them. I become all things to all men so that I may in some way save some.”
- You have a strong desire to see the great commission fulfilled.
- Often people with this gift have a special heart for a certain group of people like Hispanics, Vietnamese, Chinese etc...

○ **APOSTLE**

- The word means “One who is sent!”
- There are NOT “apostles” like those in the early church
 - That gift ended with the 12
- I do believe there are those who have “apostolic” type ministries!
 - It is the calling & ability to start new churches and oversee their development.
 - Paul said his ambition was to not build on another man’s foundation.
 - Today we would call these people church planters!
 - It’s the ability to go out and just start a Body of Christ from scratch.

○ **PASTOR – TEACHER**

- PASTORING (“Shepherding”)

- The word “pastor” in literally means “to lead & to feed”.
- It means to care for
- Pastors in Acts 20 are told to protect the flock.
 - They are to give their lives for the flock.
- They are to equip.
- Those who have the gift of ‘pastoring’ feel very fulfilled in their ministry because they’re out there caring and sharing

▪ TEACHER

- The ability to EDUCATE God’s people by clearly explaining and applying the Bible in a way that causes them to learn.
- The ability to EQUIP and train other believers for ministry.
- I believe many Christian’s have this gift but it needs to be developed.

○ **EXHORTATION (or encouragement!)**

- The ability to bring out the best in others and challenge them to develop their potential!
- The gift of exhortation demonstrates itself with clear application from Scripture.
- It is a gift that helps people see the right path and get on it!
- If you have this gift you’re skilled with the ability to make suggestions.
 - Somebody asks you what you think they ought to do.
 - You can say, “This is what I think you ought to do...” and then list them 1-2-3.
 - You go right to the point.

- They're inspirational; they're motivational, action oriented.
- These people are often great counselors.

○ **WISDOM**

- The ability to understand God's perspective on life's situations and share those insights in a simple understandable way.
- The ability to explain what to do and how to do it based on Scripture.

○ **DISCERNMENT**

- Discernment is the ability to distinguish right from wrong, truth from error, and to give an immediate evaluation based on God's Word.
- The ability to discern whether the source of an experience is Satan, self, or God's Spirit.
- Dave Hunt had this gift.
- It is critical today, as it has always been in the church, in identifying subversive and seductive information or teaching that finds its way in the church.
- This gift protects the church from swinging to one extreme of experience or teaching to another.

○ **KNOWLEDGE**

- Daniel 1:17 says, "To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning."
- He gave it to them It was a gift.
- The Bible is very strong in making decisions based on knowledge.

- When you read Proverbs it says, “Get the facts!”
- In a business decision, in a financial decision, in a church decision it says, “Get the facts! Don’t just depend on feelings.”

○ **SERVICE - HELPS**

- Here’s a gift I believe we all have!
- And it is critical we exercise it in discovering other gifts God has given us!
- However, there are some who are FANTASTIC servers who take initiative to provide practical assistance quickly, cheerfully, and without a need for recognition.

○ **MERCY**

- The ability to detect hurt and empathize with those who are suffering in the church family.
- The ability to provide compassionate and cheerful support to those experiencing distress, crisis, or pain.
- These people have a great ability to show compassion!
- People with this gift “engage” others.
- They make the phone call. - Write the encouraging note.

○ **HOSPITALITY**

- The ability to make others, especially strangers, feel warmly welcomed, accepted, and comfortable in the church family.
- The ability to coordinate factors that promote fellowship.
- You can always tell somebody who’s got the gift of hospitality.
- You feel immediately comfortable around them.
- This gift is critical in the church.

- We live in a fractured society that is cold and aloof. The church must demonstrate hospitality!

- **GIVING**

- R.G. Laturno is a good example of a person with this gift.
- He developed the great earth movers and tractors.
- When he started out he was giving ten percent of his income & living on 90%.
- As God blessed him, he gave 20%, and lived on 80%.
- Nobody told him to do this, he just had the gift of giving.
- By the time at the end of his life when he was dying, he was giving away 90% of what he made and living on 10% and was still a multi-millionaire.
- He just said, You can't out give God.
- He had the gift of giving, gradually giving more and more.

- **LEADERSHIP**

- Leadership is influence. It's the ability to influence, clarify and communicate direction.
- It's also backed up by "living it!"
- A leader motivates others.
- It's someone who is goal oriented.
- It's someone who inspires others to follow!

- **ADMINISTRATION**

- The Greek word for administration is literally means "to steer a ship."

- It's to guide, to pilot.
- This administrative gift is the ability to organize and structure.
- The ability to organize and manage people, resources, and time for effective ministry.
- The ability to coordinate many details and execute the plans of leadership.
- An administrator sees the details and the big picture!

○ **FAITH**

- We're all to have "faith!"
- The gift of faith, however, is the ability to trust God for what cannot be seen and to act on God's promise, regardless of what the circumstances indicate.
- The willingness to risk failure in pursuit of a God-given vision, expecting God to handle the obstacles.
- You love to take risks.
- It doesn't threaten you to go out on a limb.
- It also perseveres! You keep, keeping on!
- These people have the ability to believe God when other people are hesitant

○ **INTERCESSION**

- The ability to pray for the needs of others in the church family over extended periods of time on a regular basis.
- The ability to persist in prayer and not be discouraged until the answer arrives.
- This is critical.

- **HEALING**

- The ability to pray in faith specifically for people who need physical, emotional, or spiritual healing and see God answer.
- The ability to sense when God is prompting you to pray this kind of prayer.

- **MIRACLES**

- The ability to pray in faith specifically for God's supernatural intervention into an impossible situation and see God answer.
- The ability to sense when God is prompting you to pray this kind of prayer.

- **TONGUES**

- 1 Corinthians 14:13-15 talks about praying with my spirit.
- That's the ability to pray in a language understood only by God or by one who is given the gift of interpretation at that time.
- More on This in the Weeks to come

- **MUSIC**

- The ability to play music is a gift!
- It is a gift that played a vital role in temple worship.
- It is a gift that celebrates God's presence.
- Some of you have this gift!
- It needs to be stirred up for and in the church!
- We NEED SOME MEN UP HERE

- **ARTS AND CRAFTS**

- Exodus 31:3-11 “...to make artistic designs to work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work with wood and engage in all kinds of artistic craftsmanship. He gifted two men to teach these skills to others.”
- Some people are gifted to work with their hands.
- The ability to build, maintain, or beautify the place of worship for God’s glory.

Closing

- 1st Remember, we’re all called to the ministry
- 2nd Every Christian is gifted with “Charasmata’s!”
- 3rd If you are unclear what your gifts are, the best way to discover them is to make yourself available and serve when needs arise in the church
- 4th If you know the gifts that God has given you be sure to stir them up and “activate them!”
- 5th It’s critical that we all grow in the calling and the gifts God has given us!
- 6th We Follow God – NOT Gifts – or Experiences
- Ask God for wisdom in making progress in this area.
- Remember, Paul instructed Timothy “do not neglect the gift that is in you!”