

SHAPE Online Academy - Bethany Lutheran Church- Lesson #2- Spiritual Gifts

1 Corinthians 12:1

*“Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be **ignorant**.”*

The word **ignorant** here does not mean “unintelligent” or “naïve”.

What are Spiritual Gifts?

A Spiritual gift is a God-given special ability, given to every believer by the _____ to share the Love of God and _____ the Body of Christ. The purpose of giftedness is stewardship and service, not _____.

Why does God Give Spiritual Gifts?

“A spiritual gift is given to each of us as a means of helping the entire church”

1 Corinthians 12:7 (NLT)

The spiritual gifts God gives you are neither _____ nor _____. They weren't given to boost your self-image or to serve as some kind of special reward from God. Spiritual gifts were not given to raise you up to some level of worldly greatness or success. They are yours for the express purpose of _____ the Body of Christ—The Church. Discovering your spiritual gifts is not the ultimate goal—using them to build up others is.

Does Everyone Get a Gift?

“But each man has his own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that.”

1 Corinthians 7:7 (NIV)

Spiritual Gifts

How many gifts you have is not nearly as important as discovering and developing the gifts you do have. When we use what God has graced us with, people are helped, he is honored, and we are fulfilled.

Unwrapping Spiritual Gifts

What can you do to figure out what spiritual gifts you have been given:

- Explore the Possibilities.
- Experiment with as Many Gifts as You Can.
- Examine Your Feelings.
- Evaluate Your Effectiveness.
- Expect Confirmation from the Body of Christ.

There are spiritual gift tests and inventories; we will talk about one of them a bit later.

What does God say?

“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.” -Romans 12:6-8

“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 distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues.” -1 Corinthians 12:8-10

“And 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 kinds of tongues.”-1 Corinthians 12:28

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

“Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.”- 1 Peter 4:9-10

Special People Gifts

Apostle- Begins and establishes new ministries

Prophecy- Speaks forth the Word of God

Evangelist- Brings the good news of Jesus Christ especially to the lost

Pastor- Shepherds and nurtures the souls of others

Teacher- Presents God's Word so that others learn God's truths

Speaking Gifts

Exhortation/Encouragement- Comes alongside others to comfort and strengthen them

Wisdom- Applies the Biblical truths of God to the everyday life

Knowledge- Knows and understands the truths of God

Serving Gifts

Helps- Shares the burdens of others, particularly leaders in the church

Leadership- Stands out front so that others are willing to follow

Administration- Keeps the church on course like the pilot of a ship or a plane

Giving- Gladly, generously, and sacrificially supports the work of the church.

Mercy- Identifies with and responds to the hurts of others

Discernment- Cuts through what is false and evil to what is true and good

Faith- Heroically stands up for Jesus Christ, no matter the cost

Hospitality- Welcomes strangers with warmth and love

Sign Gifts

Tongues- Speaks in a strange, spiritual language, drawing close to God

Interpretation- Interprets or translates a message spoken in an unknown language

Miracles- By the power of God and in the name of Jesus Christ performs a supernatural act

Healing- Brings wholeness to the sick

Other Gifts

Missionary, Writing, Serving, Poverty, Artist/Craftsmanship, Music, Celibacy, Intercession/Prayer

Assignment #2

Spiritual Gifts Survey- <http://www.kodachrome.org/spiritgift>

Love

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

"If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 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. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing."

Trap #1-

1 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"

Trap #2-

Trap #3-

Trap #4-

1 Peter 5:8-11

"Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen."

Don't Wait!

"Don't look for God to fill in all the blanks. Don't wait for Him to remove all the uncertainty. Realize He may actually increase the uncertainty and leverage all the odds against you, just so you will know in the end that it wasn't your gifts but His power through your gifts that fulfilled His purpose in your life." - Erwin McManus