

GIFTED TO SERVE

in Ministry



Who *are* we and what *have* we been called to be and to do?

We are His, the body of Christ. We are believers in God's Son! And we know that.....

All Believers are:

- ✚ **Called ...** II Cor. 5:17-18
- ✚ **Gifted...** Romans 12 ; I Cor. 12; I Peter 4
- ✚ **Equipped ...** Ephesians 4:11-12
- ✚ **Sent ...** John 17 : 18-23 ...into the world to be ministers and evangelists.

Discovering Your Unique **SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

Before we begin unwrapping...

- ✚ **Examine** Your Heart!
- ✚ **Plug** In Your Personality!
- ✚ **Consider** Your Experiences!
- ✚ **Discover and Apply** Your Abilities!

Know the 10 Truths about Spiritual Gifts

1. Only **BELIEVERS** *have* spiritual gifts. 1 Cor. 2:14
2. Every Christian has at least one **SPIRITUAL** gift. 1 Cor. 7:7
3. No one receives **ALL OF** the gifts. 1 Cor. 12:27-30
4. No single gift is given to **EVERYONE**. 1 Cor. 12:29-30
5. You can't **EARN OR WORK FOR** a spiritual gift. (Eph. 4:7)
6. The HOLY **SPIRIT** decides what gifts I get. (1 Cor. 12:11)
7. The gifts I'm given are **PERMANENT**. (Rom. 11:29)
8. I am to **DEVELOP** the gifts God gives me. (1 Tim. 4:14)
9. It's a sin to **WASTE** the gifts God gave me. (1 Cor. 4:1-2)
10. Using my gifts **HONORS & GLORIFIES** God (John 15:8) and... **EXPANDS** me. (I Chronicles 4:10)

The Apostle Paul - *"Now about spiritual gifts, I do not want you to be ignorant."* (1 Cor. 12 :1)

A **SPIRITUAL GIFT** is an endowment of motivation and ability, given by the Holy Spirit to every believer, to be used to minister to others and therefore build up the Body of Christ. It is really a **supernatural endowment**. A gift that cannot be used up - and it is beyond my ability to understand or to explain - it is driven by the Holy Spirit.

Motivation is the inner desire to serve God in a certain way. I ***must...*** replaces I ***should...*** or I ***ought to***. **Ability** is the special capacity to serve, which originates with the Holy Spirit. Believers get the gift, the motivation and the ability all in the same package.

WHAT ARE THE GIFTS?

Romans 12... prophesying, serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leadership, showing mercy, hospitality

1 Corinthians 12... wisdom, knowledge, faith, prophecy, gifts of healing, miraculous powers
distinguishing between spirits, interpretation of tongues, speaking in different kinds of tongues

Ephesians 4... apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers

1 Peter 4... speaking (proclamation) serving

The Purpose of Spiritual Gifts

- A. NOT FOR MY BENEFIT, BUT FOR **THE BENEFIT OF OTHERS.**
- B. TO PRODUCE **MATURITY** AND **HARMONY** IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY.
- C. RECOGNIZE THAT YOU HAVE BOTH A **PRIMARY** AND A **SECONDARY** MINISTRY IN YOUR CHURCH:

Your PRIMARY MINISTRY commitment should be in the area where you are **GIFTED.**

Your SECONDARY MINISTRY includes serving in any other area of the Body when you are **NEEDED.**

Cautions about Spiritual Gifts

- ✚ Don't confuse gifts with natural talents
Examples:
Singing is a natural talent or ability, but when another hears God speaking through your singing, *that* is a spiritual gift (i.e. prophecy)
Public speaking is a natural talent or ability, but when another is encouraged through your spoken word, *that* is a spiritual gift (i.e. exhortation)
- ✚ Don't confuse gifts with the Fruit of the Spirit. **Gal.5:22-23**
"Fruit" show my Maturity. "Gifts" show my Ministry.
- ✚ Don't confuse gifts with Christian roles.
Examples: Evangelist, Pastor Etc.
- ✚ Be aware of the "gift projection" tendency.
(Expecting others to serve the way you do and have similar results.)
- ✚ Don't feel your gift makes you in any way superior to others. **1 Cor. 12: 21**
- ✚ Realize that using your gifts without love is worthless! **1 Cor. 13: 1-3**

Clues to Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts

Finish this sentence... ***With regard to my Christian service, I Love To...***

Look for the uniqueness that God created in you - *you* are a priceless treasure.

The church is to operate on the basis of spiritual gifts, rather than elected office. We do not **elect** people to ministries. "A man's gift makes room for him..." Proverbs 18:16