

## DISCOVERING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT - Lesson 10 (final) 6.21.09

### “Be The Church God Made” 1 Cor. 14; Selected

In the context of spiritual gifts, Paul wrote:

***Ephesians 4:15-16*** *But speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects unto Him, who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.*

### What have we learned??? [answers from the congregation]

“spiritual” = ministry characteristic of the Holy Spirit [pneuma tikon]

Each has a unique mix to minister to the body

Fruit first (LOVE) - maturity before ministry

Speaking and serving gifts (1 Peter 4:10-11)

Gifts listed in 2 places: 1 Cor. 12 and Romans 12

Sign gifts were for the apostles of the 1<sup>st</sup> century to authenticate the Word of God

The Spirit gives our giftedness – no returns or exchanges

The body needs my gift – I need the body’s gifts

We are to be “little Holy Spirits” = little “parakletes”

The gift of the Holy Spirit given at Pentecost was the HOLY SPIRIT (in us)

### Discovering My Gift – follow up

Last week we rated ourselves on each of the gifts and each of the passions (sheet)

If you were not here last week, you can do the same with the sheets today – rating yourself in strength in each area. These are the gifts you should use and passions you should seek to serve in. Here are 5 steps that might be helpful:

1. **Explore the possibilities** (what seem to be my gift strengths)
2. **Experiment with ministries** (what ministries interest me)
3. **Examine your feelings** (how do I feel about the ministry)
4. **Evaluate your effectiveness** (is the ministry a fit for me)
5. **Expect confirmation** (do others affirm my value in this ministry)

### Priesthood of Believers / Ministry of Believers

The Protestant movement of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century introduced and practiced the doctrine of the PRIESTHOOD of BELIEVERS = every individual Christian has

equal access and responsibility to approach God personally. This was taught by Luther, Calvin and Wesley to name a few.

What was NOT taught or practiced, however, was the MINISTRY of BELIEVERS = every individual Christian has equal responsibility to MINISTER his/her gifts in the body of believers. This came in the 20<sup>th</sup> century through the Pentecostal movement and later the Charismatic movement that taught the power of the Spirit working in each and every believer – with individual responsibility to minister. SPIRITUAL GIFTS became important for the first time since the first century church.

However, many churches have lost what they are to be

### **What the church IS NOT & IS**

#### **1. THE CHURCH IS NOT AN ORGANIZATION**

*“When Christians get organized they get very unChristlike”*

*God has “organized” us as a body – we must each learn our function*

#### **2. THE CHURCH IS NOT A PROMOTIONAL AGENCY**

*Beware business philosophy, management techniques and promotions for popularity*

*God is His own best promoter – sometimes apart from us and sometimes through us*

#### **3. THE CHURCH IS NOT A FOR-PROFIT BUSINESS**

*Beware attempts to acquire wealth or become a charity thrift store*

#### **4. THE CHURCH IS NOT A COMMUNITY SOCIAL CENTER**

*Beware programs not focused on teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread & prayer (Acts 2:42)*

#### **5. THE CHURCH IS AN ORGANISM – supernaturally alive**

a. A corpse is organized, but NOT ALIVE

b. A business promotes and profits but is NOT ALIVE SPIRITUALLY

c. A community center meets needs, but can't give SPIRITUAL LIFE

**BE THE CHURCH – BLESS WITH YOUR “SPIRITUALS”**

**We must believe and practice (1) the PRIESTHOOD of all believers and**

**(2) the MINISTRY of all believers**

### **4 Gift Contrasts from 1 Corinthians 14 (how to properly use your “spirituals”)**

#### **1. BUILD UP THE CHURCH, NOT SELF**

*14:4 One who speaks in a tongue edifies himself; but one who prophesies edifies the church.*

*14:12 ...since you are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek to abound for the edification of the church.*

**2. COMMUNICATE WITH THE MIND, NOT JUST EMINATE WITH THE SPIRIT**

*14:15 ...I shall pray with the spirit and I shall pray with the mind also; I shall sing with the spirit and I shall sing with the mind also.*

**3. BENEFIT BELIEVERS WITH YOUR GIFT, NOT UNBELIEVERS**

*14:22 So then tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe, but to unbelievers; but prophecy is for a sign, not to unbelievers, but to those who believe.*

**4. CREATE PEACE and ORDER, NOT CONFUSION (work together)**

*14:33 for God is not a God of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints*

*14:40 But let all things be done properly and in an orderly manner.*

**3 Final Verses and Thoughts (“Father’s Day” thoughts)**

**1. Your gift is UNCHANGING – appreciate it!**

*Romans 11:29 ‘The gifts of God are irrevocable’ = i.e. unchanging*

**2. DON’T NEGLECT your gift – use it!**

*1 Timothy 4:14 “Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed on you...”*

**3. KINDLE AFRESH YOUR GIFT - keep it fresh!**

*2 Timothy 1:6 “Stir up the gift of God which is in you” = rekindle*

**For reference:**

**12 Spiritual Gifts for Church Ministry**

**PROPHECY** The supernatural enabling to proclaim God’s truth in a timely, winsome way

**KNOWLEDGE** The supernatural enabling to understand God’s truth so as to observe and share deep spiritual truths

**WISDOM** The supernatural enabling to apply God’s truth with practical application to behavior

**TEACHING** The supernatural enabling to explain God’s truth so as to pass it on to another

**EXHORTATION** The supernatural enabling to minister God's truth to another to comfort, strengthen and challenge

**LEADING** The supernatural enabling to guide, cast vision and motivate the body to harmoniously accomplish God's purposes

**ADMINISTRATION** The supernatural enabling to coordinate the proper working of the body so as to accomplish its goals through planning, organizing and supervising

**FAITH** The supernatural enabling to believe God for great things, praying and acting with confidence in God's ability to accomplish His purposes

**DISCERNMENT** The supernatural enabling to protect God's work by being able to accurately distinguish truth from error and good from evil

**GIVING** The supernatural enabling to fund God's work by joyfully and generously contributing finances and resources

**MERCY** The supernatural enabling to personalize God's work by showing compassion and relieving suffering through practical actions that reflect the love of Jesus

**HELPS** The supernatural enabling to aid God's work by cheerfully accomplishing practical tasks to meet the needs of the body and support the ministry of others

## **6 Areas of Passion in Church Ministry**

**Celebration** (Worship) The heart that beats to direct the church toward God by engaging them in worship – in the Word, in song, in praise, in prayer

**Outreach** (Evangelism) The heart that beats to reach and connect unbelievers and the unchurched to a relationship with Jesus and His church

**Connection** (Fellowship) The heart that beats to assimilate visitors, attenders and members into a vibrant belonging with Christ and the church through hospitality, fellowship and encouragement

**Equipping** (Discipleship) The heart that beats to mature believers toward Christ-likeness through teaching, mentoring or ministry

**Caring** (Ministry inreach) The heart that beats to assist people in the church and community toward physical, emotional, relational and spiritual health through practical expressions of grace and love

**Supporting** (Ministry assistance) The heart that beats to free other people, leaders and ministries from practical concerns by using their skills and resources to assist, help and encourage