

2/19/2023 - Speaker: Al Schaap

Series: Gifts

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12 (p. 1136 f.)

Message: Know What God Has Given You! (Part 2)

Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. (1 Corinthians 12:1)

Principle #1: When it comes to knowing what spiritual gifts God gave you for working with Him to bless our world, “Ignorance is *(not)* bliss!”

Principle #2: When we rightly receive & rightly use the gifts as The Spirit distributes them to all of us, The One spotlighted will be *Jesus*.

Principle #3: The Same God Who created us w/ “natural” talents re-creates us w/ “spiritual” gifts – w/ a great deal of variety but *One God at work*.

Principle #4: The gifts The Spirit gives us are not for our individual glory but *for “the common good.”*

Principle #5: *All* the gifts are needed – yours and the other person’s... appreciate them all as gifts from God and use them for Him!

Spiritual Gifts Especially Helpful for Loving Each Other

· Pastoring (sometimes called “Shepherding”) - The ability to care for the spiritual needs of a group of believers and equip them for ministry. Ability to nurture a small group in spiritual growth and help lead care for them.

· Teaching - The ability to educate God’s people by clearly explaining and applying the Bible in a way that causes them to learn and be equipped.

· Exhortation (sometimes called “Encouragement”) - The ability to motivate God’s people personally to apply and act on biblical principles, bringing out the best in others and challenging them to develop their potential even when they are discouraged or wavering in their faith.

· Wisdom - Ability to understand God’s perspective on life situations & share those insights in simple, understandable ways to help explain what to do & how to do it.

Spiritual Gifts Especially Helpful for Loving God

· Preaching (aka “Prophecy”) - Ability to publicly communicate God’s Word in inspired ways that convince unbelievers and challenge & comfort believers. The ability to persuasively declare God’s will.

· Music - The ability to celebrate God’s presence through music, either vocal or instrumental, and to help lead the church family in worship.

· Creative Ability - Ability to beautify places of worship for God’s glory.

· Giving - Ability to earn & manage money so it may be given to support ministry, generously contributing beyond the 10% tithe to grow & strengthen The Body.

Part 2:

· Leadership - Special ability to clarify & communicate the vision of a ministry in ways that attract others to be involved & work together. (Romans 12)

· Administration (sometimes called “Organization”) - Ability to organize and manage people, resources, and time for effective ministry. (1 Corinthians 12)

· Faith – An extraordinary ability to trust God for what cannot yet be seen...and act on His promises, regardless of current circumstances. The willingness to risk failure in pursuit of a God-given vision, expecting God to handle the obstacles. (1 Corinthians 12)

· Serving (sometimes called “Helps”) - The ability to recognize unmet needs in the church family and take the initiative to provide practical assistance quickly, cheerfully and w/o a need for recognition. (Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, 1 Peter 4)

· Mercy - Ability to show (beyond the norm) practical, compassionate, cheerful love toward those who are suffering. (Romans 12)

Spiritual Gifts Especially Helpful for Loving His World

· Apostleship (sometimes grouped with “Missions”) - Ability to start new churches or ministries and oversee their development. (1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4)

· Evangelism - The ability to discern opportunities to share Christ and lead people to respond with faith. (Ephesians 4)

· Discernment - God-given ability to distinguish between truth & error. Can include abilities to differentiate between spirits, good & evil, pure & impure motives, spiritual authenticity. (1 Corinthians 12)

· Healings & Miracles – “Sign” gift(s) showing God’s power, drawing attention to Christ’s Lordship as He uses you to restore a person to wholeness physically, emotionally, spiritually. (1 Corinthians 12)

· Tongues/Interpretation of Tongues - “Sign” gift(s) enabling prayer in language understood only by God and/or one with a gift to interpret such prayer language. (The Interpretation gift must be present for use of the Tongues gift in a public context.) (1 Corinthians 12)

Remember:

...God calls us NOT to be ignorant about spiritual gifts.
...GOD is The One Who gives these gifts through His Spirit.
...He gives them just as HE decides.
...Every believer is given at least one spiritual gift.
...Your serving excels through the use of your spiritual gift(s).
...We don't earn or choose them, though we can pray for them.
...These gifts show us how to make our unique contributions.
...Don't expect everyone else to have the same level of gifting or passion in an area as you. But do fire up with yours!
...They are given for power and purpose in our ministry.
...Used correctly, they lift up Jesus...and build up His church

Please take the spiritual gifts survey. You can access it on our website at gatewaymerced.org/serve or by using the QR code on today's insert.

Special credit for definitions help goes to the “network” material by Bruce Bugbee & Don Cousins with Wendy Seldman