

Heritage Basics

Lesson 11: Spiritual Gifts

I. The Nature of Spiritual Gifts

a. Who is the source of spiritual giftedness?

i. 1 Corinthians 12:11 _____

ii. 1 Corinthians 12:28 _____

b. Who possesses spiritual giftedness (1 Peter 4:10)? _____

c. What is the purpose of Spiritual gifts?

i. 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 _____

ii. 1 Corinthians 14:12 _____

iii. 1 Peter 4:10-11 _____

II. The Provision of Spiritual Gifts

a. Spiritual gifts are referred to in Scripture, List them below:

1. Romans 12:6-8

_____, _____, _____,
_____, _____.

2. 1 Corinthians 12:8-10

_____, _____,
_____, _____,
_____, _____.

3. 1 Corinthians 12:28b (Second half of verse)

_____, _____,
_____, _____.

b. Understanding the gifts- To better understand how the spiritual gifts function, the gifts are classified in two categories: temporary (special) and permanent.

i. **Temporary Gifts-** The Holy Spirit gave temporary gifts to confirm the testimony of the apostles and prophets. These gifts were prevalent in the early church but ceased to be evident as the church became established.

1. **Miracles-** This gift is the ability to do “wonders” and signs.” Christ performed many miracles, as recorded in Scripture. Paul used this gift to affirm his apostleship, as described in 2 Corinthians 12:12.

2. **Healing-** Peter had this gift (see Acts 3:6-8; 5:15-16), which affirmed his message and helped to establish the foundation for the church.

3. **Tongues and interpretation of tongues-** This gift is manifested by the speaking of a language unknown to the speaker (see Acts 2:1-11). This gift had to be accompanied by the gift of interpretation (1 Corinthians 14:27-28).

- ii. **Permanent Gifts-** The Holy Spirit gave gifts for the building up of the church. These were prevalent in the early church and still are in the church today.
1. **Prophecy-** To prophesy is to preach or to tell forth or declare the Scripture. Prophecy does not necessarily mean to foretell the future.
 2. **Teaching-** This gift is the ability to teach the Word of God and help the hearers to understand the Scriptures as the Author intended.
 3. **Faith-** is a consistent, enabling faith that truly believes God in the face of overwhelming obstacles and human impossibilities, and for great things. Some people also call this the “gift of prayer” because the gift is primarily expressed toward God through prayer.
 4. **Wisdom-** the ability to apply wisdom, gained from spiritual insight, to believers; knowing what is right and what is wrong, applied knowledge.
 5. **Knowledge-** This is an understanding of the facts of Scripture. From the human perspective, it is scholarship or the ability to know the truths of Scripture both broadly and deeply.
 6. **Discernment-** is the ability to tell which things are from the Spirit and which are not, distinguishing truth from error. This gift serves as protection for the church.
 7. **Mercy-** This is the ability to show deep compassion to those who have spiritual, physical, or emotional needs.
 8. **Exhortation-** is the ability to encourage and motivate. A person with this gift can come alongside another to comfort him with love, to encourage him to a deeper spiritual commitment and growth, or to exhort him to action. This is the gift that qualifies people to exercise a counseling ministry in the body.
 9. **Giving-** is a direct reference to the material ministry of giving food, clothing, money, houses, etc., in response to the needs of the church.
 10. **Administration/Leadership-** This gift is the ability to oversee the flock. This gift should be exhibited by pastors and elders, as well as leaders of missionary societies, youth ministries, evangelistic associations, etc.
 11. **Helps-** is the ability to aid in a time of need or bear one another’s burdens as the situation arises.
 12. **Service-** is working for the Body of Christ in areas of physical ministry, such as serving food or performing maintenance.

III. The Exercise of Spiritual Gifts

a. State the principle(s) expressed in Romans 12:6-8. _____

b. Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-7 and answer the following questions:

i. How can your gifts be abused and without benefit (verses 1-3)? _____

ii. Since your spiritual giftedness is to be exercised in love, what are some guidelines that will ensure the profitability of your gifts? List 15.... (verses 4-7)

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 10. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 12. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 13. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 14. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 15. _____ |
| 8. _____ | |

c. First Corinthians 12 reveals the importance of each spiritual gift within the Body of Christ.

i. What should your attitude be in the use of your spiritual giftedness? (1 Corinthians 12:25)

d. Read Ephesians 4:11-16. What causes the growth of the Body of Christ (verse 16)?

IV. Application

a. All Christians are commanded to minister in many of the gifted areas, whether he possesses that particular gift or not. For example, all Christians are to function in the following areas:

- i. Faith..... 2 Corinthians 5:7
- ii. Wisdom..... James 1:5
- iii. Knowledge..... 2 Timothy 2:15
- iv. Exhortation..... Hebrews 10:25
- v. Giving..... 2 Corinthians 9:7
- vi. Care for one another (helps)..... 1 Corinthians 12:25

b. The Bible does not explain how to determine one’s spiritual giftedness. However, you can begin by being obedient in the areas mentioned above.

- i. Look for open doors, and pray for opportunities to serve.
- ii. Seek the counsel of other believers; they may be more aware of your gifts than you are.

c. In order to discover your giftedness in the body and in submission to the elders of the church, in what areas would you be willing to serve?

- i. _____
- ii. _____
- iii. _____

d. Each of us needs to exercise his or her giftedness in ministry for the common good of the church.

“As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” -1 Peter 4:10