



BEULAH FIRST BAPTIST

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Focus: GIFTED – Discovering Your Gift. Finding Your Place. Serving with Purpose.

Week 4: Serve With Purpose

Dr. Felix L. Cole – Senior Pastor

Primary Texts: 1 Peter 4:10-11

Supporting Texts: Romans 12:6–11; 1 Corinthians 12:7; 1 Corinthians 13:1–7; Galatians 5:22–23; Ephesians 4:16; Colossians 3:23–24

Introduction: We began this series by discovering that *every believer is gifted*. We then learned to recognize how God has gifted us and considered where those gifts fit within the Body of Christ. In this final week, we move from *discovery and placement to stewardship*.

Working Definition: A spiritual gift is a grace-given expression of the Holy Spirit working through a believer for the benefit of others and the purposes of God.

Tonight's Question: *How do I faithfully use what God has entrusted to me?*

1. GOD HAS ENTRUSTED YOU WITH SOMETHING

1 Peter 4:10: *“As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”*

Peter describes our gifts as something we have **received** and something we must **steward**. A steward faithfully manages something that ultimately belongs to someone else.

Your gift is not something you possess. *It is an expression of God's grace that He has entrusted to you.*

Question: Am I faithfully using what God has entrusted to me?

Truth to See: God didn't just give me a gift; He entrusted me with one.

2. GIFTED DOESN'T JUST MEAN TALENTED – BIBLICALY

A spiritual gift is not simply something you are naturally good at. Talents, skills, and spiritual gifts can work together, but they are not the same thing.

WHAT IT MEANS	
Talent	A natural ability or aptitude that can be developed.
Skill	An ability learned and strengthened through training or practice.
Spiritual Gift	A grace-given expression of the Holy Spirit working through a believer for others.
Serving	Using what God has given me for the benefit of others.
Gift of Service	A particular spiritual gifting toward meeting needs within the Body.

Example: A person may have a naturally beautiful voice and develop that ability through training and practice. Singing is not named among the New Testament spiritual gifts we have studied, **but that talent can still be surrendered to God and used in ministry.**

Using the talent of singing to serve does not make **singing** a spiritual gift, nor does it automatically mean the singer has the **gift of service**. The same principle applies to abilities in music, technology,

cooking, construction, accounting, athletics, art, and many other areas. **We do not have to call something a spiritual gift for God to use it.**

Truth to See: Everything I'm good at is not necessarily my spiritual gift, but everything I have can be surrendered to God for His use.

3. YOUR GIFT IS FOR SOMEBODY ELSE

1 Peter 4:10: *"...even so minister the same one to another..."*

1 Corinthians 12:7: *"But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal."*

Spiritual gifts turn our attention toward **others**. Peter says we use them "one to another," and Paul teaches that the Spirit's manifestation is given for the common good. This moves us beyond asking: ***What am I good at?*** to ***"How does God's grace work through me for the benefit of others?"***

There is a difference between a **Christian responsibility** and a particular **spiritual gift**. Every believer is called to serve, give, encourage, show mercy, and share the Gospel, even though believers may be spiritually gifted in some of these areas.

Truth to See: The purpose of my gift is not recognition; it is contribution.

4. YOUR GIFT NEEDS YOUR CHARACTER

1 Corinthians 13:1–7; Galatians 5:22–23 : Being spiritually gifted does not automatically mean being spiritually mature. Paul places his teaching on love directly between his discussions of spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians 12 and 14. **God is concerned not only with the gift we use, but with the character we display while using it.**

The **gifts of the Spirit** describe how God's grace works through us for the benefit of others. The **fruit of the Spirit** reflects the Christlike character the Holy Spirit is producing in us. We need both.

Gift without character can hurt the very people the gift was given to help.

- Teaching without love can become arrogance.
- Leadership without love can become control.
- Exhortation without love can become harshness.
- Giving without love can become self-serving.
- Mercy without maturity can lose healthy boundaries.

Question: Does the way I use my gift reflect the character of Christ?

Truth to See: My gift does not excuse my character. The Spirit who works through me also wants to work in me.

5. STEWARD IT FAITHFULLY AND FOR GOD'S GLORY

Romans 12:6–11; Colossians 3:23–24; 1 Peter 4:11

Romans 12 does more than tell us that gifts exist. Paul tells us to **use them well**: serve, teach, exhort, give generously, lead diligently, and show mercy cheerfully. Colossians reminds us that whatever we do should be done **"heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men."** Faithful service cannot depend upon recognition, position, applause, or whether someone notices what we have done.

Peter then gives us the ultimate purpose: **"...that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ."** — **1 Peter 4:11**

Question: Am I using what God has given me faithfully, even when no one is watching?

Truth to See: My gift reaches its purpose when others are strengthened and God receives the glory.