



BEULAH FIRST BAPTIST

Dr. Felix L. Cole, Senior Pastor

September 9, 2026

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

Week 2: Know Your Gift – Learning to Recognize How God Works Through You

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Primary Texts: 1 Corinthians 12:4–11, Romans 12:3–8

Supporting Texts: Ephesians 4:11–16, 1 Peter 4:10–11, 1 Corinthians 13:1–7

Introduction: Last week we established that **every believer is gifted**. God is the Source, every believer is a recipient, the common good is the purpose, and the Holy Spirit determines the distribution. This week we move from **“You are gifted”** to **“How has God gifted you?”** An assessment can help us recognize patterns, but knowing our gift requires understanding what Scripture describes and recognizing how God consistently works through us.

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.

1. KNOW WHAT SCRIPTURE DESCRIBES

Romans 12:6: “Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us...”

The New Testament describes a variety of gifts and gifted expressions. These passages are not given merely so that we can find a label that fits us. They reveal the **different ways God's grace becomes active through His people for the benefit of His Body**.

GIFT	BIBLICAL EXPRESSION	HUMAN TRAP TO WATCH
Prophecy	Communicating God's truth with clarity and conviction, calling people to faithful response.	Harshness — confusing bluntness with boldness or speaking truth without love.
Service	Recognizing practical needs and willingly meeting them so others and ministry can flourish.	Resentment/Burnout — doing everything, struggling to say no, then feeling unappreciated.
Teaching	Helping others understand and apply the truth of God's Word.	Pride — needing to be right or valuing knowledge more than people.
Exhortation	Encouraging, strengthening, challenging, and urging others toward faithful action.	Impatience/Judgment — pushing people faster than grace is growing them.
Giving	Generously and willingly using resources to meet needs and advance God's work.	Control/Recognition — expecting influence, gratitude, or something in return.
Leadership	Providing direction, organization, and diligent guidance toward a shared purpose.	Control — using people to accomplish the vision instead of developing people through the vision.

Mercy	Responding with compassion and practical care to people who are hurting or in need.	Enabling — allowing compassion to override truth, wisdom, accountability, or healthy boundaries.
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1 CORINTHIANS 12:8–10 — MANIFESTATIONS OF THE SPIRIT

GIFT	BIBLICAL EXPRESSION
Word of Wisdom	Spirit-enabled wisdom for applying God's truth to a particular situation.
Word of Knowledge	Spirit-enabled understanding or communication of knowledge that serves the Body.
Faith	Unusual confidence in God's power, promises, and ability to act.
Gifts of Healing	Spirit-enabled healing according to God's will and purposes.
Working of Miracles	Extraordinary works of divine power that point to God's activity.
Prophecy	Spirit-enabled communication that edifies, exhorts, or comforts God's people.
Discerning of Spirits	Recognizing what is consistent with God's Spirit and what is false or spiritually harmful.
Kinds of Tongues	Spirit-enabled speech in a tongue not naturally acquired by the speaker.
Interpretation of Tongues	Spirit-enabled interpretation so that a message in tongues can be understood.

Truths to See: 1) Different gifts come from the **same Spirit**. 2) No single gift is evidence of greater spiritual value or maturity. 3) The manifestation of the Spirit is given for the **common good**.

Application: Don't become so focused on identifying a label that you miss the larger question: **How is the Holy Spirit working through me to benefit somebody else?**

2. RECOGNIZE HOW GOD WORKS THROUGH YOU

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

Last week we learned that *phanerōsis* means **manifestation—making visible**. If gifts are manifestations of the Spirit, pay attention to where God's activity repeatedly becomes evident through you.

Ask: Where have I repeatedly seen God use me to help, strengthen, encourage, equip, or build up someone else?

3. LISTEN TO THE BODY

1 Corinthians 12:18: God has placed the members in the Body “**as it hath pleased him.**” Because our gifts benefit the Body, other believers can often help us recognize how God works through us.

Ask: What do spiritually mature people consistently affirm about the way God uses me?

Truth to See: Your gift may be personal, but its confirmation is often communal.

4. FOLLOW THE BURDEN & TEST IT THROUGH SERVICE

1 Peter 4:10: “As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another...”

Pay attention to the people and needs that consistently move you, but don't stop with burden. **Serve.** Gifts often become clearer as we put them into practice.

Ask: What needs consistently move me? Where have I served and seen God use me?

Truth to See: Discernment happens in motion.