

UNWRAPPING YOUR PRESENTS FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT

Part Two

- I. **THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT INTRODUCED: (See 1 Cor. 12)**
 - A. Defining spiritual gifts:
 - B. Five reasons for the Holy Spirit giving believers spiritual gifts:
 - C. Three different groups of spiritual gifts: (service, support, sign)
- II. **SIX SERVICE (MAINTENANCE) GIFTS THAT HOLD A CHURCH TOGETHER:**
 - A. The spiritual gift of **administration**: (See 1 Cor. 12:28; Rom. 12:8)
 1. The gift explained: "This gift allows an individual to be calm, showing leadership with tact and skill when the battle is raging. He or she knows where they are going and can excite others to go with them. They organize details with a defined purpose in mind."
 2. Example – Titus: (See Tit. 1:5)
 - B. The spiritual gift of **exhortation**: (See Rom. 12:8)
 1. The gift explained: "John's gospel uses this same word for the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. It is a personal one on one ministry of driving home specific truths to spiritually challenge a fellow believer. The gift of counseling and exhortation are one in the same. The teacher tells us the information, but the exhorter tells us on a personal level, how to put the truth into practice with tactfulness, "speaking the truth in love". This gift allows an individual to be very effective in discipling others.
 2. Example – Aquila and Priscilla: (See Acts 18:26) Barnabas is another excellent example
 - C. The spiritual gift of **faith**: (See 1 Cor. 12:9)
 1. The gift explained: "This gift allows an individual to lay hold of God's promises for results far beyond the power of man to achieve. In spite of circumstances, this person remains confident in what God is doing behind the scene. This gifted individual is recognized by his bold optimistic resolve, viewing hope in God's promises for tomorrow, as an absolute future certainty rather than just wishful thinking about what could or might happen.
 2. Example – Stephen: (See Acts 6:5)
 3. Two hindrances in developing this gift are the lack of knowledge as to who God is, and a lack of communication with the God who is always there and is always enough for every tomorrow.
 - D. The spiritual gift of **giving**: (See Rom. 12:8)
 1. The gift explained: This gift allows an individual to be sensitive to provide for the needs of the local church and individuals within the church, with joy and generosity over and above the responsibility to tithe (tenth) on the "first fruits" of the possessions, inheritance, and gross salaries. This individual gives to the needs of a local church, far beyond his/her "tenth", by sacrificially giving up other desires and wants, for the sake of the local church and the term that is used to describe this kind of giving, is sacrificial offerings, a term used throughout Scripture.

2. Examples – Barnabas: (See Acts 4:36-37) Ananias and Sapphira professed to have it: (See Acts 5:1-11)
3. What the gift is not: Giving to the needs of the local church and other believers within the church, was never meant to take the place of tithing. Tithing is returning a predetermined portion beginning with a minimum of 10 % of all the wealth entrusted to his/her care, to the Lord through the local church (storehouse tithing) (See Mal. 3:10) before any other household or personal payments are made (first fruits). (See Pro. 3:9-10) Every believer is commanded by God to demonstrate the Lordship of Christ by the worshipful practice of tithing, and to fail to do so, is to steal from the Lord. (See Mal. 3:8-10) Those who have the gift of giving, generously give, often anonymously, over and above their tithes, as a sacrificial offering, choosing to give up something else to experience the joy in giving first of all, to the ministry of the local church, and secondly to other endeavors like world missions and other needy individuals in the local body of Christ.

E. The spiritual gift of **mercy**: (See Rom. 12:8)

1. The gift explained: “This allows an individual to enter into the needs and heartaches of brothers and sisters within the local church, to bring comfort and encouragement. It is the idea of visiting, encouraging, empathizing, strengthening, and sharing in the burdens of fellow church members. The individual knows what to say, how to say it, and when to say it. He/she sees ways to help without being told and knows when to come, what to do, and when to leave. It also includes hospitality, where the individual’s home is used as a ministry beachhead.
2. Examples – Timothy (See II Tim. 4:9), Onesimus (See Philemon 1:13), and Epaphroditus: (See Phil. 2:25)
3. What it is not: The person does not use God’s Word to aggressively attack perceived spiritual problems like Job’s counselors did. The question that must be asked is this: Did the individual feel condemnation and guilt or encouragement and hope by my visit? Does the individual long for me to promptly return or hope that I will never come back?

F. The spiritual gift of **helps**: (See I Cor. 12:28)

1. The gift explained: “This gift allows an individual to eagerly assist and support in any delegated capacity, others in their local church ministries. These individuals rarely get any public recognition, but without them, every ministry within the local church, eventually collapses.
2. Examples – Tabitha (See Acts 9:3) and Phoebe (See Rom. 16:2)
3. Some practical examples today are those who volunteer to help out in support roles that involve nursery, cleaning, sound, repairs, bus, landscaping, food, set ups and tear downs, and ministries from children to the elderly. (VBS, Olympians, Sunday School, Jr. Church, nursing home visitation, etc.). Nothing happens at Grace without this vital gift being faithfully exercised, each and every week.

III. **PRINCIPLES TO PERSONALLY APPLY:**

(Together becoming “people of the Word” in principle AND in practice)

- A. Service gifts in a local church are like a football team where each player plays a specific position.
- B. There is no way the football team (local church) can win (for eternity), if its players refuse to get into the game or play their coach’s (Holy Spirit’s) assigned positions and take their designated role.