

08/28/22 Message

Part of Gifted - Expect to be Empowered

August 27, 2022

Message: Exhortation, Giving, Leadership, Mercy

Series: Gifted: Expect to be Empowered

This is our sixth message in the series Gifted: Expect to be Empowered!

The goal of this series is to bring you closer to the Holy Spirit by understanding who He is and what He can do for you. Hopefully you will understand the different spiritual gifts and by the end, be able to identify and employ your giftedness within the church.

Review

- Power comes from God's HOLY SPIRIT
- We believe in ONE God (we are a monotheistic religion)
 - made up of THREE persons
- We call it the HOLY TRINITY
 - God the Father
 - God the Son (Jesus)
 - God the Holy Spirit (God's Holy Spirit)
- Jesus PROMISED to give us the Holy Spirit
 - Jesus' promise is fulfilled at Pentecost
- The Holy Spirit gives LIFE
- The power of the Holy Spirit allows us to restrain EVIL and do GOOD

God is looking for people through whom He can do the impossible. What a pity that we plan only the things we can do by ourselves.

—A.W. Tozer

- Supernatural power is given to us through SPIRITUAL GIFTS!
- Working definition of Spiritual Gifts
 - When the Holy Spirit manifests His presence and imparts His power through believers to enable them to exceed the limitations of their finite humanity so they will faithfully and effectively fulfill tasks of ministry to build up the body of Christ.

Know this - in every area of your life where Satan is telling you, "You can't!" God is telling you, "All things are possible!"

—Pastor Chad

Introduction

Today we're covering four "motivational" gifts - the gifts of exhortation, giving, leadership, and mercy. You may have one, you may have more than one, and you may not have any of the ones mentioned today.

God wants you to know about spiritual gifts, and know which ones you have!

1 Corinthians 12:1 (NIV)

Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 (NLT)

4 There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all.

5 There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord.

6 God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us.

7 A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.

I like this acronym for what a spiritual gift represents:

- G

- Grace - spiritual gifts are a sign that God has redeemed you (1 Corinthians 12:2)

- I

- Identification - spiritual gifts identify you with Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 12:3)

- F
- Function – spiritual gifts are given to us for service in the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:4-6)
- T
- Teamwork – spiritual gifts demonstrate unity in diversity (1 Corinthians 12:7)

Exhortation

Romans 12:8 (NLT)

If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging...

Characteristics of the gift of exhortation:

- Regard trials as opportunities
- Express love through availability
- Prefer spiritual help over physical help
- Love to encourage
- Gives hope by sharing a Biblical perspective
- Responds to problems by prescribing specific steps

Strengths of the gift of exhortation:

- Uses scripture to validate their advice
- Willing and eager to come alongside you
- Memorize and meditate on Scripture
- Sees trials in a positive light (reminds of God's sovereignty and love)
- Able to give thanks in all seasons and circumstances
- Understand time with God brings transformation

Weaknesses of the gift of exhortation:

- Need visible evidence of acceptance/affirmation
- Easily oversimplify solutions
- Poor listeners (give excellent advice)
- Naïve and easily manipulated
- May quote scripture out of context (imply it says what it doesn't)

Giving

Romans 12:8 (NLT)

If your gift is... giving, give generously...

Characteristics of the gift of giving:

- Motivational drive is to conserve and share resources to meet needs
- Enjoy preventing waste with wisdom/accountability
- Gets joy finding less costly ways to do things
- Families often think they are very stingy, but others think they are very generous
- Saving resources gives as much pleasure as giving them

Strengths of the gift of giving:

- Saves money by making wise purchases
- Hard workers with conservative values
- Personally involved in lives of those they support
- Rarely incurs debt
- Loves to motivate others to save and give generously

Weaknesses of the gift of giving:

- Efforts to conserve can turn into being plain cheap
- React negatively to pressure to give
- When offended, allows feelings to interfere with God-given opportunities
- Tempted to judge based on a single incident (lack of accountability)
- Easy to get tunnel-vision and not see the big picture

Leadership

Romans 12:8 (NLT)

...If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously...

Characteristics of the gift of leadership:

- Motivational drive is to lead others to get the job done
- They make sure the project gets done, even if they do it
- Ability to discern other's strengths, weaknesses, talents
- Masterful at making long range goals
- Always see the big picture, goal oriented

Strengths of the gift of leadership:

- Efficient, thorough, and loyal
- Invests time wisely
- Handles pressure extremely well
- Able to implement the impossible
- Makes decision on what's best (not convenient)

- Ability to discern true character

Weaknesses of the gift of leadership:

- Easily frustrates others who don't share their vision
- Tends to put projects before people
- Takes an interest in others to find out the best way to use them, not the best way to serve them
- Reputation of being cold hearted or unconcerned (preoccupied with tasks, not feelings)
- Often appear to be uninvolved or uninterested due to being focused on the big picture

Mercy

Romans 12:8 (NLT)

...And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

Characteristics of the gift of mercy:

- Basic motivational drive is to sense and respond to the emotional and spiritual needs of others
- Kind and gentle
- Need to be needed (must reach out and get involved)
- Drawn to other sensitive people
- Feel they must pray (backbone of church prayer power)

Strengths of the gift of mercy:

- Sense person's spirit or atmosphere among a group
- Equips them to reach out to those who are suffering
- Attracted to people in distress
- Love the unlovable
- Do not take sin lightly (their own or others)
- Tend to embrace humility

Weaknesses of the gift of mercy:

- Indecisive, tossed to and fro by their emotions
- Easily allow others to become dependent on them
- Become rescuers of those who don't need it
- Warmth can be falsely interpreted as intimate affection (should learn to temper demonstration of affections)
- Quick to take up others' offenses (leads to anger and bitterness)
- Try to avoid conflict of any kind (hide/ignore enemies)

- Harsh and impatient
- Introspective (over sensitive to own hurts, wallow in past offenses, cling to past bitterness, swell on past mistakes or sins)
- Develop a poor self-image; tend to be worriers

Summary

Romans 12:8 (NLT)

If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

Do you have any of the spiritual gifts mentioned today?

Never doubt that God can use you - regardless of your giftedness - to build up the body of Christ. If you're gifted - you have a greater chance of being successful because you've been selected - handpicked - and given a gift by your Creator for you to use to build up His church.

—Pastor Chad