

Right Tool for the Job

How long did it take you to learn to use the right tool for the job?

You Need to Be Informed About Spiritual Gifts

Spiritual gifts are varied

In verses 4-6, notice the word “varieties.”

Verses 7-10 give a non-comprehensive list of gifts.

Romans 12:6-8 adds: “Exhortation (encouragement), contribution, leadership, and mercy.”

1 Peter 4:10-11 sums it up: “Whoever speaks, whoever serves.” → God is glorified through Jesus

Spiritual gifts are given by God, according to his will

1 Corinthians 12:11 “All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.”

Spiritual gifts are for everyone, for the common good

1 Corinthians 12:7 “To each is given a manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”

Everyone is needed! Everyone is valued! Everyone is gifted!

Words from a wise man

Dr. Philip Douglass was my professor, a man who helped thousands of people discover their calling.

“Is the discovery of your calling an effort to ‘find yourself’ and attain ‘self-fulfillment’ that leads to self-absorption with little regard for the glory of God and genuine ministry to others? The process can be manipulated in that fashion. HOWEVER... the process is not primarily about us. Rather it is about Christ and his kingdom and discovering how we are to glorify the Lord specifically through the calling he has bestowed upon us.”

Carrying your own load

Galatians 6:4-5 “Each one should test his own work. Then he can rejoice in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else, for each one should carry his own load.”

Load = Greek word “phortion” = the pack carried by a marching soldier.

“There are certain responsibilities each believer bears in regard to his/her specific calling which cannot be shared with others... Jesus assured his disciples that such burdens of service are light to bear.”

Mt. 11:30 “Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my load (Greek = “phortion”) is light.”

Where are you?

Not Serving		Serving	
Won't serve	Would serve but doesn't know their gifting	Serving, but not in line with their gifting	Serving in their gifting

You Need to Value How God Has Designed the Body

Two sides of the coin

Appreciating our differences

Vss. 4-6 “Same Spirit... same Lord... same God.” Our differences come from a united God!

Vs. 7 “To each is given a manifestation of the Spirit...”

Vs. 21 “The eye cannot say to the hand, I have no need of you.”

Appreciating ourselves

“If the foot should say, ‘because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body.’”

“I don’t preach like this much, because it can be so self-serving ... but part of having faith, is believing God didn’t make a mistake when he made you the way he made you!” – Tim Keller

No comparisons

It needs to be enough for us that we do the work that Jesus gave us, and that’s that.

Jesus, in John 17:4 “I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.”

As it was said of king David, “For when David had served God’s purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep.”

Questions for Further Study and Application

1. What does Paul want the Corinthian church to know about spiritual gifts?
2. What wrong attitudes does Paul warn against in verses 12-31?
3. What is the load that you are uniquely called to carry? Do you know your calling?
4. Do you not like your own gifting, or do you devalue the giftings of others? Why or why not?