

HE'S NOT THROUGH WITH US YET

SESSION #7

Christ is still working in His Church to bring her into her full glory and beauty as promised and prayed for at the right hand of the Father. Paul continues to communicate the burning passion and dream of Christ for His Church and Bride who is being prepared for love and equipped for ruling and serving into eternity. My presentation in teaching spiritual gifts and the service gifts of the family of God is that as long as we are still being brought into full maturity on this side of eternity, all of the gifts and services are in operation for this purpose. We should desire to walk in the fulness and maturity of Christ as we actively prepare for the appearing of Jesus Christ.

I. JESUS CHEERFULLY GIVES GIFTS

- A. **Ephesians 4:11-12** *And He Himself (Jesus) gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,*
- B. Paul describes the Father's heart towards those who lovingly and willingly give abundantly. God loves them dearly and entrust to the giver even more than they originally had before they gave in love. As a matter of fact, there is none more generous in cheerfully giving than Christ Jesus.
- C. **2 Corinthians 9:7-8** *So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.*
- D. Spiritual gifts are empowerments to build up the church and extending the Kingdom of God on the Earth. They are God-given abilities which allow each Believer to effectively serve the family of God in a grace-filled way. What you find to be "easy" in serving and working may be different than another. It is the grace and power of God that allows us to feel a sense of ease in functioning in a specific gift and/or service.
- E. There are five New Testament references to about 20 spiritual gifts (**Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 28-30; Ephesians 4:11; 1 Peter 4:10-11**).
- F. Fivefold Ministers are meant to cooperate in their special giftings and abilities, and together govern, lead, and protect God's people. Here are a few practical and helpful facts about spiritual gifts:
 - 1. Every Follower of Christ has been given at least one spiritual gift (**1 Cor. 12:7; 14:1**).
 - 2. Spiritual gifts are given at the moment of salvation in Christ for the purpose of fulfilling our specific calling and assignment for God (**1 Cor. 14:26; Eph. 4:12; 1 Pet. 4:11**).
 - 3. Spiritual gifts are seen and unseen, but all equally important.
 - 4. All spiritual gifts are empowered by the Giver, the Holy Spirit of God (**1 Cor. 12:4-6**).
 - 5. Spiritual gifts are not primarily given for the edification of the individual but for the edification of the entire Body of Christ (**Eph. 4:12-13**).
 - 6. All spiritual gifts are given for the ultimate purpose of bringing glory to the Giver, our Heavenly Father.
- G. The Holy Spirit is the owner and dispenser of the spiritual gifts (**1 Cor. 12:7, 11**). As believers, we are stewards of the gifts of God (**1 Pet. 4:10**). Every believer can expect the Holy Spirit to minister through him or her with spiritual gifts. This is one of IHOP-Miami's core values.
- H. **1 Corinthians 12:7** *But the manifestation (expression/use) of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:*

- I. **1 Timothy 4:14** *Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.*
- J. Spiritual gifts are not natural gifts and talents but are supernatural gifts. There are ‘power gifts’ and ‘services gifts’.
- K. Spiritual gifts are received by Holy Spirit, both at our conversion and salvation, as well as by the laying on of hands as a form of divine impartation. Our caution is that it is ALWAYS the work and impartation of Holy Spirit, though at times God allows us to cooperate with Him in the distribution.
- L. We want to view these five-fold ministry gifts as ‘functions’ rather than ‘offices’. Offices tend to communicate an “arrival” mentality rather than a working job-description. Jesus carried and expressed all five of these leadership functions while He was on the Earth. When He ascended, He distributed these job descriptions through the Person and function of Holy Spirit to serve His Body and to equip her to fulfill His Kingdom plans on the Earth.
- M. Jesus as our model for leadership became the greatest servant of all.
- N. **Matthew 20:25-28** *But Jesus called them to Himself and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. ²⁶ Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. ²⁷ And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”*
- O. **5-Fold Ministry & Leadership Gifts**- Some view these gifts from the perspective of one hand having 5 separate fingers. Each finger offers a different function, yet all of them provide the full use of the hand. When one is missing, the work becomes that much harder to accomplish.
1. **Apostles**- The Greek word ‘apostolos’, means “a messenger” or “one sent on a mission.” Apostles were literally commissioned messengers carrying out a task or mission.
 2. **Prophets**- They were spokespersons for God, whose role was known from the Old Testament and continued in the New Testament church. A prophet is one who is divinely inspired to communicate God’s will to His people and to disclose the future to them.
 3. **Evangelists**- An Evangelist is “*one announcing good news.*” In the New Testament, the good news is the death, burial, resurrection, and the ultimate ascension of Christ. Christ now offers to all of humanity the gift of eternal life by being born again.
 4. **Pastors**- The term pastor is found only once in the English text of the New Testament. However, the Greek word ‘*poimen*’ is found about eighteen times in the New Testament, translated once as “pastor” and the remaining instances as “*shepherd*” as found in **John 10** as Jesus is revealed as the Good Shepherd. Only in **Ephesians 4:11** is shepherd found in reference to a function in the Church.
 5. **Teachers**- Teachers are expounders of the Scriptures and the testimony of Jesus. If they functioned like Jewish teachers, they probably offered Biblical instruction to the congregation and trained others to expound the Scriptures as well.
 - Pastors & Teachers are understood to be overlapping in function and usefulness in the Family and Body of Christ.
 - This is such comforting to see and understand that when Christ returned to the Father’s right hand, He distributed His gifts for the purpose of shepherding His family as under-shepherds.

II. PREPARED & EQUIPPED TO FULFILL THE GREAT COMMANDMENT & GREAT COMMISSION

- A. We want to begin to cast vision for the Church to see ourselves as maturing into the work of the ministry. We must move beyond attending a weekend service to be fed. We must mature into learning how to feed ourselves in the Spirit regularly so that we are no longer malnourished.

- B. Christ wants to empower us with greater grace and usefulness in and through Him. His grace saves us from sin but also empowers us for service. Many Christians have yet to experience this second or this maturity and ever-increase grace that is available to those who understand the how and the why of salvation.
- C. *“Too many Christians, however, settle for the grace of salvation- saving grace- and never realize that God has also given them grace of sanctification- enabling grace. Though we have been given “Christ’s gifts”, which places us in the Body of Christ (Eph. 4:7), many Christians fail to receive Christ’s “gifts” which equip us to minister in and to the Body of Christ (Eph. 4:8).” (Chuck Swindoll)*
- D. **IHOP-Miami’s Vision Statement:** *‘We are called to be a unique expression of church, centered around the presence of Jesus through night & day worship & prayer for the purpose of seeing families, neighborhoods, and nations transformed as we prepare for His return.’*
- E. As we mature into feeding ourselves on our relationship with Holy Spirit, then we will reproduce God’s Kingdom and “bare much fruit” (Jn. 15:7). If we are not baring spiritual fruit, then we are neglecting to fellowship and feed on Holy Spirit’s life in us.
- F. **Matthew 28:19-20** *“¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you...”*
- G. **Acts 1:4; 8** (Jesus) *...commanded them... to wait for the Promise of the Father...⁸you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses...”*