

# SPIRITUAL GIFTS (1of3)

Romans 12:3-8

Three main passages about the gifts of the Spirit. Romans 12, 1Corinthians 12, & Ephesians 4.

Today covering the gifts of prophecy, ministry, teaching, exhortation, giving, leadership, & mercy.

## **I. SPIRITUAL GIFTS: ATTITUDE IS EVERYTHING (ROMANS 12:3-6)**

### **1. Be Humble. Our gifts are by grace (12:3)**

- i. The ancient Greek word for “spiritual gifts”: charismata, which means a gift of grace.
- ii. *1 Corinthians 4:7 (ESV) For who sees anything different in you? What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?*
- iii. “Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less.” - C.S. Lewis
- iv. A man who had a high opinion of himself stepped on a coin-operated scale that dispensed a card, giving his weight and comments about his personality. After reading the card, he handed it to his wife and said, “Here, look at this!” She took it and read aloud, “You are dynamic, a born leader, handsome, and much admired by women for your personality.” Giving it a second look, she added, “Hmmm, I see it’s got your weight wrong too!”

## 2. Be unique. Our gifts are all different. (12:4)

i. 1 Corinthians 12:4–7 (ESV) <sup>4</sup> Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup> and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; <sup>6</sup> and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. <sup>7</sup> To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

## 3. Be united. Our gifts are for one body. (12:5)

i. 1 Corinthians 12:12 “For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.”

## 4. Be useful. Our gifts shouldn't sit on the shelf (12:6a)

i. Not a spiritual sneakerhead

## II. PROPHECY: GIFTED TO SPEAK (ROMANS 12:6)

### 1. Forth-Telling. Speaking forth God's word.

i. 1 Corinthians 14:3 (NKJV) But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.

### 2. Fore-Telling. Speaking about future events.

i. Acts 11:27–28 (NKJV) <sup>27</sup> And in these days prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch. <sup>28</sup> Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar.

- ii. 1 Corinthians 14:29 (NKJV) *Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge.*
- iii. 1 Thessalonians 5:19–21 (NKJV) *Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not despise prophecies. 21 Test all things; hold fast what is good.*

### **III. MINISTRY: GIFTED TO SERVE (ROMANS 12:7)**

1. **The word minister means servant. This is someone who helps, especially behind the scenes, and without recognition.**
  - i. Ephesians 3:7 (NKJV) *of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.*

### **IV. TEACHING: GIFTED TO ENLIGHTEN (ROMANS 12:7)**

1. **The gift of teaching is Instruction in the Word of God. This is not a skill to be learned, it's a gift to be received.**
  - i. "There has been far too much preaching in the church, and far too little teaching. In fact, the church has almost been preached to death. The church needs teaching so that more believers will grow and become mature in their relationship with Jesus Christ." – Chuck Smith

### **V. EXHORTATION: GIFTED TO ENCOURAGE (ROMANS 12:8)**

1. **A person with this gift will be able to encourage and motivate others to do what they know they should. If you have the gift then your words will comfort and help and not discourage or bring down.**

## **VI. GIVING: GIFTED FOR GENEROSITY (ROMANS 12:8)**

1. This is a special gift in our self-centred & greedy society. This is a blessed gift because there are special promises attached to giving.

i. *II Corinthians 9:6 "He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully"*

ii. *Luke 6:38 (NLT) Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back."*

## **VII. LEADERSHIP: GIFTED TO GOVERN (ROMANS 12:8)**

1. This is the gift to lead and govern like Jesus.

i. *1 Peter 5:2–4 (NKJV) Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; 3 nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; 4 and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.*

## **VIII. MERCY: GIFTED FOR COMPASSION (ROMANS 12:8)**

1. The gift of mercy is not giving people what they deserve. The Bible says 41 times that God's mercy is everlasting. We should show mercy and be like God.

i. Matthew 5:7 (NKJV) *Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.*

## Growth Group Discussion Questions

- Spiritual gifts are listed in the Bible but can be a topic of controversy. Some Churches do not believe that all the gifts are for today, while others over-emphasize the miraculous gifts. What is your background and experience with the gifts of the Spirit, and how important do you think spiritual gifts are for Christians?
- We learned that attitude is everything when it comes to spiritual gifts. Why do you think that grace and humility are so important in the use of the gifts?
- You may or may not have one or more of the gifts we talked about Sunday. Just for fun, which of the gifts from Sunday do you think you are most likely to identify with? Which ones are you least likely to have or identify with? (prophecy, ministry, teaching, exhortation, giving, leadership, mercy)
- In your view, what is the difference between gifted preaching and teaching?

- The gift of prophecy can be a bit strange, but often beneficial. Can you share an experience with the gift of prophecy that was either strange or encouraging?