

serving/helps
admin
mercy
giving
teaching
exhortation
apostleship
leadership/ruling
pastor
evangelist
prophecy
gifts of tongues
interpretation of tongues
intercession
faith
discernment of spirits
healing
works of power
words of knowledge/wisdom
celibacy

spiritual gifts

there are different
kinds of gifts, but
the same Spirit
distributes them

1 CORINTHIANS 12:4

Sunday February 10th

LET'S TALK:

Since the beginning of this series, what significant insight have you learned about spiritual gifts, spiritual disciplines and/or spiritual encounters?

LOVE Gifts manifest the love of God in practical ways. This category includes Administration (Guidance), Helps (Hospitality), Mercy, and Giving.

Recall an example of when you witnessed one of these spiritual gifts in action. Share how this experience made an impact on you.

GO TO THE WORD:

Read Romans 12:3-8.

What do verses 3-5 say to all of us about the way we should see ourselves (as modeled by Christ) and how we should think of our relationship with one another?

Think about the encouragement Paul gave to those with the gift of giving: “give generously” and for mercy, “do it cheerfully.” What is he trying to get people to avoid doing?

Read Acts 2:44-45.

Why do you think we seem to have a hard time living this kind of unity and harmony?

Read Acts 4:34b-37.

What aspects about how and what is included in this account of Barnabas' spiritual gift of giving stands out to you?

Read Acts 6:1-7.

Can you identify the spiritual gifts and the gift tension in this passage? We can become so focused on our gifting that we minimize the gifting and role of others. Is there truth to that statement in your life?

WHAT NOW:

Read through these helpful definitions. Do you find yourself resonating with one or more of the love gifts? Who else do you know has these gifts?

Administration is the “divine enablement to understand what makes an organization function, and the special ability to plan and execute procedures that accomplish the goals of the ministry.” Definition by Bruce Bugbee

Helps is the “capacity to unselfishly meet the needs of others through very practical service” enabling ministry to be ongoing. Definition by J. Robert Clinton

Mercy is the “divine enablement to cheerfully and practically help those who are suffering or are in need.” Definition by Bruce Bugbee

Giving is the “capacity to give liberally to meet the needs of others and yet to do so with a purity of motive which senses that the giving is a simple sharing of what God has given.” Definition by J. Robert Clinton

Jon said “In the areas where you are not spiritually gifted, you must exercise a spiritual discipline.” For example, we all don’t have mercy, but we are called to be merciful. We all don’t have the expression of helps called hospitality, but we are called to be hospitable. Discuss the impact of this truth for you.

Is there a need in your group that you can meet by offering practical support to one another?

PRAY:

Invite the Holy Spirit to show you opportunities to serve using your spiritual gifts. Pray that the Lord will raise up among us more people who find joy in serving with the spiritual gifts in the love category.

BEFORE NEXT TIME, ON YOUR OWN:

Read Luke 10:38-42; John 11:17-45; 12:1-11.

What evidence of spiritual gifts in action do you see in these passages about Mary and Martha?

Both sisters were eager to have Jesus in their home, but what was the tension between them?

In John how has each sister perhaps expanded her understanding about how to exercise her gift?