

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 17th

### LET'S TALK:

Last week we looked at the four love gifts: Administration, Helps, Mercy, and Giving. If you're wondering if one of these gifts are part of your gift mix and/or if you exercised one or more of these gifts this past week, explain your experience so that your group can confirm your gifting.

WORD Gifts clarify the nature, action, and purposes of God.

There are 6 gifts in this category and we will examine them over two sermons. Part one includes Teaching, Exhortation/Encouragement, and Apostleship.

As Jon was describing each of the Word gifts in the sermon, which one(s) did you find you now understand better? In what ways?

### GO TO THE WORD:

Read 1 Corinthians 12:27-31.

What is the expected answer to each of the seven questions Paul included? Why?

If the mixed listing of the gifts here and in other passages isn't about order of importance, what do the mixed lists tell us about the spiritual gifts in the church?

Read Ephesians 4:11-12.

Discuss how the natural or learned ability to teach is different from the spiritual gift of teaching.

Read Acts 15:36-41.

In the book Convergence, Jon suggests that this passage is an example of gift tension between Paul and Barnabas. Can you recall a disagreement in your experience with others in church that now looking back you see resulted from gift tension? How can being aware of gift tension bring reconciliation?

Read Colossians 3:15-17.

What Spiritual Disciplines and what Spiritual Gifts does Paul mention? To carry out Paul's instructions, are there any changes you need to make in your participation in weekly Sunday services?

## **WHAT NOW:**

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

Teaching is the supernatural “ability to instruct, explain, or expose [Scripture] in such a way as to cause believers to understand the Biblical truth”. Definition by J. Robert Clinton

Exhortation is the “capacity to urge people to action in terms of applying Biblical truths, to encourage people generally with Biblical truths, or to comfort people through the application of Biblical truth to their needs.” Definition by J. Robert Clinton

Apostleship is the “special ability... to assume and exercise general leadership over a number of churches [or Christian organizations] with an extraordinary authority in spiritual matters that is spontaneously recognized and appreciated” Definition by Peter Wagner

The original office of Apostle (as listed in Acts 1 as the 12 appointed by Jesus and Paul later added) is finished but the gift remains alive in the Church of Jesus Christ. It is evident in many church planters, missionaries or founders of para-church ministries.

Read Romans 12:6-8; 14:12; 1 Corinthians 14:12.

God has given His followers spiritual gifts. Gifts are to be received and used. All of us will be accountable before God for what we use or don't use! Are you currently exercising your gifts for the common good of the church? If not, why not? What steps will you take to increase the effectiveness of your gifts?

## **PRAY:**

Pray that the Lord will help your group to clarify and confirm each other's Spiritual Gifts. Pray that His Spirit will empower your group to use your gifts to serve one another and for the common good of the whole church.

## **BEFORE NEXT TIME, ON YOUR OWN:**

Paul is a biblical example of a teacher. Barnabas and Agabus are examples of the gift of exhortation. John the disciple is an example of one with the gift of apostleship. Consider the Bible examples and brainstorm how Jesus might have used any of the Spiritual Word gifts.

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:11-15.

How is Paul urging the use of Spiritual Disciplines and Gifts among the Thessalonians, and which specific ones does he mention or allude to? What part are you playing to make this kind of profile be true of your church?