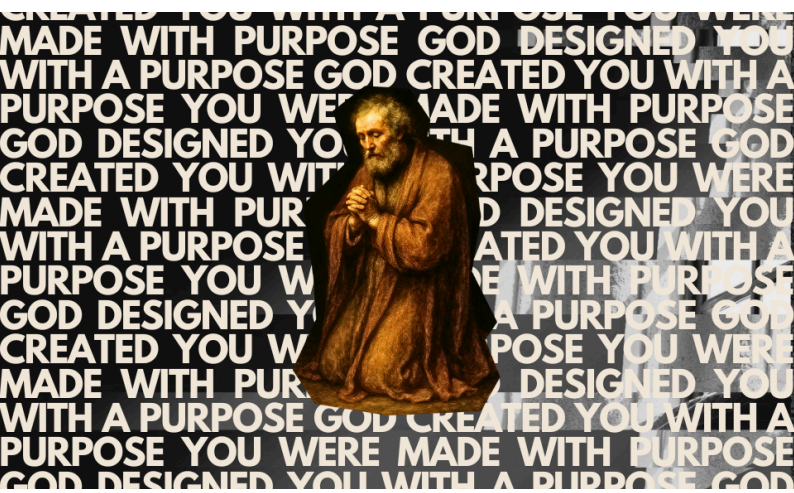




the spiritual gifts

Small Group Guide: The Spiritual Gifts, Week 5

Key Takeaways:

1. There are three distinct categories of spiritual gifts in the Bible: a. Manifestation Gifts (1 Corinthians 12) b. Ministry Gifts (Ephesians 4) c. Motivational Gifts (Romans 12)
2. Manifestation Gifts are supernatural demonstrations of the Holy Spirit's power and presence.
3. Ministry Gifts are given to the church to mature and equip believers for service.
4. Motivational Gifts are inherent traits that shape our personalities and influence our actions.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it important to distinguish between the different types of spiritual gifts? How might confusing them lead to misunderstandings in the church?
2. Pastor Allen mentions that Manifestation Gifts can create a bridge between the physical and spiritual realms. Can

you think of a time when you witnessed or experienced this?

3. How do you see the Ministry Gifts (prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers) working in our church today?
4. Pastor Allen gave examples of how people with different Motivational Gifts might react to a spilled water bottle. Which reaction did you most identify with? What might this suggest about your own gifts?
5. How can understanding your Motivational Gifts help you serve more effectively in the church and in your daily life?
6. Read 1 Peter 4:10-11. How does this passage encourage us to use our gifts? What does it mean to use our gifts "as though God himself were speaking through you"?

Practical Application:

1. Take some time this week to reflect on your natural tendencies and reactions. How might these align with the Motivational Gifts described in the sermon?
2. Choose one area of service in the church or community where you can intentionally use your gifts this week.
3. If you haven't already, consider taking a spiritual gifts assessment to gain more insight into your Motivational Gifts.
4. Pray for discernment in recognizing and appreciating the different gifts operating in your church community.

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for the diversity of gifts He has given to the church. Ask for wisdom in understanding and using your own gifts, and for unity as we work together with our different gifts to build up the body of Christ.

5-Day Devotional

Day 1: Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts

Reading: Romans 12:3-8

Devotional: God has uniquely gifted each of us for service in His kingdom. As we read about the various gifts in Romans 12, we're reminded that these "motivational gifts" shape our personalities and drive our actions. Today, reflect on how God has wired you. What natural inclinations do you have toward serving others? How might these be expressions of your spiritual gifts? Remember, these gifts are inherent - part of who God created you to be. Pray for wisdom to recognize and develop your gifts, using them to glorify God and build up the body of Christ.

Day 2: Unity in Diversity

Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

Devotional: The body of Christ is beautifully diverse, yet unified in purpose. Today's passage highlights the "manifestation gifts" - supernatural expressions of the Holy Spirit's power. While not everyone may experience these gifts in the same way, we're all called to recognize and appreciate the various ways God works through His people. Consider how the different gifts in the church complement each other. How have you seen God's power manifested in your life or the lives of others? Thank God for His diverse expressions of grace and power in the body of Christ.

Day 3: Equipping the Saints

Reading: Ephesians 4:11-16

Devotional: God provides leadership gifts to the church for a specific purpose - to equip believers for service and build up the body of Christ. As we read about the "ministry gifts" of apostles, prophets, evangelists, and pastor-teachers, consider how these roles have impacted your spiritual growth. Who has God placed in your life to help mature your faith? How might God be calling you to help equip others? Pray for those in leadership positions in your church, that they might faithfully fulfill their calling to equip the saints for the work of ministry.

Day 4: Stewardship of Gifts

Reading: 1 Peter 4:10-11

Devotional: Peter reminds us that our gifts are given by God's grace and are to be used in service to others. Whether our gifts are in speaking or serving, we're called to exercise them with God's strength, bringing glory to Him. Reflect on how you're currently using your gifts. Are there areas where you could be a better steward of what God has given you? Ask God to show you opportunities to serve others using your unique gifts, and for the courage to step out in faith when those opportunities arise.

Day 5: Love: The Greatest Gift

Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Devotional: As we conclude our study on spiritual gifts, we're reminded that love is the foundation and motivation for all spiritual service. Paul emphasizes that without love, even the most impressive spiritual gifts are meaningless. As you read this chapter, consider how love enhances and gives purpose to your gifts. How can you cultivate a deeper love for God and others in your life? Pray that God would fill you with His love, allowing it to overflow in your service and use of spiritual gifts. Remember, while gifts may cease, love endures forever.