

Unwrapping Your Gift

At our Christmas party this past year, we played our version of dirty santa. It's a mixture of gift exchange and the rolling of dice. Yes, your staff rolls dice, we about that life, but anyway; whatever number the dice lands on, you had to do whatever the rules were that applied. For example, if you rolled snake eyes which is 2 for all you "pure" believers, then you would make 2 people exchange gifts of your choice...it's dirty! To make things better, there were two phases of this game and so you got to see all the gifts and then get dirty, and try your best to get the best gift that fit you.

Have you ever received a gift you didn't like? Like, you unwrapped it and automatically thought, this will be a great regifting opportunity. How about this, have you ever watched someone open a gift and become jealous as soon as the wrapping paper fell off? Maybe you're like me and possibly received a gift you liked, but ended up misusing it, or here's a big one; maybe you received a gift, kept it because of who gave it, but never used it and now it has dust on it.

Most people believe that life is like a roll of the dice, it's random. That life is about the luck of the roll, hoping it rolls on the number that we need for that particular situation. Here's the deal, life is not about the roll of the dice, but about the role you were given. A role that is wrapped as a gift. Delivered and sealed with a promise from God!

Christmas and birthdays are the two biggest days of the year when it comes to receiving gifts, but your personal day of salvation is the greatest! You see, God gives us breath in our lungs, peace that surpasses, family, joy, freedom and even eternal life; but the greatest gift God gives is Himself! As believers, we have God living and breathing through us and yet we tend to treat Him as a regifting gift, or a gift that collects dust.

Welcome to week 1 of Know Your Role where we will dive into the essentials of what it means to be a disciple maker. Our journey will begin with a discussion of how God wants to use our spiritual gifts to make disciples and grow the church. This is a 2 part series and the first 5 weeks will be us unpacking what spiritual gifts are and help each of you discover what your spiritual gift is and how God wants to use it to build up the body of Christ. Today we are going to lay down the foundation for the next few weeks. We will dive into why God gave us spiritual gifts and then we will have an overview of the different types of gifts. The next 4 weeks will be designed to break down each gift to help you better understand what God has given each of us and how to properly steward them.

Question #1: Why Do We Need Them?

Wayne Grudem defines spiritual gifts as this? **"A spiritual gift is any ability that is empowered by the Holy Spirit and used in any ministry of the church."** Depending on your biblical or church background, you may or may not have a great understanding of what spiritual

gifts are and what God desires of them. As we mentioned earlier, God gave us the greatest gift ever, Himself; but before Jesus goes to the cross, He leaves His disciples with a promise of another gift.

John 14:15-17, 15 “If you love me, keep my commands. **16** And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— **17** the Spirit of truth.” This is huge! I love how Jesus just doesn’t give us believers comfort, but also the help we need. The Holy Spirit was given to us a gift not just to be a comforter in our time of need, but also to help us in advancing the Gospel. **Acts 1:8**, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” These gifts are necessary for the Gospel to be taken from town to town, city to city, country to country. They are essential for not only the advancement of the Gospel, but the building up of believers, leading the church, and loving others as God does. These gifts are just that; they are gifts given only to those who are believers in Jesus Christ.

Spiritual gifts are not talents, or some special abilities a believer may just possess through training and hardwork, but they are supernaturally downloaded and grown through and by the Holy Spirit in our lives. Talents can be practiced and developed through hard work and persistence, but spiritual gifts are only enabled by the working of the Holy Spirit. You can be a non-believer and have talents that look like gifts, but the difference is the power and authority!

Spiritual gifts are not to be boasted about by bringing yourself glory, but understood, knowing that spiritual gifts are God’s way of expressing Himself through you! Spiritual gifts may be given to us personally, but they are not for us to hold onto selfishly. **1 Peter 4:10-11(NIV) 10** Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. **11** If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. What Peter is saying is this, as believers; we are to serve one another with the gift(s) that God has given us. Unfortunately, we usually serve one another out of the heart of depletion rather than stewardship. Stewardship of God’s grace, His love and His gifts. I love how Peter says if you speak, we speak the very words of God and if we serve, we do so in God’s strength. This is a supernatural work church.

Spiritual gifts are necessary for God’s church to grow; He provided them with that in mind. Unfortunately, there are a lot of believers who never tap into the power of the gifts that were given to them. Whether the reason being a lack of understanding, a lack of teaching or a heart filled with apathy, we are standing in a posture of untapped potential. We are surrounded by non-believers waiting for us to utilize our gifts. We are surrounded by believers who are waiting for us to join them on the mission field hand in hand. If that’s not bad enough; God is waiting. He’s waiting for us to step into that part of our journey. Every believer has a spiritual journey with God. God never changes, but how He expresses Himself through each believer differs. God has a plan for every believer and how it plays a specific role in His kingdom. He’s waiting for us to

get off the sideline and join Him on the field. He's given us everything we need, including our spiritual gifts. So, if God has given these gifts to His flock, then His flock needs to understand and be willing to utilize what He's given them. Which leads us to our 2nd question...

Question #2: What are the spiritual gifts?

Scripture lists spiritual gifts in six different passages..

Romans 12:6-8 (NIV) 6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; **7** if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; **8** if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully

1 Peter 4:10-11(NIV) 10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. **11** If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Corinthians 12:6-10 (NIV) 6 There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.**7** Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. **8** To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, **9** to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, **10** to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues,[a] and to still another the interpretation of tongues.

1 Corinthians 12:28 (NIV) 28 And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues.

Ephesians 4:11-13 (NIV) 11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, **12** to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up **13** until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

1 Corinthians 7:7 (NIV) 7 I wish that all of you were as I am. But each of you has your own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that. (marriage and celibacy)

What is obvious is that all of these lists are quite different. Not one list has all these gifts and no gift except prophecy is mentioned on all the lists (prophecy is not mentioned in **1 Corinthians 7:7** for it speaks only of marriage and celibacy.) It seems as you read though that the author was

calling out the different types of gifts as God showed Him and not necessarily in any type of order. There is not just one exhaustive list of gifts, but God spoke them as needed when they were needed. So maybe you're asking, well how many different gifts are they then? It simply depends on how specific you want to be. 1 Peter puts all the gifts into 2 categories, (speaks and service,) while the Old Testament uses 3 different categories, (Prophetic, Priestly, Kingly.) I point all of this out to simply say that God gives His church a beautiful variety of gifts. Btw, **"A healthy church will have a great diversity of gifts, and this diversity should not lead to fragmentation but to greater unity among believers in the church."** Wayne Grudem With that being said,

Over the next 4 weeks we are going to break down through scripture a comprehensive list of these spiritual gifts to the best of our ability and here is an overview of what they will be.

- **Administration-** The gift of administration is the divine strength or ability to organize multiple tasks and groups of people to accomplish these tasks. [Luke 14:28-30](#); [Acts 6:1-7](#); [1 Corinthians 12:28](#)
- **Apostleship-** The gift of apostleship is the divine strength or ability to pioneer new churches and ministries through planting, overseeing, and training. [Acts 15:22-35](#); [1 Corinthians 12:28](#); [2 Corinthians 12:12](#); [Galatians 2:7-10](#); [Ephesians 4:11-14](#)
- **Craftsmanship-** The gift of craftsmanship is the divine strength or ability to plan, build, and work with your hands in construction environments to accomplish multiple ministry applications. [Exodus 30:22, 31:3-11](#); [2 Chronicles 34:9-13](#); [Acts 18:2-3](#)
- **Discernment-** The gift of discernment is the divine strength or ability to spiritually identify falsehood, to distinguish between right and wrong motives and the spiritual forces at work in situations. [Matthew 16:21-23](#); [Acts 5:1-11, 16:16-18](#); [1 Corinthians 12:10](#); [1 John 4:1-6](#)
- **Evangelism-** The gift of evangelism is the divine strength or ability to help non-Christians take the necessary steps to becoming a born-again Christian. [Acts 8:5-6, 8:26-40, 14:21, 21:8](#); [Ephesians 4:11-14](#)
- **Exhortation-** The gift of exhortation is the divine strength or ability to strengthen, comfort or urge others to action through the written or spoken word and Biblical truth. [Acts 14:22](#); [Romans 12:8](#); [1 Timothy 4:13](#); [Hebrews 10:24-25](#)
- **Faith-** The gift of faith is the divine strength or ability to believe in God for unseen supernatural results in every arena of life. [Acts 11:22-24](#); [Romans 4:18-21](#); [1 Corinthians 12:9](#); [Hebrews 11](#)
- **Giving-** The gift of giving is the divine strength or ability to produce wealth and to give by tithes and offerings for the purpose of advancing the Kingdom of God on earth. [Mark 12:41-44](#); [Romans 12:8](#); [2 Corinthians 8:1-7, 9:2-7](#) 65
- **Healing-** The gift of healing is the divine strength or ability to act as an intermediary in faith, prayer, and by the laying-on of hands for the healing of physical, mental and spiritual sickness. [Acts 3:1-10, 9:32-35, 28:7-10](#); [1 Corinthians 12:9, 28](#)

- **Helps-** The gift of help is the divine strength or ability to work in a supportive role for the accomplishment of tasks in Christian ministry with the ability to often see the need before others do. [Mark 15:40-41](#); [Acts 9:36](#); [Romans 16:1-2](#); [1 Corinthians 12:28](#)
- **Hospitality-** The gift of hospitality is the divine strength or ability to create warm, welcoming environments for others in places such as your home, office, or church. [Acts 16:14-15](#); [Romans 12:13, 16:23](#); [Hebrews 13:1-2](#); [1 Peter 4:9](#)
- **Intercession-** The gift of intercession is the divine strength or ability to stand in the gap in prayer for someone, something, or someplace, believing for profound results. [Hebrews 7:25](#); [Colossians 1:9-12, 4:12-13](#); [James 5:14-16](#)
- **Word of Knowledge-** The gift of knowledge is the divine strength or ability to bring truth to a situation by supernatural revelation. This is often accompanied by a word from God. [Acts 5:1-11](#); [1 Corinthians 12:8](#); [Colossians 2:2-3](#)
- **Leadership-** The gift of leadership is the divine strength or ability to influence people at their level while directing and focusing them on the big picture, vision, or idea. [Romans 12:8](#); [1 Timothy 3:1-13, 5:17](#); [Hebrews 13:17](#)
- **Mercy-** The gift of mercy is the divine strength or ability to feel empathy and to care for those who are hurting in any way. [Matthew 9:35-36](#); [Mark 9:41](#); [Romans 12:8](#); [1 Thess. 5:14](#)
- **Miracles-** The gift of miracles is the divine strength or ability to alter the natural outcomes of life in a supernatural way through prayer, faith, and divine direction. [Acts 9:36-42, 19:11-12, 20:7-12](#); [Romans 15:18-19](#); [1 Corinthians 12:10, 28](#)
- **Pastor/Shepherd-** The gift of pastor/shepherd is the divine strength or ability to care for the personal needs of others by nurturing and mending life issues. [John 10:1-18](#); [Ephesians 4:11-14](#); [1 Timothy 3:1-7](#); [1 Peter 5:1-3](#)
- **Prophecy-** The gift of prophecy is the divine strength or ability to communicate God's truth and heart in a way that calls people to a right relationship with God. [Acts 2:37-40, 7:51-53, 26:24-29](#); [1 Corinthians 14:1-4](#); [1 Thessalonians 1:5](#)
- **Service-** The gift of serving is the divine strength or ability to do small or great tasks in working for the overall good of the body of Christ. [Acts 6:1-7](#); [Romans 12:7](#); [Galatians 6:10](#); [1 Timothy 1:16-18](#); [Titus 3:14](#)
- **Teaching-** The gift of teaching is the divine strength or ability to study and learn from the Scriptures primarily to bring understanding and depth to other Christians. [Acts 18:24-28, 20:20-21](#); [1 Corinthians 12:28](#); [Ephesians 4:11-14](#)
- **Tongues (and Interpretation)-** The gift of tongues is the divine strength or ability to pray in a heavenly or earthly language to encourage your spirit and to commune with God. The gift of tongues is accompanied by interpretation and should be used appropriately. [Acts 2:1-13](#); [1 Corinthians 12:10, 14:1-14](#)
- **Word of Wisdom-** The gift of wisdom is the divine strength or ability to understand and to bring clarity to situations and circumstances often through applying the truths of Scripture in a practical way. [Acts 6:3,10](#); [1 Corinthians 2:6-13, 12:8](#)

Invitation:

Worship team comes back

Some of you may already know what your spiritual gift(s) are. So let me ask you, are you using them to help God build His kingdom by advancing the Gospel? Are you serving? Are you intentionally seeking His wisdom to better strengthen you and your gift? Have you neglected your gift? **1 Timothy 4:14 (NIV) 14 Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you.**

Maybe you don't know; and at the end of the series we are going to give an assessment to help you find out what your gift may be, but until then; do this:

1. Do some self examination, what is your interests and desires and abilities
2. Pray for wisdom in regards to finding that gift, **James 1:5-6 (NIV) 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. 6 But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.**
3. Start serving in different areas within the church and see where God brings blessings and peace. Please understand that serving in an area on a Sunday does not permanently put you there. Here are the areas to serve:
 - Host (**Greeter, Check In, Vkidz Check In, Parking, Follow-up**)
 - Cafe
 - NEXT
 - Photography
 - Production (**Audio & Proresenter**)
 - Worship Team (**Singing & Musician**)
 - Vkidz (**Waumba : Nursery - Kindergarten; Upstreet: 1st-5th grade**)
 - Fuze (**6th-12th grade**)
 - Vision Moment Speaker
 - Graphic and Design (**Central**)
 - Small Group Leaders
 - Pastoral

Prophecy/Teaching/ Apostleship /Discernment/ Evangelism/ Word of Knowledge

Service/Encouragement/ Craftsmanship/ Exhortation/ Healing/ Helps/ Hospitality

Giving/Administration/ Leadership/ Pastor & Shepherd/ Words of Wisdom

Mercy/Love/ Faith/ Intercession/ Miracles/ Tongues & Interpretation

