

Rated E for Everyone: Spiritual Gifts – Practical Gifts – Part 1

Discussion Questions:

- Do you think “Practical” is an appropriate name for this category of gifts? What might be a better name?
- We looked at discernment, evangelism, faith, giving, helps, hospitality, and intercession so far. Do you think any of those should have been in one of the other categories (leadership and communication)? Should some of them have been re-grouped together?
- Which of these do you think you have? Which ones are particularly difficult or challenging for you?
- When we talk about evangelism, do you find it natural and easy to move conversations (especially with people you do not know) toward faith, Jesus, and the gospel or is it challenging and uncomfortable?
- Imagine a hypothetical situation: you go to a group get-together (a big birthday party, a corporate networking event, a fundraising banquet, etc) and you meet someone for the first time and get into a natural conversation, just getting to know them. On a scale of 1-10 (1 = highly unlikely, 10 = almost guaranteed) how likely is the conversation to turn spiritual and involve talking about faith and God?
- Do you normally think of helps as a spiritual thing, let alone a spiritual gift? Why or why not? Who do you know personally that you think may have this gift?
- How would you explain the differences between the spiritual gift of faith and the prosperity gospel? What are the dangers in misunderstanding these?
- Do you think every Christian who is gifted at business and accruing wealth has the gift of giving? Why or why not?
- The Bible speaks of the spiritual gift of giving and speaks of doing good business and stewarding and growing what God gives us. The Bible also warns of dirty money (“filthy lucre”) and that the love of money is the root of all evil. How do you harmonize and navigate this tension personally? Who is someone (famous or you know personally) who understands and lives this well? Who is someone who you believe has been misguided?
- What are some practical ways (besides giving to the offering) that someone could be a kingdom investor?
- How would you respond to a person who has decent (or better) financial means and resources, but does not give very much and claims it is because they do not have the gift of giving? How would you respond to the same claim, but from someone who is not as blessed financially? How would you respond to someone who is purposely not advancing their career or work options or improving their financial situation, claiming it would be unspiritual because money is the root of all evil?
- Describe the difference between someone who prays and an intercessor. What are the determining factors?
- Do you believe God answers some people’s prayers more than others? If yes, who and why? If not, why not?
- How do you determine if a prayer has been answered?
- Who do you know that shows a high gifting in hospitality? What is it about them that makes you say that?
- How do you personally show hospitality? What is the biggest barrier to you being more hospitable? Is there anyone you think God is calling you to show hospitality and a welcoming presence to? How will you do that this week?
- We talk about the 10% (formal instruction – sermon), the 20% (purposeful interaction – discussion), and the 70% (practical doing). What spiritual gifts from this week’s message do you believe God has given you? How are you currently using that gift in the 70% and kingdom building? What area or ministry do you believe God might be calling you to lean into with your gifting and do your 70%?