



Understanding and Unleashing Spiritual Gifts

7-Week Study – Wednesday
6:30 p.m.- 8 p.m.

INFUSION: Understanding and Unleashing Spiritual Gifts

Series Theme: God has equipped you to fulfill His will in His kingdom for your life.

Psalm 116:12 “What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits toward me?”

Quote: Dr. Larry Gilbert “Teaching a person only what

their spiritual gift is without teaching them what a spiritual gift is would be like giving someone a new tool without giving them the operator’s manual. They would never understand it fully nor be able to use it to its maximum potential. The same is true with spiritual gifts.”

Quote: Dr. Larry Gilbert “Understanding our spiritual gifts removes the frustration and confusion from serving God.”

WHAT ARE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

1. **Pastor Robert** “Special abilities, Spirit given, to every Christian, enabling the individual to perform a special service in the body of Christ.”
2. **Warren Wiersbe** “Spiritual gifts are God’s grace made visible through your life.”

WHAT SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE NOT

1. **Spiritual gifts are not rewards.** Gifts are given without regard to any degree of commitment. They are given by God’s grace, not our faithfulness. They have nothing to do with how spiritual a person is. In 1 Corinthians 1:7, Paul says to the Corinthians, “You do not lack any spiritual gift.” Yet, we know the Corinthians were very unspiritual and immature.
2. **Spiritual gifts are not natural talents.** You are given natural talents at your natural birth and spiritual talents (spiritual gifts) at your spiritual birth. Your responsibility as a Christian is to use both in service to glorify God. Talents are available to all people, Christians, and non-Christians. Talents operate on a physical and social level. Talents alone cannot do God’s work. God did not choose talents as the primary channel through which the Holy Spirit is to work.
3. **Natural talents are physical abilities to do special things.** Some natural talents might be musical ability, carpentry, mechanical aptitude, and artistic skills. Spiritual gifts are spiritual abilities to do certain things. Natural talents are often the vehicle through which spiritual gifts can be used. For example, a Christian vocalist may have the spiritual gift of evangelism being expressed through the vehicle of musical talent. (<https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/spiritual-life/how-to-identify-and-effectively-use-your-spiritual-gifts.html>)
4. **Do not confuse spiritual gifts with the Christian’s role or responsibility.** For example, all Christians have been given the responsibility to tithe and reach out to others with the Gospel. Yet God has given a gift of Giving which allows some to give far beyond their tithe. Plus, the gift of Evangelism allows some to influence far more people with the Gospel than those without the gift. The danger comes when Christians use the lack of these gifts to neglect the responsibility to tithe or evangelize.

WHERE ARE SPIRITUAL GIFTS FOUND IN THE BIBLE

- **1 Corinthians 12:8-10** “for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.”
- **Romans 12:6-8** “Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; ⁷ or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; ⁸ he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.”
- **Ephesians 4:11** “He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers...”
- **1 Corinthians 12:28** “And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.”
- **1 Peter 4:9-10** “Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”
- **1 Corinthians 7:7** “For I wish that all men were even as I myself. But each one has his own gift from God, one in this manner and another in that.”

WHO HAS SPIRITUAL GIFTS “Dr. Larry Gilbert”

- **Romans 12:3** “For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to **each of you**”.
- **1 Corinthians 7:7** “But **each of you** has your own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that”.
- **1 Corinthians 12:7** “Now to **each one** the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good”.
- **1 Corinthians 12:11** “. . . and he distributes them to **each one**, just as he determines”.
- **Ephesians 4:7)** “But to **each one** of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it”.
- **1 Peter 4:10** “**Each of you** should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms”.

22 Gifts in the Bible

I. SPEAKING Gifts

- 1) Apostle
- 2) Prophet
- 3) Evangelism
- 4) Pastor
- 5) Teacher
- 6) Exhortation
- 7) The Word of Wisdom
- 8) The Word of Knowledge

II. SERVING Gifts

- 1) Faith
- 2) Helps
- 3) Mercy
- 4) Hospitality
- 5) Giving
- 6) Discernment
- 7) Administration
- 8) Leadership
- 9) Chastity
- 10) Serving or Ministry

III. SIGNIFYING Gifts

- 1) Gifts of Healings
- 2) Miracles
- 3) Gift of Tongues
- 4) Interpretation of Tongues

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

1. To promote “the common good” of the body of Christ... (1 Corinthians 12:7)
2. To build up the church... (1 Corinthians 14:12)
3. To prepare us each for “works of service... (Ephesians 4:12–13)
4. To be used for God’s glory... (Colossians 3:17)
5. To be used in the “most excellent way” to do that is with love (1 Corinthians 12:31b; 13:1–13).

HOW DO WE RECEIVE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

1. Each person upon accepting the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ receives the Holy Spirit inside as a seal of salvation (Ephesians 1:12–14).
2. The Spirit then gives to each believer certain gifts from God to do the work of God (1 Corinthians 12:4–6).
3. All gifts are given by grace from God through the Holy Spirit (Romans 12:6; 1 Corinthians 12:4; Hebrews 2:4).
4. Different people are given different gifts. Not everyone receives the same gift (1 Corinthians 12:4).
5. Those gifted with various spiritual gifts are meant to work together as the parts of a body work together (1 Corinthians 12:12–27).
6. The gifts God gives to His people are divinely placed for the good of the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:27).

10 Truths about Spiritual Gifts

1. Only believers have spiritual gifts. - 1 Cor. 2:14
2. Every Christian has at least one gift. - 1 Cor. 7:7
3. No one receives all the gifts. - 1 Cor. 12:27-30
4. No single gift is given to everyone. - 1 Cor. 12:29-30
5. You can't earn or work for a spiritual gift. - Eph. 4:7
6. The Holy Spirit decides what gifts I get. - 1 Cor. 12:11
7. The gifts I'm given are permanent. - Rom. 11:29
8. I am to develop the gifts God gives me. - 1 Tim. 4:14
9. It's a sin to waste the gifts God gave me. - 1 Cor. 4;1-2; Mt. 25:14-30
10. Using my gifts glorifies God and grows me. - John 15:8

8 Reasons Why Christians Should Know Their Spiritual Gifts – “Dr. Larry Gilbert”

1. Knowing your spiritual gift **helps you understand God’s will for your life.**
2. Knowing your spiritual gift **helps you understand how the Holy Spirit works through you.**
3. Knowing your spiritual gift **helps you know what God has not called you to do.**
4. Knowing your spiritual gift **relieves you from serving out of duty.**
5. Knowing your spiritual gift **fills a deep inner need.**
6. Knowing your spiritual gift **builds unity among Christians.**
7. Knowing your spiritual gift **equips you to fulfill God’s purpose for your life.**
8. Knowing your spiritual gift **adds to your self-acceptance.**

TWELVE CAUTIONS ABOUT SPIRITUAL GIFTS

1. Don't confuse gifts with natural talents.
2. Don't confuse gifts with the Fruit of the Spirit. *Gal. 5:22-23 "Fruit"* shows my Maturity. *"Gifts"* show my Ministry.
3. Don't excuse your disobedience in an area by saying, "That's not my gift." *Many of the gifts are to be seen in every believer: Evangelism, exhortation, giving, helps, faith, etc.*
4. Don't compare your gifts with anyone else's; *it always leads to inferiority or superiority, and God does not approve either.* **1 Cor. 12:11-18**
5. Be aware of the "gift projection" tendency. *(Expecting others to serve the way you do and have similar results)*
6. Don't feel my gift makes me superior to others. **1 Cor. 12:21**
7. Realize that using my gifts without love is worthless! **1 Cor. 13:1-3**
8. Recognize that I have both a *Primary* and a *Secondary* ministry in my church:
 - a. My **PRIMARY MINISTRY** commitment should be in the area where I am **GIFTED**.
 - b. My **SECONDARY MINISTRY** includes serving in any other area of the Body where I am **NEEDED**.
9. Beware when any particular gift is made universal evidence of spirituality, salvation, or other spiritual blessing. **1 Cor. 12:29-30**
10. Beware when the focus of a church service, *ministry or religious event is on spiritual gifts and their manifestation rather than on the Giver of the gifts and His agenda for His church.* **Eph. 4:11-12**
11. Choose to be balanced about spiritual gifts, *being neither "Charisphobic", afraid of the gifts, nor "Charismaniac", consumed with the gifts.* **1 Cor. 12:1**
12. Understand that apparent *"manifestations of the spirit" can be counterfeited by human schemes and demonic forces.* **Matthew 7:22-24; 2 Cor. 11:13-15**

3 WAYS GOD WANTS YOU TO USE YOUR GIFTS

1. Through an Ongoing Ministry
2. Through Short-Term Projects
3. Through Spontaneous Situations

IT'S EASIER TO DISCOVER YOUR GIFT THROUGH MINISTRY THAN TO DISCOVER YOUR MINISTRY THROUGH YOUR GIFT

CONCLUSION:

- What is one thing the Holy Spirit is highlighting to you about Spiritual gifts tonight?
- What's one area in your life where you feel God may be calling you to step out in faith and try something new?
- Is there a gift you desire to understand or receive more fully?

NEXT WEEK: We will dive into the Speaking Gifts



