

SPEAKING GIFTS

Led by: Pastor Robert O’Neal III, Shepherd’s Way Christian Church

1 Timothy 4:14 - Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.

What is a “Spiritual Gift”? Special abilities, Spirit given, to every Christian, enabling the individual to perform a special service in the body of Christ.

1) GIFT OF APOSTLESHIP

Ephesians 4:11 - He Himself gave some to be apostles...

1 Corinthians 12:28 - And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles...

1. DEFINITION:

- a. **Gk. Apostolos** (“Apo”= from; “Stello”=send) “to delegate; messenger; he that is sent; one sent forth”
- b. **MAIN DEFINITION:** Launching and leading new ministries that advance God’s purposes and expand His Kingdom.
- c. **More:** To be sent forth to new frontiers with the Gospel, providing leadership over church bodies and maintaining authority over spiritual matters pertaining to the church.
- d. **Extra:** The Latin equivalent is “misseo” which means “the sent one” that is where we get “missionaries” from.
- e. **DESCRIPTION:** The gift of apostleship is the divine ability to start and oversee the development of new churches or ministry structures.

2. DISTINCTIVES:

- a. Pioneer and establish new ministries or churches.
- b. Adapt to different surroundings by being culturally sensitive and aware.
- c. Desire to minister to unreached people in other communities or countries
- d. Have responsibilities to oversee ministries or groups of churches.
- e. Demonstrate authority and vision for the mission of the church.

3. TRAITS:

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| • Adventurous | • Adaptable | • Cause-driven |
| • Entrepreneurial | • Culturally Sensitive | |
| • Persevering | • Risk-taking | |

4. CAUTIONS:

- a. Someone with this gift has an enterprising spirit and would probably struggle in a maintenance position in a ministry with little opportunity of input or improvement.
- b. You should be aware that misusing their authority can quench the Spirit in others.
- c. Need to be affirmed and sent by the church.
- d. You can be demanding and pessimistic.

5. People with this Spiritual Gift:

- a. Are eager to start new ministries for God.
- b. Often welcome risky new challenges.
- c. Enjoy making a difference in the lives of both believers and non-believers.
- d. Want to be known as “representatives of Jesus” in their culture.
- e. Willingly work hard to see ministries reach their full potential for God.

6. I TEND TO...

PLUS -

- ...feel drawn to provide organized worship and teaching where there is none available.
- ...feel drawn to help existing churches lay strong spiritual foundations.
- ...notice that other leaders turn to me for help.
- ...have many other gifts (i.e. evangelist; pastor; exhortation; faith; leadership; miracles, etc...)
- ...find that people respect my character and authority.
- ...be able to work well with the men and women who serve with me.
- ...maintain a humble assessment of my role.

MINUS -

- ...become annoyed with slow progress.
- ...become over-eager to move on to new undertakings.
- ...become prideful or dictatorial.
- ...control other leaders instead of releasing them to serve in prominent positions.

7. OPPORTUNITIES FOR USING THIS GIFT

- a. Church planting, overseer, bishop, district superintendent, innovating a new ministry or changing one that has lost its sense of purpose or direction.

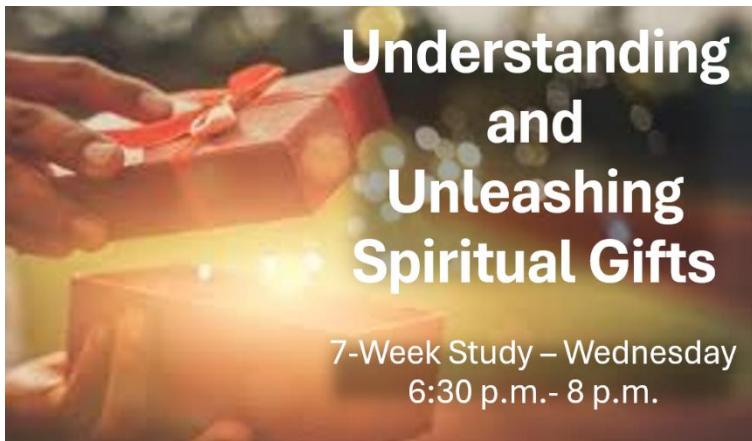
8. SCRIPTURAL ROLE MODELS TO STUDY

- a. Paul: (Acts 13:1ff; Rom 1:1; 1 Cor. 1:1; 2 Cor. 1:1; Gal. 1:1-2; Eph. 1:1; Col. 1:1; 1 Tim. 1:1; 2 Tim. 1:1; Tit. 1:1)

9. HOW IS IT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL BELIEVERS? Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19-20

10. EPHESIANS 3:1-13 BIBLE STUDY

- a. What was Paul trying to communicate to the Gentiles? (v.6)
- b. What title did Paul give himself? (v.7)
- c. Because of his title, what was Paul able to do? (v.8)
- d. What was the goal of his missionary work? (v.9-12)
- e. From what you know about Paul, did he accomplish his goal?
- f. What is the meaning of Jesus' statement in **Matthew 24:14**?



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1 Timothy 4:14 - Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.

What is a “Spiritual Gift”? Special abilities, Spirit given, to every Christian, enabling the individual to perform a special service in the body of Christ.

GIFT OF PROPHECY

Romans 12:6 - 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...

1 Corinthians 12:28 - And God has appointed these in the church...second prophets...

Ephesians 4:11 - He Himself gave...some prophets...

1 Corinthians 12: 10 - ...to another prophecy...

1. DEFINITION

- a. **Gk. Prophetes – 1)** To FORETELL the truth and 2) To FORTHTELL the truth (“Pro” = forth; “Phemi” = to speak). Forth-telling (Preaching); and Fore-telling (Revelation of Future Events)
- b. **MAIN DEFINITION:** Offering messages from God that comfort, encourage, guide, warn or reveal sin in a way that leads to one’s repentance and spiritual growth.
- c. **More:** A Spirit-given ability to APPREHEND (or perceive) God’s Truth, ANNOUNCE it, and to APPLY that Word of God to the contemporary situation.
- d. **More:** Declares God’s will as one understands it; may predict future events accurately, though he is more likely to proclaim truth in a way that edifies those who hear (most of whom are believers).
- e. **Extra:** If you were to take one gift that’s primary in the church, it would be this gift because it’s this gift whereby God gets His great message – His Word – to the church. The church must have that Word of God clear and unmistakable from the prophet.
- f. **BUGBEE:** The Gift of Prophecy is the divine enablement to reveal truth and proclaim it in a timely and relevant manner for understanding, correction, repentance, or edification. There may be immediate or future implications.

2. DISTINCTIVES:

- a. Expose sin or deception in others for the purpose of reconciliation.
- b. Speak a timely word from God causing conviction, repentance and edification.
- c. See truth that others often fail to see and challenge them to respond.
- d. Warn of God’s immediate or future judgment if there is no repentance.
- e. Understand God’s heart and mind through experiences he takes them through.

3. TRAITS:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discerning • Compelling • Uncompromising | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outspoken • Authoritative • Convicting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confronting |
|--|--|---|

4. CAUTIONS:

- a. *Need to be aware that listeners may reject the message if it's not spoken in love and for their edification.*
- b. *Need to avoid pride, which can create a demanding or discouraging spirit that hinders the gift.*
- c. *Should remember that discernment and Scripture must support and agree with each prophecy.*

5. PEOPLE WITH THIS SPIRITUAL GIFT

- a. *Love to share strong, biblical ideas with others.*
- b. *View themselves as God's tool, ready to be used by the Holy Spirit in changing lives.*
- c. *Find it easy to confront others motives when they are not up to God's standards.*
- d. *Frequently receive and share messages directly from God for comforting, challenging and confronting the people of God.*

6. I TEND TO...

PLUS -

- ...consider what "God says" or "the Bible says" to be foundational to everything.*
- ...want to convey to others an appropriate awe of the Lord.*
- ...be unafraid of proclaiming the consequences of turning from the will of God.*
- ...emerge from a crowd to defend the faith.*
- ...be able to receive correction when I'm wrong. (I want God's truth to be proclaimed more than I want to be right.)*
- ...find it difficult to soften my statements, even when corrected for being too blunt.*
- ...notice that my predictive words are borne out in subsequent events.*
- ...receive inspired dreams or visions.*

MINUS -

- ...be too harsh, sometimes not taking mitigating circumstances into account.*
- ...not know when to keep silent.*
- ...become proud or domineering.*
- ...lapse into thinking I have originated the truths I am sharing.*

7. SCRIPTURAL ROLE MODELS TO STUDY

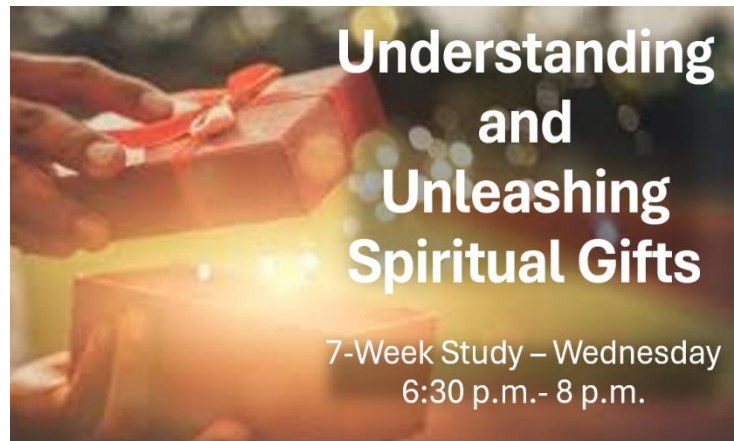
- a. Agabus - (Acts 11:27-28)
- b. John the Baptist - **Matthew 3:1-12**; **Matthew 11:7-15**

8. HOW IS IT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL BELIEVERS? **2 Timothy 4:2**

9. *EXTRA: An inherent danger with the Gift of Prophecy is the tendency to become judgmental and negative when placed in a position of leadership.*

10. EXTRA:

- a. Prophets, whether fore-tellers or forth-tellers, need to be tested
 - i. **1 Corinthians 14:29-33; 1 John 4:1; Matthew 24:24**
- b. We are to test:
 - i. **Their doctrine - 1 John 4:1-3**
 - ii. **Whether what they say comes true or not - Deut. 18:21-22**
 - iii. **If it leads you to or away from the Lord - Deut. 13:1-5**



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What is a “Spiritual Gift”? Special abilities, Spirit given, to every Christian, enabling the individual to perform a special service in the body of Christ.

3) GIFT OF EVANGELIST

Ephesians 4:11 - He Himself gave...some evangelists...

1. DEFINITION:

- a. **Gk. Euaggelistes** – Preacher of Gospel; “eu” = well; “angelos” = message – “messenger of good”
- b. **DEFINITION #1:** *Sharing the love of Jesus with others in a way that draws them toward a personal relationship with God.*
- c. **DEFINITION #2:** *The ability to bring people to faith in Christ. He has a passion to present the Gospel message in a clear and compelling way. Although he knows the sorrow of seeing some people turn their backs on the Good News, he is not easily discouraged. His greatest joy is to see someone respond to God’s invitation to salvation.*

2. PEOPLE WITH THIS SPIRITUAL GIFT

- a. Look for ways to build friendships with non-believers.
- b. Sense when a person is open to the message of Good News.
- c. Have likely seen friends come to faith in Jesus.
- d. Help bring others to Christ through acts of love.
- e. Deeply care for friends and strangers who don’t know Jesus.

3. I TEND TO...

PLUS -

- ...guide conversations toward God.*
- ...be tireless and enthused about spreading the Good News.*
- ...be able to bring people to a point of decision about their commitment to Christ.*
- ...be able to present the Gospel message clearly and confidently.*
- ...know the joy of bringing a person to a saving faith in Christ.*
- ...pray for those with whom I wish to share the Gospel.*
- ...seek training to better understand and present the Gospel.*
- ...encourage other Christians to bring people to Christ.*
- ...quicken inside when I hear others share the Good News.*
- ...feel deep sorrow for those who do not know Jesus as Savior.*

MINUS -

- ...consider the Gift of Evangelism to be a higher gift than others.
- ...adopt a rote style of presentation and fail to perceive people's needs.
- ...become arrogant, failing to remember that conversion is the work of the Holy Spirit and not me.
- ...become boastful about the numbers I have led to Christ.
- ...brow beat those who have rejected the Gospel.
- ...neglect to involve the new Christian in Christian fellowship.

2. TRAITS

- Sincere/Serious
- Candid
- Respected
- Influential
- Spiritual
- Confident
- Commitment-oriented

3. CAUTIONS

- Need to remember the Holy Spirit, not guilt, is the motivator in a person's decision for Christ.
- Should avoid becoming critical of others by remembering that we are all "witnesses," but we are not all "evangelists".
- Need to listen to people carefully, because the same approach is not appropriate for everyone.

4. OPPORTUNITIES FOR USING THIS GIFT

- Outreach efforts, street evangelism, altar counselors, visitation, gospel teams, member of a mission's team.

5. SCRIPTURAL ROLE MODELS TO STUDY

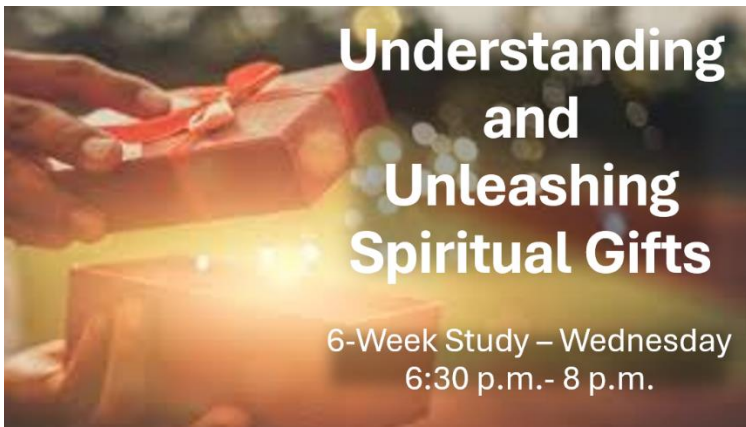
- Phillip (*Acts 8:4-13, 26-40; 21:8*)

6. HOW IS IT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL BELIEVERS?

- 2 Timothy 1:8*
- Acts 1:8*
- 2 Timothy 4:5*
- Matthew 28:19-20*

7. EXTRA: People with the Gift of Evangelism (ist) should caution against:

- Pride in the number of converts, using it as a sign of spirituality
- Failure to learn and grow in other areas
- Seeing people as numbers rather than people with needs.



Understanding and Unleashing Spiritual Gifts

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

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What is a "Spiritual Gift"? Special abilities, Spirit given, to every Christian, enabling the individual to perform a special service in the body of Christ.

4) GIFT OF PASTOR

Ephesians 4:11 - He Himself gave...some pastors...

1. DEFINITION

- a. **Gk. Poimen** – Feeder; Hebrew for shepherd or pastor is “feeder”
- b. **GREEK DEFINITION:** The God-given ability to perceive God's truth as it is written in the Bible through the leadership of the Holy Spirit, to explain and proclaim it simply to the people, and to apply it to their needs so they can feed upon it. [1 Peter 5:2 says “feed the flock” which is the verb form of the Greek word “Pastor”. John 21:15, Jesus says “Peter feed my sheep” – that's the word “Pastor”.]
- c. **EXPANDED DEFINITION:** A person with the Gift of Shepherd/Pastor nurtures and protects other people's spiritual lives. He gathers them to himself, helps them find opportunities to learn about God, brings them to the larger fellowship and protects them from spiritual harm.
- d. **THE GOAL OF THE PASTOR** is to feed people the Word of God and to help them become like Christ.
- e. There needs to be a clear distinction made between the Office of Pastor and the gift of shepherding. This distinction must also be made between the Office of Deacon and the gift of serving.

2. PEOPLE WITH THIS SPIRITUAL GIFT

- a. You enjoy encouraging others to develop in their faith.
- b. As you work to help others you tend to think in terms of groups, teams and task forces rather than individual personalities.
- c. You can often assess where a person is spiritually. You try to create or look for places where they can connect to enable them to take the next step.
- d. You have compassion for those who seem to be getting off track. You long for them to come back to the fold.
- e. You would enjoy nurturing and caring for a group of people over a period of time.
- f. You like to see people form long-term, in-depth spiritual relationships.
- g. You tend to feel protective love for those you nurture.
- h. You tend to celebrate the increasing maturity of people in your care.
- i. You tend to be able to help others to find their spiritual gifts and their places in the body of Christ.
- j. You tend to be able to provide long-term care, often for many people at one time.

3. NEGATIVES TO WATCH OUT FOR WITH THIS GIFT

- a. You tend to keep “your flock” too dependent upon you.
- b. You tend to measure your self-worth in terms of the achievements or approval of those you nurture.
- c. You tend to become dictatorial, trying to control people’s decisions out of a protective instinct.
- d. You tend to be indecisive because of fear of alienating those you nurture.
- e. You tend to be critical of the way others exercise their shepherding gift.

4. OPPORTUNITIES FOR USING THIS GIFT: Office of the Pastor, care group leader, leader of a variety of ministries, etc.

5. SCRIPTURAL ROLE MODELS TO STUDY

- a. **2 Corinthians 8:6, 16-17**
- b. *Jesus and His relationship with His disciples*

6. HOW IS IT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL BELIEVERS? ***Ephesians 6:1-4; Ephesians 5:25-30; Acts 20:28-31***

7. HOW TO GROW IN THIS GIFT

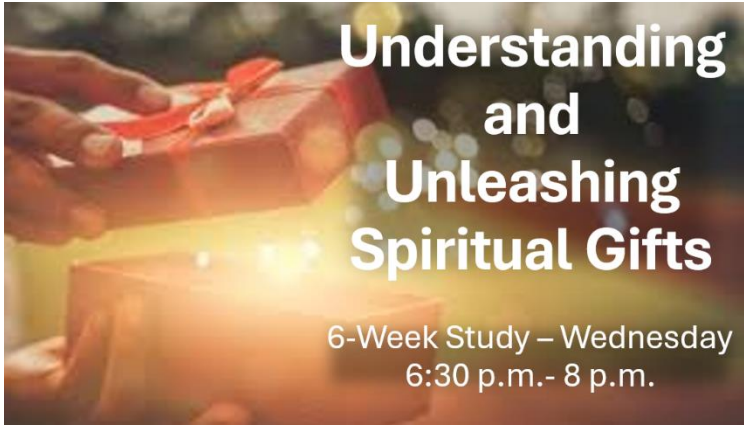
- a. Learn under a gifted shepherd. Get involved in shepherding a group through Sunday school or Wednesday night groups. Be careful to have your own shepherd, perhaps someone with related gifts such as encouragement or teaching, to help you guard against fatigue or imbalance in your personal life.
- b. Study how Jesus shepherded His disciples – one of the most diverse small groups ever assembled.
- c. Consider working in the recruitment and placement side of the church. Become active in assisting people to connect with or relate to others.

8. TRAITS:

- Influencing
- Nurturing
- Guiding
- Discipling
- Protective
- Supportive
- Relational

11. CAUTIONS

- a. Should remember that God judges those who neglect or abuse their oversight responsibilities.
- b. Need to be aware that the desire to feed and support others can make it difficult to say “no”
- c. We should realize that some of those being nurtured will grow beyond the shepherd’s own ability and need to be freed to do so.



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What is a "Spiritual Gift"? Special abilities, Spirit given, to every Christian, enabling the individual

to perform a special service in the body of Christ.

5) GIFT OF TEACHER

Ephesians 4:11 - He Himself gave...some...teachers...

1 Corinthians 12:28 - And God has appointed these in the church...third teachers...

Romans 12:7 - ...he who teaches, in teaching;

1. DEFINITION

- a. **Gk. Didasko** – to give instruction. (Primary root "dao" = to learn.)
- b. **DEFINITION** (mine): To thoroughly understand and effectively communicate the truth of the Bible.
- c. **ANOTHER DEFINITION** (favorite): Presenting good bible teaching in relevant ways, helping people gain a strong and mature spiritual education.
- d. **ANOTHER DEFINITION**: To instruct others in the Bible in a logical, systematic way so as to communicate pertinent information for true understanding.
- e. **NOTE**: You don't have the gift of teaching just because you can relate some facts, but the application of that truth to the people.

2. I TEND TO...

PLUS -

- ...seek a church where the primary emphasis is teaching and learning about the Word of God.
- ...enjoy research and acquiring more knowledge about the Word of God.
- ...feel I can help others love God with their minds as well as their hearts.
- ...be intellectually sharp, even if not well-educated.
- ...find it easy to make truth come alive for others.
- ...be able to give detailed and well-supported answers to questions about the Bible.
- ...be quick to raise questions about teachings that do not agree with Scripture as I know it.
- ...want to continue to instruct others about Christian truth, even in the face of persecution or unusual circumstances or limitations.
- ...express my gift not solely through classroom teaching, but also in other ways (sermons, study groups, one-on-one, on TV or radio, through writing, through drama, etc.)

MINUS -

- ...be tempted to follow too many “rabbit-trails” in my research or to overwhelm others with too many nonessential details.
- ...fail to apply the content of my teaching to my own life.
- ...fail to appreciate those who lack the gift of teaching.
- ...criticize other teachers or pastors.
- ...become too rigid in my opinions or too impressed with myself.
- ...be carried away by my own misunderstandings, ultimately spreading false teaching.

3. PEOPLE WITH THIS SPIRITUAL GIFT...

- a. I want to make God’s truths relevant to life in ways that help people grow and develop.
- b. I like gathering information, especially with the goal of effectively communicating it to others.
- c. I often easily envision how to present spiritual concepts in ways that people find useful.
- d. I love to study the Bible. I receive new insights fairly easily.
- e. When I listen to other teachers, I often think of alternative ways to present those materials.
- f. When I communicate what I have learned, others are motivated to learn more about the Bible and their faith in God.

4. OPPORTUNITIES FOR USING THIS GIFT

- a. Bible study class of any age, ministry development class, children or youth bible clubs, small group leader, bible institute teacher, teacher training.

5. SCRIPTURAL ROLE MODELS TO STUDY

- a. Apollos ([Acts 18:24-28](#))
- b. Aquilla and Priscilla ([Acts 18](#); [Romans 16](#))

6. HOW IS THIS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL BELIEVERS? [2 Timothy 2:2, 15](#); [1 Timothy 3:2](#); [Titus 2:3-5](#); [Ephesians 6:4](#); [Colossians 3:16](#); [Matthew 28:19-20](#)

7. HOW TO DEVELOP THE SPIRITUAL GIFT OF TEACHING

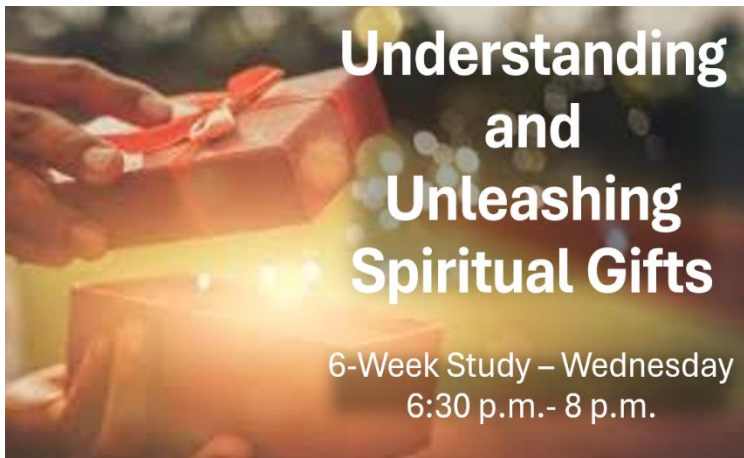
- a. For depth and impact, those with this spiritual gift may need to strengthen their skills in the areas of discernment and wisdom.
- b. Keep learning! Study teaching methods by taking classes or observing your favorite teachers. Also continue to study the Bible.
- c. Create a system for keeping examples, stories, humor, images, quotations, etc,... That will enliven your teaching and bring the message to your listeners.

8. TRAITS

- Disciplined
- Perceptive
- Teachable
- Authoritative
- Practical
- Analytical
- Articulate

9. CAUTIONS

- a. Should avoid pride that may result from their “superior” biblical knowledge and understanding.
- b. It could become too detailed when teaching and fail to make life applications.



c. Should we remember that their spirituality is not measured by how much they know.

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What is a “Spiritual Gift”? Special abilities, Spirit given, to every Christian, enabling the individual to perform a special service in the body of Christ.

6) GIFT OF EXHORTATION (or, Encouragement)

Romans 12:8 - he who exhorts, in exhortation...

1. DEFINITION:

- a. **Gk. Paraklesis** – Calling to one’s side. It’s the same word Jesus used to describe the Holy Spirit. “Para” means “alongside” and “kaleo” means “to call”.
- b. **DEFINITION** (Dr. Bill Bennett): This is the Spirit-given ability to call alongside someone to help them with a very specific need. To enlighten the confused, to pick up the fallen, to bring comfort to the distressed and discouraged, to instruct the ignorant through the Word of God. I call this “spiritual counseling”.
- c. **ANOTHER DEFINITION:** To come alongside of someone with words of encouragement, comfort, consolation, and counsel to help them be all God wants them to be.
- d. **ANOTHER DEFINITION:** Helping others live God-centered lives through inspiration, encouragement, counseling and motivation.
- e. **GREAT YOUTH DEFINITION:** The ability to make others feel special. This ministry comforts, challenges and counsels – helping and healing discouraged people.
- f. **EXTRA THOUGHT:** People turn to an exhorter for help, sensing their ability to build them up. Exhorters are active, not passive, listeners. They have a good understanding of human nature and a practical sense of how to apply Scriptural truth to life.

2. PEOPLE WITH THIS SPIRITUAL GIFT

- a. Want to inspire others to become more like Jesus.
- b. Rejoice with people who have overcome tough times with God’s help.
- c. Seek opportunities to help others reach their full potential as followers of Jesus.
- d. Find ways to encourage through words or actions.
- e. Celebrate when friends succeed.

3. CAUTION AGAINST

- a. Pride in your motivational ability.
- b. Becoming overloaded with too many people demands.

4. I TEND TO...

PLUS -

- ...be a "People Person"; I notice the emotional, spiritual, and mental needs of others and want to help.
- ...be an active, not passive, listener.
- ...be a good communicator.
- ...be a "magnet" for discouraged people, some of whom I barely know.
- ...be able to rebuke people when necessary.
- ...be decisive.
- ...be generally optimistic.
- ...be able to visualize a person's godly potential.
- ...recognize what steps need to be taken to help change lives.
- ...study the Bible for its practical application.

MINUS -

- ...be bored with subjects that do not apply to human lives.
- ...object when people with the gift of mercy don't seem to be firm enough with others.
- ...have little patience when people won't take the action I recommend.
- ...present "quick fixes", jumping in with solutions before listening long enough.

5. OPPORTUNITIES FOR USING THIS GIFT

- a. lay counseling, care group leader (like a Sunday School class), support group ministry, youth counselor, follow-up with new converts, individual or small group discipleship.

6. SCRIPTURAL ROLE MODELS TO STUDY

- a. Barnabas ([Acts 4:36](#); [11:22-26](#))

7. HOW IS IT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL BELIEVERS? [Hebrews 3:13](#); [Hebrews 10:24-25](#)

8. HOW TO DEVELOP YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT

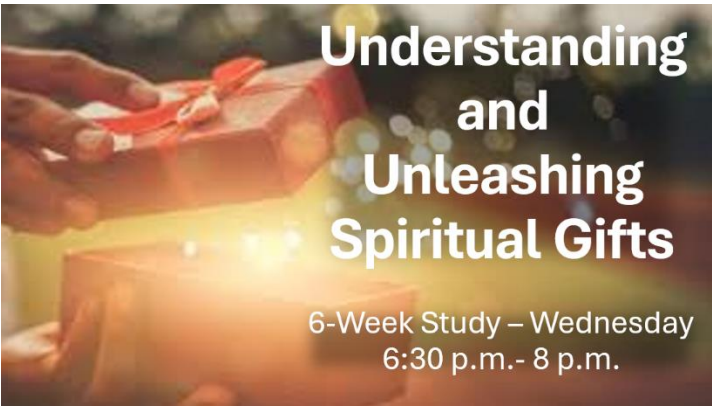
- a. Consider your other spiritual gifts to discover how they best work with the spiritual gift of encouragement. Teachers or shepherds may work best with groups. Some people with the spiritual gift of mercy might seek areas of service that allow one-on-one interactions.
- b. Consider training for one-on-one counseling or lay ministries that emphasize listening to others and walking beside them in times of crisis.
- c. If you have this spiritual gift, remember that it is easy to become overloaded with the demands of others. Make sure you have your own encouragers to give you strength as you pursue your encourager role.

11. TRAITS

- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| • <u>Positive</u> | • <u>Affirming</u> | • <u>Trustworthy</u> |
| • <u>Motivating</u> | • <u>Reassuring</u> | |
| • <u>Challenging</u> | • <u>Supportive</u> | |

12. CAUTIONS

- Can sometimes be overly optimistic, too simplistic, or flattering
- Should first take time to understand others and what they really need.
- May want to just say "positive" things to others and avoid being confrontational when it's needed.



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What is a “Spiritual Gift”? Special abilities, Spirit given, to every Christian, enabling the individual to perform a special service in the body of Christ.

7) THE WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

1 Corinthians 12:8 - for to one is given... the word of knowledge through the same Spirit...

1. DEFINITION:

- a. *Gk. Gnosis: “to know”*
- b. *DEFINITION [KNOWLEDGE]: the God-given ability to discover, accumulate and clarify the vast teachings of God’s Word on many subjects through careful research and serious study.*
- c. *[WORD of knowledge]: knowing a fact or the truth about a person or a situation as it is directly revealed by the Holy Spirit.*

2. PEOPLE WITH THIS SPIRITUAL GIFT

- a. *Devote much of their time to reading Scripture.*
- b. *Love to share biblical insight.*
- c. *Enjoy helping others increase their understanding of God’s Word.*
- d. *Benefit from time spent in studying and researching Scripture.*
- e. *Take delight in answering difficult questions about God’s Word.*

3. I TEND TO...

PLUS -

- *delight in new insights into the Word of God.*
- *get information that seems to be straight from God.*
- *want to apply inspired information in a way that brings life to people.*
- *like to present my insights to others as clearly as possible.*
- *want to stimulate in others a hunger for biblical knowledge and the ways of God.*
- *get feedback from others that insights I have shared have gone straight to their hearts.*

MINUS -

- *Sometimes become absorbed in one point or topic, to the exclusion of others.*
- *Be tempted to think I have all the answers (becoming “puffed up”-see 1 Cor 8:1).*
- *Become critical toward others who fail to meet my standards for the use of this gift.*
- *Become impatient with those who do not understand my insights.*
- *Forget to ask for God’s wisdom in applying the truths he shows me.*

4. SCRIPTURAL ROLE MODELS TO STUDY

- a. **Apollos** ([Acts 18:24-28](#)) – knowledge (perhaps with teaching)
- b. **Peter** ([Acts 5:1-11](#)) – word of knowledge (with perhaps prophecy)
- c. **Nathan** ([2 Samuel 12:1-14](#)) – word of knowledge (with perhaps prophecy)

5. HOW IS IT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL BELIEVERS?

- a. [2 Peter 3:18](#); [Col. 2:1-3](#); [Col. 1:9-10](#)

6. TRAITS

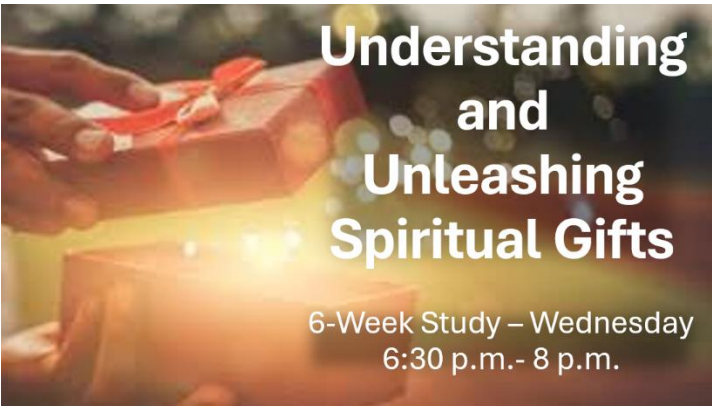
- Inquisitive
- Responsive
- Observant
- Insightful
- Reflective
- Truthful
- Spiritually Sensitive

7. CAUTIONS

- a. *Need to be careful of this gift leading to pride (“knowledge” puffs up)*
- b. *Should remember that it’s God’s message, not theirs, when they give a word of knowledge to the church.*
- c. *Need to remember with the increasing of knowing comes the increasing of pain ([Ecclesiastes 1:18](#)).*

8. **Opportunities for Using this Gift:** Research, prepare, plan or presentation for a ministry vision or project.

9. REFERENCES: [1 Corinthians 12:8](#); [1 Cor. 13:2](#); [2 Cor. 4:6](#); [2 Cor. 8:7](#); [Mark 2:6-8](#); [John 1:45-50](#)



Understanding and Unleashing Spiritual Gifts

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

SPEAKING GIFTS

Led by: Pastor Robert A. O’Neal III, Shepherd’s Way
Christian Church

1 Timothy 4:14 - Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.

What is a “Spiritual Gift”? Special abilities, Spirit given, to every Christian, enabling the individual to perform a special service in the body of Christ.

8) THE WORD OF WISDOM

1 Corinthians 12:8 - for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit...

1. DEFINITION:

- Gk. Sophia – “wisdom”*
- DEFINITION:** *The ability to apply Scriptural knowledge to real-life situations in a way that transcends human insights. Regardless of education or other abilities; **this person is able to be a spiritual problem-solver; their counsel consistently bears good fruit.***
- SHORT DEFINITION:** *Practical counsel for daily living, OR Divine Direction.*
- OTHER DEFINITION:** *The ability to understand and apply biblical and spiritual knowledge to complex, paradoxical, or other difficult situations.*
- WORD of Wisdom [Specific word]** *A special illumination that enables one in a specific instance to grasp divine insight regarding a fact, situation or context.*
- They can get to the heart of a problem quickly. They have little difficulty in making decisions because they can foresee with a fairly high degree of accuracy what the outcome of the decisions will be.*

2. PEOPLE WITH THIS SPIRITUAL GIFT

- It is easy for me to make practical applications of the truths found in the Bible, thinking through different courses of action and determining the best one.*
- People often come to me for advice about personal and spiritual matters.*
- I am often able to find a profoundly simple solution in the midst of a difficult situation.*
- I have resolved paradoxes by cutting through to the essence of an issue.*
- I help others see God’s way in the midst of conflicting viewpoints.*
- I enjoy counseling others.*

3. I TEND TO...

PLUS -

- ...Understand that human wisdom is insufficient and often in opposition to God’s wisdom.*
- ...pray for greater wisdom.*
- ...humbly respect others who have this gift.*
- ...be involved in untangling difficult ethical or spiritual problems.*
- ...often remain quiet until others seek advice, appreciating that people can’t receive it until they are ready.*

MINUS -

...Criticize others who do not possess the accumulated insights I have gained.

...Offer, instead of God's wisdom, my own opinions based on my prejudices or current trends.

...Get carried away by successful ideas or solutions that are distorted or do not apply to the present.

4. SCRIPTURAL ROLE MODELS TO STUDY

- a. Solomon (**1 Kings 3:1-28**); Jethro (Moses' father in law)
- b. Stephen (**Acts 6:10** – “They could not withstand the wisdom... with which he spoke.”)

5. HOW IS IT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL BELIEVERS? James 1:5; Proverbs 1:2, 7; 4:5-9

6. TRAITS

- Sensible
- Insightful
- Practical

- Wise
- Fair
- Experienced

- Common Sense

7. CAUTIONS

- a. Could fail to share the wisdom that God has given them.
- b. Need to avoid having others develop a dependence upon them, which may weaken their faith in God.
- c. Need to be patient with others who do not have this gift.

8. OPPORTUNITIES TO USE THIS GIFT: Counselor or consultant

References: **1 Corinthians 12:8; 2:3-14; James 3:13-18; Jeremiah 9:23-24**

EXTRA [Wisdom vs. Knowledge]: I like Ralph Neighbour's medical analogy to explain the difference between the gift of knowledge and the gift of wisdom. The person who has the gift of knowledge is equivalent to the medical researcher who gains new insights into physiology, genetics or vaccines. The person who has the gift of wisdom is equivalent to the physician who has the ability to diagnose the patient's problem and to apply the resources of medical science to that particular case. [Wagner, 203]