

Series: ROMANS: Best News Ever
Message #20: WORD & SPIRIT:
Understanding Spiritual Gifts – Part 2
Romans 12:3-8, 1 Corinthians 12



SPEAKER: Shawn Vandop
March 12, 2023

WORD & SPIRIT

Understanding Spiritual Gifts – Part 2

TODAY'S TEXT  [Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12](#)

 NOTES:

Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

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Message: Part 20 – WORD & SPIRIT: *Understanding Spiritual Gifts – Part 2*

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Connect (30min)

1. MARCH INTO SPRING

- What are a couple of your favorite *Spring* activities?
- What is one event/opportunity/challenge that you're looking forward to this month?
- Share a highlight from your Bible Reading/Devotions this past week:
How were you encouraged, challenged or changed?

2. P.R.A.Y.

Grant me, O Lord my God, a mind to know you, a heart to seek you, wisdom to find you, conduct pleasing to you, faithful perseverance in waiting for you, and a hope of finally embracing you. Amen. – Thomas Aquinas

📖 **Read** [Ephesians 3:14-21](#). Have one person read this scripture for the group & use this as a guide for prayer.

🙏 **Pray** – Take 10min to P.R.A.Y. together. Leader – time & transition to each component.

-- Pause (be still & listen. 2min)

-- Rejoice & Reflect (praise & thanks. 2min.),

-- Ask (invite & request 4min.)

-- Yield (surrender & trust. 2min)

Message Discussion (45min)

1. 2023 Prayer Goals: March - **BE BOLD IN TRUTH** 🙏. Pick up a copy of this month's brochure at church.

Jesus said, "I AM THE TRUTH," and it is your duty and mine to speak the truth. Then it is up to the person who hears it whether to accept or reject it. – Teresa of Calcutta

- 📖 **Read** [Acts 4:13](#). How does the TRUTH of Jesus Christ inspire and developed BOLDNESS our lives today?
- What would it look like for our community (friends, family...) to recognize that we've "been with Jesus"?

2. MESSAGE FEEDBACK: What did you learn from Sunday's message? What encouraged or challenged you?

3. WORD 📖 & SPIRIT 💧

Shawn talked about churches being defined by either **WORD** or **SPIRIT**.

- What has been your experience as a Christian so far; would you define yourself more as a "WORD Christian" or a "SPIRIT Christian," and why?
- Why do you think there can be such a divide between the two? Discuss.
- What would a church look like if it was both a WORD and SPIRIT Church?
> Talk about specific things that a church like that would do and act like
- Does the kind of church we described as a group excite you?

4. SPIRITUAL GIFTS

📖 Read [1 Corinthians 12:4-7](#)

- a. Why do you think God has given a variety of gifts to the church?
- b. How would you describe a spiritual gift?

Spiritual gifts are nothing less than God Himself in us, energizing our souls, imparting revelation to our minds, infusing power in our wills, and working his sovereign and gracious purposes through us.

– [Dr. Sam Storms](#)

We tend to think of spiritual gifts like a Christmas gift. Paul wants us to know that they are not tangible in the way you receive a present on your birthday, but that spiritual gifts are literally *God present in*, with and through our human thoughts, deeds, words, and love.

Does that change the way you think about the gifts? if so, how?

- c. Do you think we earn gifts or are given gifts? Why is this difference important to understand?
- d. How can this understanding impact how you used the spiritual gifts God has given you?
- e. How many spiritual gifts can you find in the following passages? Read and create a list.
 - i. [Romans 12:6-8](#)
 - ii. [1 Corinthians 12:7-11, 28](#)
 - iii. [Ephesians 4:11-12](#)
- f. Which spiritual gifts (on the list) do you think you have or have stepped out in at times? Share and discuss.

Application & Prayer (15min)

- What is one thing you can do this week to continue growing in your understanding of spiritual gifts?
- What is one step you can take to become a WORD and SPIRIT Person?
- In response to our sharing and discussion – how can we Pray for you?
Ask the Holy Spirit to produce in you an eagerness to learn and live the spiritual gifts.

🕒 Plan to share in **Communion** together as a Life Group this month 🍷

Spiritual Gifts – Definitions and Scripture References

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 helps 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 language to encourage your spirit and to commune with God. The gift of tongues is often 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

How do you know what your spiritual gift is?

The New Testament nowhere gives us explicit guidance on how to identify or discover our spiritual gift(s). Whereas many have been helped by taking a spiritual gifts inventory test, my recommendation is that Christians stop indulging in introspective navel-gazing and simply step out and begin to love and serve others in concrete acts of ministry. In doing so, I'm confident your gift will find you.

Open your eyes and look for those who are weeping. Ask the Spirit to guide your steps to those who are weak, afflicted, and destitute. And as you go, listen for the voice of God to grant you a prophetic word that will encourage and console the suffering. Take your hands out of your pockets and lay them on the sick, beseeching the Lord of mercy for a gift of healing. Look for those in financial straits and give to them generously. Identify the despairing and speak words of encouragement. When people are drifting, open your Bible and teach them truth.

Identify those who are unable to do long overdue yard work, or whose garage desperately needs deliverance from piles of clutter, or perhaps an elderly widow who simply needs someone to do their laundry and fold and put away their clothes. You may well discover in-the-midst of your efforts that a glorious joy in serving and showing mercy has erupted in your heart.

Instead of first asking, "What is my gift?", ask the question, "Who is in need?" If God's people would look outward before they look inward, they will encounter the charismatic and empowering presence of the Spirit to equip them for every good deed. If you're still bewildered by what may or may not be your spiritual gift, act first and ask later.

If we would devote ourselves to praying, giving, helping, teaching, serving, and exhorting those around us, the likelihood greatly increases that we will walk headlong into our gifting without ever knowing what happened. God will more likely meet us with his gifts in the midst of trying to help his children than he ever would while we're taking a spiritual gifts analysis test. – Dr. Sam Storms. www.samstorms.org/enjoying-god-blog/post/10-questions-about-spiritual-gifts