



GIFTS OF GRACE

Discovering and Using Our Spiritual Gifts

EMPOWER BIBLE STUDY

Westside Baptist Church, Daytona Beach, Florida

Dr Wes Conner, Senior Pastor, Instructor

LESSON 1

Introduction: Getting Fired Up About Spiritual Gifts

• **KEY BIBLE PASSAGES**

Four key passages in the Bible address the doctrine of spiritual gifts. Read each passage in its entirety as we approach this important study. Jot down any questions that come to mind as you read. Hopefully, most of them will be answered in the course of this study. The key passages: Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 28-30; Ephesians 4:11; and 1 Peter 4:9-11.

• **OBJECTIVES OF THIS STUDY**

- *Experience Jesus in a fresh way as you see Him at work through spiritual gifts.*
- *Appreciate the genius of how Jesus designed the church as His new body, continuing every aspect of His earthly ministry through the spiritual gifts of His people.*
- *Understand the joy of allowing Jesus to minister through you as you exercise the spiritual gifts He has given you.*

• **THE IMPORTANCE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

- *Is it really that important to understand the doctrine of spiritual gifts?*
Read these Scriptures: 1 Timothy 4: 14a, 15; 2 Timothy 1:6; and 1 Corinthians 12:1.
According to these verses, would you say that understanding about spiritual gifts is:
 - ☐ *Optional for the Christian?*
 - ☐ *Commanded by Scripture?*
- *Read 1 Corinthians 12:7. According to this verse, which of the following is most true?*
 - ☐ *God gifts some special people in the church for their own good.*
 - ☐ *God gifts all people in the church for their own good.*
 - ☐ *God gifts every believer for the good of the entire church.*
- *See if you can find the three gifts the Apostle Peter mentions in 1 Peter 4:9-11. In verse 11, Peter distinguished between "speaking" gifts and "serving" gifts. In verse 9, Peter identified the need for the gift of "hospitality."*
- *Suppose these three categories of gifts were the only ones in the Bible. At this early point in our study, which one do you think best describes you?*
 - ☐ **Speaking:** *Check here if you are most fulfilled when you are communicating (including talking, of course, but also writing, singing, drama, etc.).*
 - ☐ **Serving:** *Check here if you prefer planning, working, doing, and accomplishing things, perhaps even "behind the scenes."*

□ **Hospitality:** Check here if you feel compelled to reach out to others—even strangers—making them feel welcome and inviting them to God's house-or yours!

- **WHAT ABOUT YOU?**

Maybe you are a new Christian just being introduced to spiritual gifts. Perhaps you've been a Christian for a long time and desire to discover your gift or be more certain of it. Maybe you need to rekindle your spiritual life and be "fired up" again. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, this study will help you.

- **THE DEFINITION OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

- **Descriptive Words** – To understand the nature of spiritual gifts, we must first look at the words that the writers of Scripture used to describe them. Look at 1 Corinthians 12 and note the different terms used to describe spiritual gifts.
 - **"Spirituals"** – *ton pneumatikon* = "things characterized/controlled by the Spirit"
 - **"Gifts"** – *charisma* = from root word *charis* = "grace"
 - **"Administrations"/"Ministries"** – *diakonia* = "service"
 - **"Operations"/"Activities"** – *energema* = "energy"
 - **"Manifestation"** – *phanerosis* = "to make visible; to display"

Summarized Working Definition of "Spiritual Gift":

"A supernatural ability given by grace empowering believers for service and displaying the presence of God in our lives." Or, more simply: "a God-given ability to serve the church effectively."

- **NOTE SOME DISTINCTIONS**

- *Gifts and Gift...*
- *Gifts and Fruit...*
- *Gifts and Talents...*

- **LESSON ONE - FINAL OBSERVATIONS & CONCLUSION**

- Before leaving this matter of definitions, one more observation is in order, and that concerns that word *"manifestations."* Just what is it that is manifested? What is made visible? It is the Holy Spirit Himself! A spiritual gift is a *"manifestation of the Spirit"* (1 Cor. 12:7). This is how the Holy Spirit is seen—in the exercise of spiritual gifts.
- *So ask yourself the question: How has the Holy Spirit ministered/been seen through you this week? How will He next week?*

