

Day 10: Spiritual Empowerment ~ Gifts for the Church

The Church body is how the Lord planned to spread the Gospel across the world. The Lord has created each of us for a purpose— to make Jesus known. But how does a multitude go about doing this? Each one of us has been knit together in a specific way to fit into God's masterpiece. There are gifts given to the Church by the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Gifts given by the Father are interwoven into our DNA. Romans 12:3-8, "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. ⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your^[a] faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead,^[b] do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully."

Gifts given by the Son are more for the leadership of the Church, although each person fits into a stream. Ephesians 4:11-13, "So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."

Gifts given by the Spirit are not permanent within any person, but people can operate in these gifts as directed by the Spirit. No gift is the property of any person, but as the Spirit directs. 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, "There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. ⁵ There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶ There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. ⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues,^[a] and to still another the interpretation of tongues.^[b] ¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines."

You matter! You have a place and purpose in the kingdom. Everyone has a gift, and a piece is missing if you are not using yours.

The purposes for gifts are to encourage and mature the body of believers and so we are not torn away by any teaching that is contradictory to Christ.

Day 10 Worksheet

Write the gifts given by God the Father in Romans 12. These gifts were threaded on our DNA.

Write the gifts Jesus gave in Ephesians 4. These gifts are given to the Church. Those in ministry are called to lead these branches, but each person can find themselves in an area.

Write the gifts given by the Spirit as Paul talks about in 1 Corinthians 12. These gifts are not permanent but given in circumstances as the Spirit leads. A person can operate in a specific gift multiple times or even regularly.

If you are not utilizing the gifts God has given you, others suffer and miss out. Are you open and available to the Lord to use the gifts He has given you?

Everyone has a gift. These belong to the Lord and are not ours, but are exercised for the benefit of the Church and others. After reading the list. What might be a gift or gifts that you have been given?

Take time to sit still before the Lord and ask Him to speak to your heart about how He has created you and what gifts have been bestowed upon you. There are multiple online tools to discover what gifts you have.
