



Understanding Spiritual Gifts

Week 3 – Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts



Recap: Jesus modeled servanthood. (Matt. 20:20-28, Mark 8:31-38, John 13:1-11)
We are spiritually equipped to serve. (Rom. 12:1-2, Ephesians 2:1-10, 2 Cor. 5:17-20)

Discussion question:

What processes have you heard of or done so far to identify your spiritual gifts?

Big Idea: A proper understanding of the nature of spiritual gifts will help each believer discover how they are gifted and seek the best venue to use their gifts.

The Nature of Spiritual Gifts (1 Corinthians 12:1-7)

Gifts → Ministry → Effects

What the Spirit gifts me with → What I do with my gifts → What God does through me

Identifying Your Spiritual Gifts:

Pray – Ask God to make your gifting clear through the work of the Holy Spirit.
(Colossians 1:9-10)

Study – Search the Scriptures diligently to identify and define what the gifts are.
(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Test – Use tools, the counsel of faithful people who know you, and experience to evaluate and confirm your gifting. (Romans 12:1-2)

Three lists of spiritual gifts:

Romans 12:3-8 - Understanding spiritual gifts helps us to look at ourselves with humility. We each receive different gifts, and the combination of those gifts within the body of Christ enables us to explore how we ought to depend on each other.

1 Corinthians 12:8-11, 28 - Paul lists several types of spiritual gifts, but emphasizes their source (the Holy Spirit) and their *energema* (unity and building up of the church)

Ephesians 4:11-16 - Paul again lists several types of *diakonion* (ministry gifts) and repeats the emphasis on the building up of the body of Christ. He adds more to the discussion of the *energema* (results) of the gifts.

“Grace Gifts” <i>Charismata</i>	“Ministry” <i>Diakonion</i>	“Effects” <i>Energema</i>
Romans 12:3-8	Ephesians 4:11 1 Corinthians 12:28	Ephesians 4:12-16 1 Corinthians 12:8-11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prophecy - Service - Teaching - Exhortation - Giving - Leadership - Mercy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Apostles - Prophets - Evangelists - Pastor - Teachers - Worker of Miracles - Gifts of Healing - Helper (Service) - Administration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Word of Wisdom - Word of Knowledge - Faith - Healing - Miracles - Prophecy - Discernment - Equipping - Maturity

Principles regarding Spiritual Gifts

1. Every Christian has one or more spiritual gifts.
2. Many believers have received more than one spiritual gift.
3. Spiritual gifts may be given at the moment of regeneration, but they may lie undiscovered and dormant for a long period of time.
4. Spiritual gifts can be abused and neglected, but if they are received at regeneration, it would appear that they cannot be lost.
5. Spiritual gifts are not the same as the gift of the Holy Spirit.
6. Spiritual gifts are not the same as the fruit of the Spirit.
7. Spiritual gifts are not the same as natural talents.
8. Some spiritual gifts are more useful in local churches than others because they result in greater edification of the body.
9. Charismata literally means “grace gifts.” These gifts are sovereignly and undeservedly given by the Holy Spirit.
10. Gifts are God’s spiritual equipment for effective service and edification of the body.

www.spiritualgiftstest.com – an online resource with an extensive description of the gifts.