



the spiritual gifts

Small Group Guide: The Spiritual Gifts, Week 3

Key Takeaways:

1. God created humans with the ability to commune and fellowship with Him.
2. We are tripartite beings, composed of spirit, soul, and body.
3. The Holy Spirit is meant to be our guide, teacher, and source of wisdom.
4. Walking in the Spirit requires intentional effort and practice.

Discussion Questions:

1. Pastor Allen mentions that every human has the innate ability to commune with God. How have you experienced this in your own life? What challenges have you faced in developing this ability?
2. Reflect on the three parts of the human spirit discussed in the sermon (spiritual intellect, conscience, and

sensitivity to the Spirit). Which of these do you feel most connected to, and why?

3. How does understanding ourselves as tripartite beings (spirit, soul, body) change the way we approach our relationship with God?
4. Pastor Allen emphasized the Holy Spirit's role as our guide and teacher. Can you share an experience where you felt the Holy Spirit guiding or teaching you?
5. Discuss the four steps to walking in the Spirit mentioned in the sermon:
 - a. Casting down vain imaginations
 - b. Casting down prideful thoughts
 - c. Bringing every thought into captivity to Christ
 - d. Avenging all disobedience

Which of these steps do you find most challenging, and why?

Practical Application:

1. This week, commit to spending 10 minutes each day in quiet reflection, focusing on being sensitive to the Holy Spirit's presence.
2. Keep a journal to track the "vain imaginations" or prideful thoughts you notice throughout the week. Practice casting these down and replacing them with godly thoughts.
3. Choose a verse or passage from Scripture to meditate on daily, as a way of bringing your thoughts into captivity to Christ.
4. Reflect on any past actions or attitudes that may have grieved the Holy Spirit. Take steps to "right any wrongs"

as discussed in the sermon.

5. Share with a partner or the group next week how implementing these practices affected your walk with God.

Closing Prayer:

Encourage group members to continue reflecting on the sermon content throughout the week and to support one another in their efforts to walk more closely with the Spirit.

5-Day Devotional

Day 1: Communing with God

Reading: Genesis 3:8-11, Isaiah 59:2

Devotional: The story of Adam and Eve reminds us of humanity's original closeness with God and how sin created a barrier in that relationship. Yet, even after the fall, our ability to commune with God wasn't destroyed—only marred. Isaiah 59:2 shows us how sin separates us from God, but it also implies that reconciliation is possible. Today, reflect on your own relationship with God. Are there sins or habits creating distance between you and Him? Remember, God created you with the innate ability to commune with Him. Take time to pray, confessing any sins and asking God to restore the intimacy in your relationship with Him.

Day 2: The Triune Nature of Humanity

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:23, John 4:24

Devotional: Understanding our triune nature—body, soul, and spirit—can deepen our spiritual walk. Our spirit, in particular, allows us to connect with God, who is Spirit. Consider how your spiritual intellect, conscience, and sensitivity to the Spirit work together to help you discern God's will and presence. Are you nurturing all aspects of your being, or focusing too much on one area? Today, try to engage in activities that feed your spirit, such as worship, prayer, or meditating on Scripture. Ask God to heighten your spiritual sensitivity so you can better perceive His guidance and presence in your life.

Day 3: Led by the Spirit

Reading: Romans 8:14, John 16:13

Devotional: As children of God, we have the incredible privilege of being led by the Holy Spirit. This isn't just a nice idea—it's a fundamental aspect of our identity in Christ. The

Spirit guides us into all truth, helping us navigate life's complexities. Reflect on times when you've felt the Spirit's guidance. How did you recognize it? Were there instances when you might have missed His leading? Today, consciously invite the Holy Spirit to guide your decisions, big and small. Practice listening for His voice in moments of quiet reflection, and be attentive to His promptings throughout your day.

Day 4: Spiritual Warfare and Thought Life

Reading: 2 Corinthians 10:3-5, Philippians 4:8

Devotional: Our minds are battlegrounds where spiritual warfare often takes place. Paul gives us a strategy for victory: casting down imaginations, bringing thoughts into captivity, and focusing on what is good and true. This requires active participation on our part. What negative thought patterns or vain imaginations do you struggle with? How might these be hindering your spiritual growth? Today, practice taking your thoughts captive. When negative or ungodly thoughts arise, consciously replace them with truths from God's Word. Make a list of things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and admirable, and meditate on these throughout the day.

Day 5: Walking in the Spirit

Reading: Galatians 5:16-25

Devotional: Walking in the Spirit is the key to living a life that pleases God and bears spiritual fruit. It's a moment-by-moment choice to yield to the Spirit's influence rather than our fleshly desires. As you read the contrasting lists of the works of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit, honestly evaluate your life. Which list more accurately describes your daily walk? Remember, walking in the Spirit isn't about perfection, but direction. It's about consistently choosing to align your will with God's. Today, consciously invite the Holy Spirit to fill you and guide your actions. When faced with decisions or temptations, pause and ask, "What would it look like to walk in the Spirit in this moment?" Then, with God's help, choose accordingly.