



the spiritual gifts

Small Group Guide: **The Spiritual Gifts, Week 4**

Key Takeaways:

1. Spiritual gifts are not a sign of spiritual maturity.
2. The gifts are of grace, not works, which is why even immature Christians can operate in them.
3. There are biblical guidelines for the proper use of spiritual gifts in the church.
4. The purpose of spiritual gifts differs depending on the audience (believers vs. unbelievers).
5. When using spiritual gifts, the goal should be edification and clear understanding.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think there's a common misconception that operating in spiritual gifts equals spiritual maturity?
2. The sermon mentions the Corinthian church as an example of immature believers operating in gifts. How does this challenge or affirm your understanding of spiritual gifts?

3. What are your thoughts on the biblical guidelines for using spiritual gifts in church gatherings? Why do you think these guidelines are important?
4. How can we ensure that the use of spiritual gifts in our church community leads to edification rather than confusion?
5. The sermon emphasizes the importance of clear communication when using spiritual gifts. How can we apply this principle in our daily lives as Christians?
6. What does it mean to be "seeker sensitive" in the context of spiritual gifts? How can we balance this with allowing the gifts to operate?

Practical Application:

1. This week, reflect on your own spiritual gifts. Are you using them to edify others and glorify God?
2. If you operate in spiritual gifts, commit to studying the biblical guidelines in 1 Corinthians 14. Consider how you can align your practice with these principles.
3. Practice being more sensitive to God's presence in your daily life. How might this affect the way you use your spiritual gifts?
4. If you're unfamiliar with spiritual gifts, spend some time researching and praying about how God might want to use you in this area.
5. In your interactions this week, focus on clear communication and edification, whether you're using spiritual gifts or not.

Closing Prayer:

Lord, thank you for the gift of Your Holy Spirit and the spiritual gifts You've given us. Help us to use these gifts wisely, always seeking to edify the church and glorify You. Guide us in growing in spiritual maturity alongside the operation of these gifts. In Jesus' name, Amen.

5-Day Devotional

Day 1: The Grace Behind Spiritual Gifts

Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Devotional: As we explore spiritual gifts, it's crucial to remember that they are rooted in God's grace, not our own merit or spiritual maturity. The Greek word for gift, "charisma," reminds us that these abilities are freely given by God. Today, reflect on how God's grace has manifested in your life. Have you experienced or witnessed spiritual gifts in action? Remember, these gifts are not a measure of your spiritual worth but a testament to God's generosity. How can you cultivate a heart of gratitude for God's gracious gifts, whether they seem extraordinary or ordinary?

Day 2: Unity in Diversity

Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Devotional: The body of Christ is beautifully diverse, with each member playing a unique and vital role. Just as the Corinthian church struggled with division, we too can fall into the trap of comparison or feeling inadequate. Today's passage reminds us that every gift and every role is essential. Consider your place in your local church or community of believers. How can you celebrate the gifts of others while also embracing your own? Pray for unity and mutual appreciation within the body of Christ, recognizing that our differences are designed to strengthen, not divide us.

Day 3: Love: The Greatest Gift

Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Devotional: In the midst of discussing spiritual gifts, Paul reminds us of the supreme importance of love. Without love, even the most impressive spiritual gifts become meaningless noise. As you read this famous passage on love, reflect on how it applies to the use of spiritual gifts. Are you seeking gifts for personal glory or to genuinely serve others? How can you cultivate the kind of love Paul describes - patient, kind, and selfless - in your interactions with fellow believers and in your service to God? Remember, love is not just an emotion but an action that should guide all our spiritual endeavors.

Day 4: Order and Edification in Worship

Reading: 1 Corinthians 14:1-25

Devotional: God is a God of order, not confusion. This passage provides guidelines for using spiritual gifts, especially in corporate worship settings. The key principle is that everything should be done for the edification of the church. As you reflect on this, consider how you can contribute to a worship environment that is both Spirit-led and orderly. Are there ways you can use your gifts to build up others in your faith community? Pray for discernment in recognizing genuine manifestations of the Spirit and wisdom in how to respond to them in a way that honors God and benefits the church.

Day 5: Maturity and Spiritual Gifts

Reading: Ephesians 4:11-16

Devotional: While spiritual gifts are not a sign of maturity, they are meant to help us grow towards maturity in Christ. This passage shows how various gifts work together to build up the body of Christ "until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature." Reflect on your own spiritual journey. How have spiritual gifts - both your own and others' - contributed to your growth? Are you actively seeking to use your gifts to help others mature in their faith? Pray for a balanced perspective on spiritual gifts, valuing them as tools for growth and service rather than as markers of spiritual status.