

# UNDERSTANDING SPIRITUAL GIFTS

## “For the Common Good”

Scripture Reading: 1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-7

- ) **SLIDES 1-6**. Bible Jeopardy!
- ) **SLIDE 7**. Read today’s Scripture text.
- ) **SLIDE 8**. Today we continue in this series on understanding the Spiritual gifts. I have titled today’s message “*For the Common Good*” (v7).
- ) As with any Biblical topic, we must build a strong foundation on rock. If a foundation is built on sinking sand what happens? It sinks. I believe it is very important we know and understand the foundational truths about Spiritual Gifts. If we don’t, who knows what one may believe about them later on. Review.
- ) **SLIDE 9**. Who receives these Spiritual gifts? Only **BELIEVERS** receive Spiritual gifts (1 COR 12:1).
- ) **SLIDE 10**. Who gives believers their Spiritual gifts? The **HOLY SPIRIT** gives Spiritual gifts (1 COR 12:11).
- ) **SLIDE 11**. What gift or gifts do believers receive? The Holy Spirit **WILLS** what gifts we receive (1 COR 12:11).
- ) **SLIDE 12**. How do I know what gift or gifts I have? When we use our gifts with the right intentions, they will never be a **BURDEN** to us or others. Why? It will always be in His power that we use them (EPH 2:10)
- ) If you are trying to teach and teaching is not your gift, you will not do it very effectively; it will be a chore to prepare your lessons, and you will have no peace or joy in your efforts.
- ) OTOH, if giving (generosity) is your gift, then it will never be a chore and you will always have peace and joy doing it.

- ) **SLIDE 13.** How many Spiritual gifts can I have? Every believer has at least one Spiritual gift. You may have several gifts. But no one person has **ALL** the gifts (1 COR 12:14).
- ) **SLIDE 14.** There was a phrase I kept on repeating last week. (Bulletin) They are not earned. They are not learned. They cannot be bought. They cannot be taught. They are gifts! BGCC, this is foundational and we must understand this as we go forward in this topical study.
- ) You cannot do enough works to earn the gift of discernment. You cannot learn how to be a generous giver (gift). You cannot buy faith (gift) and I cannot teach you how to be an encourager (gift). The gift or gifts you and I have will always be determined by the Holy Spirit.
- ) So that's a refresher from last week. Today we will talk about the purpose of the gifts we have been given. Why do we have them? What should I do with my gift or gifts?
- ) Explain the McClung analogy.
- ) The Spirit of God provides or equips us with the necessary tools. We call these tools Spiritual Gifts. Why? So we can do our job effectively and efficiently. Now let's define our "*job*" or our "*responsibility*" as a believer.
- ) What? I have a job, a responsibility, as a believer? Yes! And another way to say that is we all have a purpose within the church as believers.
- ) We must never think, as a believer, that once we get saved that's all we need to do. We just sit back, go to church when we can, throw a little money in the basket, and attend the potluck dinners. Believers ... we have a job to do! We have a purpose within the Body of Christ!
- ) **SLIDE 15.** EPH 4:11-12. The title of today's message "*For the Common Good*" and "*building up of the body of Christ*" are one and the same.

- ) **SLIDE 16.** It is the responsibility of the **PASTORS** and **TEACHERS** to equip the saints for the work of service.
- ) It is my responsibility to equip you for kingdom work. And I do that by using my gifts of teaching and preaching. And then we all use our gifts for the common good and building up the body of Christ. I build you up. You build me up. We build each other up.
- ) I truly hope and pray that this sermon series helps us all better define our gifts and how best to use them to serve the church.
- ) In 1CORINTHIANS 12:12-26 Paul talks about the body. The body is the church. That can mean the local church like Beech Grove, or it can mean the global church. Let's focus for now on the local church.
- ) In verses 12-26 Paul compares the people in the church to a body with parts. Each body part has a function. When every body part is functioning well, the entire body functions well. The same goes with us here at Beech Grove. When we all use our Spiritual gifts, this body of believers functions well.
- ) And as with the human body not all parts are visible—some are inside where we can't see them. Somewhere in here I have two kidneys that perform a function. I will not live very long without them. But they are just as important as the parts that are visible (eyes, ears, nose, etc.).
- ) I have the opportunity of using my Spiritual gifts of teaching and preaching every Sunday. These gifts are very visible.
- ) But some of you have invisible gifts that are more "*behind the scenes.*" But I guarantee this body would not function well without those "*invisible*" parts doing their work as well.
- ) **SLIDE 17.** Why does Paul tie spiritual gifts in with this analogy of the body? Because the church is not an organization. It is an **ORGANISM**. And that organism needs to be fed and nourished so it can be built up.

- ) **SLIDE 18.** How does that happen? EPHESIANS 4:16.
- ) **SLIDE 19.** We use our spiritual gifts to build up the **BODY** of Christ for the common good. When we use our gift(s), the body grows and gets built up (*for the building up of itself*).
- ) Our concern with Spiritual gifts should never be ourselves. I have the gift of teaching to build up the body. You have the gift of encouragement, administration, mercy, etc. to build up the body. We use our gifts for the common good. And by doing so we feed this organism called the church.
- ) Let's establish this truth a little further.
- ) **SLIDE 20.** 1CORINTHIANS 12:24b,25. Here we see that concept of building up again. Every part will have equal concern (care) for each other. And when we do, divisions (schisms) will never break out.
- ) **SLIDE 21.** We are given different gifts so that there will be no **DIVISION** in the body and that every part should have the same **CARE** for each other.
- ) **SLIDE 22.** Let's establish this truth even more. 1PETER 4:10.
- ) **SLIDE 23.** Our Spiritual Gifts are used to **SERVE** one another. Who are "*one another*?" The church, the body of believers. Once again we see the purpose of the gifts is for the building up of the body and not self.
- ) **SLIDE 24.** One final truth about these gifts. 1PETER 4:11.
- ) **SLIDE 25.** When everyone uses their gifts, God gets the **GLORY**. We use our gifts to build up the body and to edify each other, and that's good. But ultimately when we look good, God looks good and to Him be the praise and glory. After all it was His Spirit who gave us the gifts to begin with, right?
- ) Just like the proper use of the tools I had at my work benefited our customers, the proper use of our spiritual gifts builds up other believers.

- ) Just like the proper use of the tools I had at my work made my company look good, the proper use of our spiritual gifts makes God look good in this world.
- ) Improper use of our spiritual gifts has the potential for tearing down other believers and making God look like a fool. We don't want that. We use our gifts for the common good, building each other up, and ultimately for the glory of God!
- ) **SLIDE 26**. Repeat these lines.
- ) Next week we will start a quick explanation of the Spiritual gifts.

11/13/2022 at Beech Grove Christian Church