

UNDERSTANDING SPIRITUAL GIFTS

“Varieties of Gifts”

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. Paul uses the words “*variety of gifts,*” “*variety of ministries,*” and “*variety of effects*” in today’s Scripture text. They are all inter-related. So, today I have titled this message “*Varieties of Gifts*” (v4). I’ll use the other “*variety*” words the next several weeks.
-) **SLIDE 9.** Only BELIEVERS receive Spiritual gifts. The HOLY SPIRIT gives Spiritual gifts. The Holy Spirit WILLS what gifts we receive. No one person has ALL the gifts.
-) **SLIDE 10.** And we know that by 1 CORINTHIANS 12:29-30.
-) **SLIDE 11.** They are not earned. They are not learned. They cannot be bought. They cannot be taught. They are gifts! Again, I cannot stress how critical this is as we move forward.
-) **SLIDE 12.** What is the purpose for believers having spiritual gifts? The purpose of our spiritual gifts is to BUILD UP (edify) the Body of Christ so that there will be no DIVISION in the body and that every part should have equal CARE for each other and to SERVE each one another.
-) Remember last week we said the church is not an organization. It is an organism. An organism needs to be fed. An organism needs to be built up. An organism needs to be edified. An organism needs to grow. The church is an organism. If these things do not happen, the organism dies.

-) **SLIDE 13**. The ultimate goal of using our gifts EPH 4:12; 1COR 12:7; 1COR 14:12.
-) Notice in each case we see that our gifts are for each other—the body of believers. We must remember that the Bible teaches a God-centered theology and not a man-centered theology. It's not about self. It's all about God.
-) **SLIDE 14**. And that's why when everyone uses their gifts God gets the **PRAISE** and **GLORY** (1PETER 4:11). After all it was His Spirit who gave us the gifts to begin with, right?
-) **SLIDE 15**. OK. So that's who receives the spiritual gifts and that's their purpose. What are the gifts? There are a variety of gifts. And different Bible translations may use different terms.
-) All spiritual gifts are supernatural gifts. They come from and are distributed by the Holy Spirit. We did not learn them or earn them. They were not bought and they were not taught.
-) Today and over the next several weeks we will talk about each gift. I will define that gift and its purpose within the church. I will start with gifts that are more common and deal with corporal issues. Then we'll work our way up to the gifts that are more theological and concerned about doctrine. Then we'll conclude this study with the miraculous gifts.
-) **SLIDE 16** – HELPS - It is very similar to the gift of “*servicing*.” But for the sake of this study I am going to differentiate *servicing* from *helps* in that *servicing* is church-wide and *helps* is more towards individual needs.
-) Those with this gift of *helps* are those who can render assistance to other individuals in the church with compassion and grace. This gift is the unique ability to identify those who are struggling with such things as doubt, fears, and other spiritual battles, or who need assistance in some other personal way. A person with the gift of helps has a genuine concern for others more than self.

-) The gift of helps can also be of the secular sense. Use example of Carolyn Driscoll.
-) How does the gift of helps edify the body? I'll answer that question with another question. How does it make you feel when you know that a brother or sister in Christ cares enough about you to help you in whatever difficult situation you may be in? It brings you and that person closer as a family in Christ. When one has this gift, it edifies those who do not.
-) So I ask. Do you feel that you can give of yourself in unselfish love and help a brother or sister in Christ who needs you? Are you the one who gives food to the hungry? Drink to the thirsty? Invites a stranger in? Clothes the naked? Visits the sick? Visits those in prison? Perhaps you have the gift of helps.
-) **SLIDE 17** – SERVING - The Greek word “diakonian” (di ock o nee an) the English word “*deacon*.” This gift means service of any kind. It is very similar to the gift of *helps*. Again, *servicing* is more church-wide and *helps* is more towards individual needs.
-) The gift of serving is as simple as those who are willing to “*lend a hand*” and do even the most mundane and sometimes disagreeable tasks around the church with a spirit of humility and grace. Some examples of those who have this gift volunteer to care for the church buildings and grounds, they set up the fellowship hall for an after-service luncheon and they clean up afterwards. They use their talents to play the piano and sing in the choir.
-) They drive buses to pick up children to bring them to church. They set up chairs for church activities. They run and maintain the audio and video equipment in the church. They lead choirs and drama groups.
-) How does the gift of serving edify the body? When something around the church needs to be done, these are the people who do it.

-) There are many people sitting in here today who have this gift. Every last one of our fellowship meals would never happen if there were not those who had the gift of service. When one has this gift, it edifies those who do not.
-) So I ask. Do you feel comfortable serving because you want to not because you have to? Perhaps you have the gift of serving.
-) **SLIDE 18.** – GIVING (generosity) This comes from the Greek word *didomi* (did' o me). It means “to impart” or “to give.” In ROMANS 12:8 this word is accompanied by another descriptive word: *haplot* s (hap lo' tase). This word, when describing how the giver gives, means sincerely and without pretense or hypocrisy.
-) Gifted givers are those who joyfully share what they have with others, whether it is their time, their talents, or their treasure. The giver is concerned for the needs of others and seeks opportunities to share with them as needs arise. Those with this gift love to share with others the overflow of blessings God has given them.
-) **SLIDE 19.** 2COR 9:7 tells us that God loves a cheerful giver.
-) So how does the gift of giving edify the body? Those with this gift meet the needs of the church and the needs of the people in the church by generously giving their time, their talent, and their treasure. When one has this gift, it edifies those who do not.
-) So I ask. Do you feel comfortable and is it easy for you to give your time, talent, and treasures to the church and to other believers? Perhaps you have the gift of giving.
-) **SLIDE 20.** – EXHORTATION (encouragement). This gift is evident in those who consistently call upon others to heed and follow God's truth, which may involve correction or building others up by strengthening weak faith or comforting in trials.

-) The gift of exhortation focuses on the practical application of the Bible. A person with this gift can relate to others with understanding, sympathy, and positive Biblical guidance.
-) The teacher would say, "*This is the way you should go*"; where the encourager would say, "*I will help you go that way.*" A person with the gift of exhortation can help another person move from pessimism to optimism (the glass is half empty vs the glass is half full); from fear to faith (I don't know if I can do that vs I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me).
-) How does the gift of exhortation edify the body? This gift is useful in counseling, discipleship, and mentoring. The body of Christ is built up in faith and their trust in the promises of God. When one has this gift, it edifies those who do not.
-) So I ask. Do you feel that you encourage others in the promises of God, to show concern and care when others need a spiritual uplifting? Perhaps you have the gift of exhortation.
-) That's all we'll cover today. Those are four of the more common spiritual gifts. They are rather simplistic yet very practical and necessary gifts for a church to have. Next week we'll look at a few more gifts.

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