

UNDERSTANDING SPIRITUAL GIFTS

“Varieties of Effects”

Scripture Reading: 1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-7

-) **SLIDES 1-6**. Bible Jeopardy!
-) **SLIDE 7**. Read today’s Scripture text.
-) **SLIDE 8**. This is week #5 in this series on Understanding the Spiritual gifts. I have titled today’s message “*Varieties of Effects*” (v6).
-) Every believer has been given things we call Spiritual gifts by the Holy Spirit and as He has determined. And there are a variety of gifts. Every believer has been given a ministry where the believer must use that gift(s). And there are a variety of ministries. These ministries will develop different effects within the body that will edify the church and ultimately glorify God. And there are a variety of effects.
-) **SLIDE 9**. So believers have been given a variety of gifts (v4) which produces a variety of ministries (v5) which produces a variety of effects (v6). To edify and build up the Body of Christ.
-) **SLIDE 10**. They are not earned. They are not learned. They cannot be bought. They cannot be taught. They are gifts!
-) **SLIDE 11**. What are the gifts? Again, different Bible translations may use different terms.
-) **SLIDE 12**. Over the past two weeks we have covered these seven gifts—FAITH, MERCY, HELPS, SERVING, ADMINISTRATION, EXHORTATION, and GIVING. And we said that the distribution of the gifts is like a funnel. At the top of the funnel where it is the widest, we find many believers with these gifts.

-) Some gifts listed here are in a category called miraculous or sign gifts. We will study these in a few weeks.
-) Today we are going to cover four gifts that slant more towards the theological side. Less believers will have these gifts. And you may see that these four gifts overlap somewhat.
-) **SLIDE 13.**– WORD OF WISDOM. The fact that this gift is described as the “*word*” of wisdom indicates that it is one of the speaking gifts. This gift describes someone who can understand and speak forth biblical truth in such a way as to skillfully apply it to life situations with all discernment. It is the ability to understand God’s Word and His will, and skillfully apply that understanding to life.
-) It is similar to encouragement in that it applies God’s Word. It is similar to mercy in that it reaches out to those in need. But the major difference that sets this gift apart from the others is that it is godly words (advice) given through experience.
-) One thing we must be certain of with this gift. It is not new revelation from God. The canon is closed. God has spoken. There is no new revelation.
-) So how does the gift of words of wisdom edify the body? There are always those who have gone through situations that can shed great wisdom with those who are dealing with similar circumstances, be they good or bad circumstances, be they spiritual or carnal circumstances. And when one has this gift, it edifies those who may not.
-) So I ask. Do you feel comfortable and is it easy for you to speak godly wisdom into the lives of those who need to hear it? If so, perhaps you have the gift of word of wisdom.
-) **SLIDE 14.**– WORD OF KNOWLEDGE. This one is a little difficult because it is so similar to some of the other gifts. This is another speaking gift that involves understanding truth with an insight that only comes by revelation from the Spirit of God.

-) Those with the gift of knowledge understand the deep things of God and the mysteries of His Word.
-) John MacArthur says this in his study Bible: “*Word of Knowledge majors on grasping the meaning of the truth; Word of wisdom emphasizes the practical conviction and conduct that applies it.*”
-) One thing we must be certain of with this gift. It is not new revelation from God. The canon is closed. God has spoken. There is no new revelation.
-) How does the gift of word of knowledge edify the body? Since this gift is useful in understanding the true interpretation and deep truths of God’s Word, the body of Christ is built up in the truth of God’s Word and the truth will what? Set you free. When one has this gift, it edifies those who may not.
-) So I ask. Do you feel that you understand not the superficial but the deep truths of God’s Word? If so, perhaps you have the gift of word of knowledge.
-) **SLIDE 15**. DISTINGUISHING OF SPIRITS (Discernment) – I often say that if there is one area where the church needs improvement, it is in the area of discernment. Discernment is nothing more than the ability to decide between truth and error, right and wrong (Spurgeon).
-) Discernment is the process of making careful distinctions in our thinking about truth. In other words, the ability to think with discernment is synonymous with an ability to think biblically.
-) In today’s era of television and internet you will find many different interpretations of God’s Word—many truths and many deceiving spirits. We need to be extremely careful and be discerning who we watch, listen to, and trust.
-) **SLIDE 16**. MATT 24:4,5. Many will be misled (deceived). Who are the many? The same “*many*” Jesus talks about in MATT 7.

-) We must be discerning. And if we do not possess this gift, we must, as believers, place our trust in those who have this gift. And that decision in itself is discerning.
-) **SLIDE 17.** 1 THESS 5:21-22.
-) **SLIDE 18.** 1 JOHN 4:1.
-) **SLIDE 19.** How does the gift of discernment edify the body? EPHESIANS 4:14. Explain.
-) Did you know there are more warnings about false teachers and deceivers in the NT than warnings about anything else? We must be built up by the truth of God's Word. And when one has this gift, it edifies those who may not.
-) So I ask. Do you feel that you can consistently discern between the truth and error—between right and almost right (Spurgeon)? If so, perhaps you have the gift of discernment; the distinguishing of spirits.
-) **SLIDE 20.**— TEACHING. This word is from the Greek word “didaskalos” (di dask o laas) which means “to *instruct.*” This gift is similar to prophecy in the fact that what is being taught or prophesied is the Word of God. But it differs in the fact that a prophet speaks forth the Word of God (which would be the actual Scripture text) and a teacher would explain the meaning, context, and application to other believers.
-) A spiritually gifted teacher is one who has the unique ability to clearly instruct and communicate knowledge, specifically the Biblical doctrines of the faith.
-) **SLIDE 21.** JAMES 3:1. I am convinced there are too many people in church teaching positions or even in a private setting that do not have the spiritual gift of teaching.
-) Tell story of junior high teacher.
-) Just like Jesus tells us to beware of false prophets, we must also be aware of false teachers.

-) In first and second TIMOTHY the Apostle Paul writes to his protégé Timothy instructing him over and over again about teaching sound doctrine within the church. Why? Because there will always be those who do not teach it and those who do not want to hear it.
-) **SLIDE 22.** 1 TIMOTHY 2:12-14. There are many women who are gifted teachers. Just do not teach or lead men. If you have this gift ladies, there are plenty of opportunities to lead a ladies Bible study. Ability vs obedience.
-) How does the gift of teaching edify the body? Not everyone is gifted to read and understand what this book is saying. The church is edified as people listen to the Word of God and hear what it means and how to apply it to their own lives (study bibles) When one has this gift, it edifies those who may not.
-) Front of bulletin. A teaching ministry.
-) So I ask. Do you feel that you can explain the meaning, context, and application of God's Word and communicate that to other believers without error and within Biblical commands such as this? If so, perhaps you have the gift of teaching.
-) **SLIDE 23.** Those who do not have this gift of teaching but decide to teach anyways risk leading their students down a path of error or possibly even a path of destruction.
-) **SLIDE 24.** That's all we'll cover today. Those are four more spiritual gifts we have now covered. There is a very good chance that everyone in here has at least one of these Spiritual gifts. Which one(s) do you have?
-) Next week we'll build a foundation concerning the sign gifts.

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