

Sermon 6

Spiritual Gifts in Action

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Main Text: 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all.

NOTE TO SPEAKER:

Please read the following scriptures and Spirit of Prophecy readings to prepare for this reading:

- *1 Corinthians 12;*
- *Romans 12:1-8;*
- *[Spiritual Gifts, Volumes 1-4](#)*

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Today you are not here by chance or happenstance. You are here because God has either directed you here or he has allowed you, by decisions and choices you have made to be here. But here you are. And the great thing about this is that regardless of how you got here, it is important that we remember that God moves in and through us to accomplish His will of leading others to Him. Paul, in Philippians 2:13 and 14, explains that our Christian journey is a series of ins and outs. God working “in us” while we work “out”....in mission, service, fellowship, wherever God leads us, is where we will go. Yes, through obedience---steadfast obedience we become partners with God in growing His Kingdom. "For we are His creation - created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time so that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:10).

When we accept Christ and His forgiveness of our sins into our life, our life is changed, and our destiny is eternally altered. We become a new person with a new purpose. We receive the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, the presence of God. Exodus 33:13 talks about the promise of God's presence, with God telling Moses that, **“My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”**

If we are serious about changing our lives, we have to live according to the Bible, we must read it, meditate on it, and apply it our lives. The Spirit of God (His Presence) provide the power and direction we need to change our lives. But what does this have to do with Spiritual Gifts you may ask.

Paul, in Ephesians 2:10 reminds us that **“We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”** God prepared the “good works” for us ahead of time, and He also want us to be prepared to do the work He has prepared for us to do. So, discovering our spiritual gifts and walking in the purpose we were created for is important. All Christians should know and understand spiritual gifts because every Christian has been given gifts for the uplifting of each other.

Today's week of prayer reading will attempt to explain spiritual gifts.

None of us are without spiritual gifts or purpose. In 1 Peter 4:10, 11 the apostle Peter reminds us that, *“As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”* And in Romans 12: 6-8 we read, *“Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.”* Earlier you heard God telling Moses that His presence will go with Him, and here Peter is reminding you that when you accept the Lord, the Spirit of God now dwell inside of you. So, while you may have more than one type of spiritual gift, you know for sure that you at least have one spiritual gift—and that is God dwelling inside of you. Amen.

So, what are spiritual gifts?

Spiritual gifts are special abilities or capacities given to Christians by the Holy Spirit, to be used for the betterment and upliftment of others. They are not natural talents. Yes, some gifts may align with natural talents, but spiritual gifts are supernatural empowerments from the Holy Spirit that are meant to edify, encourage, and strengthen the church and the world.

In the beginning of 1 Corinthians 12 we see Paul telling the church in Corinth, and us,
“Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led. Therefore, I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says “Jesus is accursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit.”

Paul is writing this letter to the Corinthians to help them properly understand and properly use their spiritual gifts. This is essential to the plan of salvation, yes, God wants to include us in His plan of salvation, and so He equips us through spiritual gifts. The primary way of knowing what spiritual gifts are is through the BIBLE.

Important things to remember about Spiritual Gifts:

- A spiritual gift is given by the Holy Spirit and as He wills for the common good of the church.
- Spiritual Gifts are to be used lovingly. Without love for each other our spiritual gifts are empty and useless.
- Spiritual Gifts are for the benefit of others. We should never be prideful about our spiritual gifts because God gave them to us for us to serve others, not boast about ourselves.

We see from what we have read so far that God supplies the spiritual gifts to be used by us for HIS GLORY, and HIS GLORY ONLY.

So, you may be wondering, how can I discover my spiritual gift? How do I know that I am not just doing good work that everyone else is doing. Because of course we know that generally speaking, as human beings there are some good works that we all should be doing...like speaking the truth, offering hospitality, return our tithes, and sharing the Gospel. But how can you know the special gifts that God has equipped you with when you accepted His forgiveness and His offer of salvation?

Here is a guide that can help you discover THEM.

Step 1: Begin with prayer. Pray and ask God to you into identifying your spiritual gifts and/or special talents.

Step 2: Do the spiritual gifts assessment on the General Conference Youth Ministries website: <https://www.gcyouthministries.org/resources/spiritual-gifts-assessment/>. You can do this test online or download the print copy. Share your assessment results with your pastor, youth leader, or someone you trust at your church.

Step 3: Once you have identified your passions and strengths, look for ways to naturally help others using these gifts. Pay attention to things you do and areas of ministry in your local church that seem to resonate with you. Do not be afraid to step outside your comfort zone and try new things to see where God can use you and your gifts most effectively.

Step 4: The more you use your gift, the more efficient you will become. Remember, God does not always call the qualified. He qualifies those He calls. Practice using your gifts and look for opportunities to develop them more effectively. Learn from others who have been using their gifts for a longer time than you.

So now that you have discovered and developed your spiritual gifts and/or special talents, what do you do?

You should focus on building up the body of Christ. The great commission in Matthews 28:19, 20 instructs us to “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

How can I use my gifts to build up the local church and help others grow in their faith and maturity, and contribute to the overall growth of the church?

I wish I could say that’s as easy as 1, 2, 3, but it’s not always easy. It takes prayer and faith in God. You have to pray and ask God to lead you so that you are not doing this on your own.....on your own you will get burnt-out and frustrated, with God you will serve with joy and gratitude. Sometimes God may reveal it directly to you or give you a sign, sometimes he may not give you a sign, and sometimes he may just use others to affirm your spiritual gifts.

Remember, your spiritual gifts are not given just to be used in your local church, they are given by God to be used for His glory to benefit others, all people. Consider how your gifts can be used to bless and impact people outside the church community. Serving others with a heart of humility and love can win people who do not believe in God to Him. We must be faithful stewards of the gifts God has given us, so use them faithfully and diligently, remembering that you are accountable to God and the body of Christ for how you use them.

Things to avoid:

1. Abuse of Spiritual Gifts. The church in Corinth had many spiritual gifts but they did not use them for the glory of God. They were a very dysfunctional church and had distorted and pagan views of how they should be used. We must avoid misuse of our spiritual gifts.

2. DO NOT think too highly of yourself. Do not be arrogant or haughty, saying to yourself, “they are lucky to have me”. Be humble.
3. Do not become busy with serving God that you neglect your relationship with Him.
4. Avoid saying yes to everything. Sometimes you can have difficulty saying no because you are very unselfish and focus on the needs of others. Even to the point where you neglect your own life and the needs of your family.
5. The tendency to feel inadequate and unqualified for spiritual leadership. People with the spiritual gift of service sometimes have a low self-esteem and view of themselves.

Pray and ask God to lead you to where you can use them in ways that will build up the church and glorify God.

Spiritual Gifts and Spiritual Growth

Using your spiritual gifts to serve God is crucial for your individual growth, as well as the growth of the local and global church, and for fulfilling God’s purpose. Neglecting or misusing these gifts can hinder the church's effectiveness in the community and limit your spiritual fulfillment.

Romans 12:1-2

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Here are some steps you can take as you seek God’s will for your life:

Pray and ask God daily to renew your mind, through study of the Bible, daily quiet times, and worship. As you study and get closer to God, the Holy Spirit will do the work of renewing your mind. This will bring about transformation.

Through the Word of God and the Spirit of Prophecy, test and approve what God’s will for your life is. His will is good and perfect.

Below are some quotes from Ellen G. White that will be very helpful.

1. All men do not receive the same gifts, but to every servant of the Master some gift of the Spirit is promised. Christ's Object Lessons, 327.
2. The Lord has need of all kinds of skillful workmen. “He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.” Ephesians 4:11, 12. Testimonies for the Church 6:291.
3. In immediate connection with the scenes of the great day of God, the Lord by the prophet Joel has promised a special manifestation of His Spirit. Joel 2:28. This prophecy received a partial fulfillment in the outpouring of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost; but it

will reach its full accomplishment in the manifestation of divine grace which will attend the closing work of the gospel....

4. At this time the special endowment of divine grace and power is not less needful to the church than in apostolic days. *The Great Controversy*, ix, x.

5. God will today endow men and women with power from above, as He endowed those who on the day of Pentecost heard the word of salvation. At this very hour His Spirit and His grace are for all who need them and will take Him at His word. *Testimonies for the Church* 8:20.

6. The gifts are already ours in Christ, but their actual possession depends upon our reception of the Spirit of God....

7. If they are connected with Christ, if the gifts of the Spirit are theirs, the poorest and most ignorant of His disciples will have a power that will tell upon hearts. God makes them the channel for the outworking of the highest influence in the universe. *Christ's Object Lessons*, 327, 328.

8. God calls for talents of influence and of means. Shall we refuse to obey? Our heavenly Father bestows gifts and solicits a portion back, that He may test us whether we are worthy to have the gift of everlasting life. — *Testimony Treasures*, vol. 1, p. 389

9. However large, however small, your talents, remember that what you have is yours only in trust. Thus, God is testing you, giving you opportunity to prove yourself true. To Him you are indebted for all your capabilities. To Him belong your powers of body, mind, and soul, and for Him these powers are to be used. Your time, your influence, your capabilities, your skill —all must be accounted for to Him who gives all. He uses his gifts best who seeks by earnest endeavor to carry out the Lord's great plan for the uplifting of humanity, remembering always that he must be a learner as well as a teacher.— *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 7, p. 281

Remember, God accomplished Salvation on the Cross and can do it without you. But even with that, He has invited us to be partners with Him in the work of salvation. Will you commit today to seek God's will for your life and discover what your spiritual gifting is?

“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all.” (1 Corinthians 12:7, New King James Version)

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace ...” (1 Peter 4:10).