



Biblical Study
Spiritual Gifts Lesson 3
September 26, 2019

Opening Prayer: God our helper, by your Holy Spirit, open our minds, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may be led into your truth and taught your will, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Discussion Questions

Complete this sentence in your own words.

The most surprising and unexpected thing I have discovered about myself since emerging into adulthood is _____

Biblical Text – Romans 12:1-13

1 And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.

2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

3 Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us.

4 Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function,
5 so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.

6 In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you.

7 If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well.

8 If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

9 Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good.

- 10 Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.
- 11 Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically.
- 12 Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying.
- 13 When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.

Spiritual Gift

A spiritual gift is the unique ability given by the Holy Spirit to each believer for service in the church and world

Spiritual gifts are not add-ons to our lives, like spiritual organ transplants. They are the powerings of the Spirit through the whole person God has created. Thus we are not likely to discover these gifts if we do not know ourselves. Chapter 12 in Paul's letter to the Romans has much to say on this double knowing.

Group Discussion

1. Who did you commend for their work in the church or community in the last week?
2. Summarize in one sentence what Paul says about our relationship with God, the world, ourselves, our brothers and sisters in the family of God and our neighbors near and far.
3. Follow up to #2. Which of these statements do you find personally most challenging? Why?
4. Why do you think the presentation of our whole bodily life pleases God and is our sensible worship?
5. While many people suffer from too low a view of themselves, how would too high a self-concept especially frustrate the outworking of spiritual gifts in community life?

6. Paul notes the wonderful diversity in the body of Christ at the same time as he emphasizes that “each member belongs to all the others”. How does this unity that is “because of” diversity help you to relate to people who have different gifts than yours or whose gifts you might covet?

7. People who are not yet Christians also serve, teach, encourage, give, lead and show mercy. What extra benefits do verses 6-8 refer to in regard to the work of the Spirit as we use these gifts?

8. 1 Timothy 4:14 says, “Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you.” What further can we learn about discovering and nurturing spiritual gifts from Timothy’s experience?

9. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22. Describe how you might test the spiritual gifts of others or your own.

10. What is the role of self-examination and of affirmation from others in discovering spiritual gifts?

11. Consider whether you think it is important to be able to “name” your spiritual gift. What dangers are there in this?

12. What can you now say to someone who feels that they don’t know what their gift is?

Closing Prayer: God of mercy, you promised never to break your covenant with us. Amid all the changing words of our generation, speak your eternal Word that does not change. Then may we respond to your gracious promises with faithful and obedient lives; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Spiritual Growth Assignment

1. Write down three (3) things you learned from this lesson.
2. What areas have you operated in with giftings?
3. What spiritual gifts are you equipped with?
4. How are you using your spiritual gifts presently?
5. How will you use your spiritual gifts in the future?

*All scriptures are New Living Translation unless otherwise noted