

Discipleship

2477

Session 4 Spiritual Gifts

1. SPIRITUAL GIFTS – THE S.H.A.P.E. OF A DISCIPLE

Growing in discipleship is helped by understanding how God has shaped you.

“For You created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;” Psalm 139:13, 14

SHAPE = **S**piritual gifts, **H**eart, **A**bilities, **P**ersonality, and **E**xperiences



2. WHY SHOULD I EVEN STUDY SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

For at least four good reasons!

- **Spiritual gifts are taught in the Bible**
“Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant.” I Cor. 12:1
- **They help answer the question “How do I fit in?”** I Cor. 12:12 - 27
 - Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.
 - If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body.....If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be?
 - But God has designed the members of the body...so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.
 - Which part are you? Discovering your spiritual gifts can help you operate within God’s design for you!
- **They play a significant role in church growth.** C. Peter Wagner’s studies of growing churches reveal that churches showing increasing numbers of believers have a common factor: a well mobilized laity – ministers, disciples. The best way to mobilize believers is to:
 1. Find out how the Holy Spirit has gifted them
 2. Help them test out and use their gifts
- **They are a key to spiritual growth.** Using your gifts will be a natural step in growing as a disciple. They augment Bible study, regular worship, prayer, and communion.

3. DEFINITION OF A SPIRITUAL GIFT

- Greek: grace = charis; gift = charisma; gifts = charismata
- Five segments to the definition:
A spiritual gift is:
 1. a special attribute given by the Holy Spirit
 - it’s supernatural
 2. to every member of the Body of Christ (the church)
 - for believers only
 - every Christian has at least one I Cor. 12:7, 8
 3. according to God’s grace
 - He knows what we need to minister! Romans 12:6

4. to be used within the context of the Body of Christ (the church)
 - 1 Peter 4:10
 - use your gift in your local Church and in the extended church (workplace, community, etc.)
5. for the purpose of edification (building up) of the church.
 - 1 Cor. 14:11

4. LISTS OF GIFTS IN THE BIBLE

- Scripture provides lists of gifts in 5 key references; Romans 12:6-8 1 Cor. 12:4-11
1 Cor. 12: 27-31 Ephesians 4:7-13 1 Peter 4:7-11
- The following alphabetized list of 21 gifts consolidates the Bible passages referenced above:

• Administration	• Giving	• Knowledge	• Serving
• Apostle	• Healing	• Leadership	• Teacher
• Discernment	• Helps	• Mercy	• Tongues
• Encouragement	• Hospitality	• Miracles	• Wisdom
• Evangelist	• Interpretation of Tongues	• Pastor-teacher	
• Faith		• Prophecy	

5. JOHN DISCIPLE'S NEXT STEPS

- J.D. takes seriously Romans 12:3 – “For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment.” He decides that the best way to take a sober, rational look at himself, as it relates to serving God and growing in his faith, is to discover his spiritual gifts. He schedules time to complete a Discovery Tool. He also seeks answers to the following nagging questions.



6. HOW DO SPIRITUAL GIFTS DIFFER FROM NATURAL ABILITIES?

- Abilities are the talents and skills by which our spiritual gifts are implemented. They include such hands-on skills as music, carpentry, listening, organization, and communication. These talents are not clearly identified as spiritual gifts in Scripture. Also, Muslims, Hindus, and other non-Christians clearly have these same talents.

7. WHAT ARE THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT?

- Galatians 5:22, 23 list the fruit: Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. These are the attitudes all Christians should have during the use of their gifts. The gifts are better thought of as actions.

8. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I DISCOVER & USE MY GIFTS?

- Bring glory to God Serve others Witness my faith
Build up the Church Grow as a Disciple Bottom line – I become a better Christian!

FOR REFLECTION AND CONVERSATION

1. What do I believe about spiritual gifts? Do they exist?
2. Did God really create me in a special way, so that I'm unique compared to everyone else? What spiritual gifts did He give me?
3. Would my service to the Lord change if I knew how He gifted me? Why or why not?
4. Am I willing to commit the 60 minutes required to complete a Spiritual Gifts Discovery Tool? Why or why not? (http://www.woodburylutheran.org/resources/sg_inventory.php Print it off and put in mailbox #429 with your name on it. Or contact Cheri Frost at 739-5144.)