

## **The Gifts of the Holy Spirit pt1**

Welcome to Harvest Community Church

Series: The Holy Spirit

**Text: 1 Corinthians 12:1-7**

### Introduction to Spiritual Gifts and our S~H~A~P~E

**Definition:** A Spiritual gift is a special ability given by the Holy Spirit to every believer, to be used to minister to others and therefore build up the body of Christ.

We are all members of His Body. Christ is the Head; believers are the body. Every member of the body is **important**. **1 Corinthians 12:12-27** Every member is a part of the body; every member has a **function**.

We are not to **compare** ourselves with other people. This is unwise, unfair, unnecessary and counterproductive to God's plan for our lives. We are who He made us to be. Comparison displeases God and discourages people.

~ From the writings of Dr. Robert L. Brandt, author of 'Spiritual Gifts' - ICI Course

As a member of Christ's body, you have a spiritual ministry to perform. In equipping you for the work, God has given you a gift and possibly more than one gift. Every member has at least one gift. Almost every place in the Bible where gifts are mentioned it is stated that they are for every member. These gifts are not given to us by our parents or by our teachers. No human being has the power to give them. They are not the talents we have come by naturally. TALENTS are abilities with which people are born. Different people have different natural abilities. They are not the same as spiritual gifts. Many unbelievers have talents. These are not spiritual gifts.

**A SPIRITUAL GIFT COMES FROM ONLY ONE SOURCE – GOD. James 1:17 - Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.**

We are to use the gifts God has given us! The Bible gives a simple rule which applies to all of God's gifts. **Matthew 10:8 - Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.**

Sometimes believers fail to use their gifts. Sometimes they use them selfishly and without love. The purpose is not fulfilled in either case.

Therefore, it is the believer's duty to:

- a. Use each gift for its intended purpose, and
- b. Permit love to govern its use. 1 Peter 4:10 - As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

The Bible uses the word stewardship when speaking of man's duty. Stewardship means looking after the things of another. As believers we receive the stewardship of spiritual gifts. That is, we are to look after the gifts given to us and use them to further our Lord's kingdom. And there is a clear rule for stewards: **1 Cor. 4:2 - Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.** Faithful use of Spiritual gifts brings glory to the Giver and blessing to the body.

## Why is it important to learn about Spiritual gifts?

- Spiritual gifts help us find our place in the body of Christ and help us have a more effective ministry. God has a plan for our lives.  
**Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV), Proverbs 16:9**
- My ministry and my purpose are determined by my make-up. Who God made me to be determines what God intends for me to do.
- Understanding the purpose we are created for and understanding the kind of person we are is the secret for knowing God's will for our life as it relates to ministry.
- We are created to “ Know God and make Him Known”. ‘Knowing God’ is about our relationship with Him. ‘Making Him Known’ deals with our ministry for Him.
- God is consistent in His plan for each of our lives. God is a God of plan and order. He would not give us inborn talents, abilities, style, spiritual gifts and life experiences and then not use them. Because we are unique, God has a special intention for our lives to serve Him.

There are two results that happen when we discover what we are shaped for:

Fruitfulness and Fulfillment

At Harvest Community Church we focus on an individual approach to ministry rather than an institutional approach.

## **My S ~ H ~ A ~ P ~ E will determine my ministry**

**S** Spiritual Gifts **1Corinthians 7:7b** What am I gifted to do?

**H** Heart **Philippians 2:13** What do I love to do?

**A** Abilities **1 Corinthians 12:5-6, 1 Peter 4:11** What natural talents and skills and talents do I have?

**P** Personal Style **Ephesians 2:10** Where does my personal style best suit me to serve? Our personality will affect both how and where we serve. The gifts operate in unison with our personality. God sanctifies our personality when we walk in His character.

**E** Experience

- What spiritual experiences have I had? **Hebrews 5:12-14**
- What painful experiences have I had? **2 Corinthians 1:3-4**
- What educational experiences have I had? **Proverbs 4:13**  
- What have I learned in life?
- What ministry experiences have I had? **2 Corinthians 9:13 (NIV)**

Your ministry will be most **effective** and fulfilling when you are using your Gifts and Abilities in the area of Heart's Desire in a way that best expresses your Personal Style and Experience.

Seven Truths:

1. Only **believers** have Spiritual gifts. **1 Corinthians 2:14**
2. Every Christian has at least **one** gift. **1 Corinthians 7:7**
3. No one receives **all** the gifts. **1 Corinthians 12:27-30**  
The Gifts are like a toolbox you don't use the tools all at once. Tools are used in a given situation when they are needed. Everyone can use all of the tools but not everyone has each tool as a specialty.
4. You cannot **earn or work** for a spiritual gift. **Ephesians 4:7**
5. The **Holy Spirit** decides what gifts you get. **1 Corinthians 12:11**
6. You are to **develop** the gifts God gives you.  
God gives in seed form; you develop like a muscle. **Ephesians 4:14-15**
7. Using your gifts **glorifies** God and **grows** you. **John 15:8**

Spiritual Gifts are for **service**. We are to serve others. These are not "**bless me**" gifts but blessing gifts. They are not to elevate us in spiritual superiority to others. It is all about servanthood. **Luke 12:48**

Remember, Spiritual gifts are meant to **build up** people and the body of Christ.  
**1 Corinthians 14:12, 26**

- ❖ **The Key to all ministry is **Love**. 1 Corinthians 13:1-3**  
Love is the motivation of all ministry. Without it we can become **obnoxious** instead of helpful; helping others becomes religious **duty** instead of supernatural care.

The 'Love Chapter' is not so much about marriage as it is about **ministry**.  
**1 Corinthians 13:4-8**

God gives us the power to put the **meaning** back in ministry.

~ The Gifts are not to draw attention to us but are given to point people to the provision, help, comfort, character and relationship with God.