

Spiritual Gifts

Session 1

"Overall Introduction"

Introduction: For the next two months, we are going to talk about Spiritual Gifts. We are going to define these gifts as well as discover the gift or gifts God has given each of us.

(Read: I Tim. 4:14-15) In this passage, Paul is instructing Timothy and tells him "not to neglect the spiritual gift(s) he had received.

All Christians have at least one if not more spiritual gifts. God wants us to discover those gifts and use those gifts.

(Read: Rom. 12:4-5) This verse says that the body of Christ, the Church, has many members and each member has different functions. Just as the human body has different members such as eyes, ears, nose, etc. which have different functions, so the body has different members who are gifted in different ways.

(Read: Eph. 4:7-8) In this passage, Paul says that we have been given gifts from the Lord. God has spiritually gifted each believer.

In the remainder of this study we are going to break down the gifts, tell what kinds of gifts they are and define the gifts. There are a total of sixteen gifts and they are broken down into four groupings. The groupings are support gifts, sharing gifts, speaking gifts and supplemental gifts.

SUPPORT GIFTS

- 1) The Gift of Service and Helps (Read: 1 Cor. 12:28b) The service and helps gift is the ability to recognize practical needs in the church and to joyfully give assistance to meet those needs. These people do not mind working behind the scenes.
- 2) The Gift of Giving (Read: Rom. 12:6-8) The gift of giving is to financially support the work of the church with joy and generosity.
- 3) The Gift of Administration (Read: 1 Cor. 12:28b) The gift of administration is leading the body by steering others to remain on task. It is the ability to organize and share God given purposes and long term goals.
- 4) The Gift of Leadership (Read: Rom. 12:8) The gift of leadership is to direct members to accomplish the goals and objectives of the church. You help motivate people to work together in unity to fulfill the church's mission and purpose.

SHARING GIFTS

- 1) The Gift of Hospitality (Read: I Pet. 4:9-10) The gift of hospitality is the ability to make visitors and guests feel welcome and at ease in the church. You also enjoy entertaining guests in your home.

- 2) The Gift of Mercy (Read: Rom. 12:8) The gift of mercy is characterized by cheerful acts of compassion. You have the ability to show empathy without hurting people. You help keep the church aware of needs in the church.
- 3) The Gift of Apostleship (Read: Eph. 4:11) The gift of apostleship is one who motivates the church to look beyond it's walls in order to carry out the Great Commission. They are people who have a passion for planning churches and serving in missions.
- 4) The Gift of Evangelism (Read: Eph. 4:11) The gift of evangelism is one who enjoys leading others to Christ effectively and with enthusiasm. They enjoy building up the church by adding new members to the church.

SPEAKING GIFTS

- 1) The Gift of Shepherding (Read: Eph. 4:12) The gift of shepherding is the ability to look out for the spiritual welfare and development of a group of believers. It is to build up or edify the church.
- 2) The Gift of Exhortation (Read: Rom. 12:8) The gift of exhortation is the ability to encourage members to be involved and enthusiastic about the work of the Lord. These people are usually good counselors and are good motivators.
- 3) The Gift of Teaching (Read: Eph. 4:11) The gift of teaching is the ability to instruct members in the truths and doctrine of God's word for the purposes of building up, unifying and maturing the body of Christ.
- 4) The Gift of Prophecy (Read: Eph. 4:11) The gift of prophecy is the ability to proclaim the word of God boldly to build up the body and to lead to the conviction of sin.

SUPPLEMENTAL GIFTS

- 1) The Gift of Wisdom (Read: I Cor. 12:6-8) The gift of wisdom is the ability to discern the work of the Holy Spirit and to help apply His teachings and actions to the needs of the church.
- 2) The Gift of Discernment (Read: I Cor. 12:10) The gift of discernment is the ability to aid the church by recognizing the true intentions of those within the body. They are able to test the actions of others in the church to help protect the church.
- 3) The Gift of Knowledge (Read: I Cor. 12:8) The gift of knowledge is the God given ability to learn, know and communicate the truths found in God's word.
- 4) The Gift of Faith (Read: I Cor. 12:9) The gift of faith is the ability to trust God beyond the human capabilities of the people. They have ability to help others trust God in the face of trials and difficulties.