

May 2, 2010

What Does the Bible Say About Spiritual Gifts? (pt 1)

1Cor 12:1, 4-7, 11

Goals for today:

1. To understand that all spiritual gifts come from God
2. To recognize that spiritual gifts are not for personal benefit, but the benefit of others
3. To understand that the Holy Spirit determines which gifts we are given

God is in the construction business. He acts like a project superintendent who supplies His workers with tools and resources so that we can minister to the needs of others.

1. 1Cor 12: 1, 4-7. How do we know that there are different kinds of gifts and service and working; what is the evidence we would examine to figure that out? Are you using your gifts for the *common good*? What would be an example of using your gift for the *common good*?
2. 1Peter 4:9-11. What does God expect you to do with the gifts He's given you? How does using your gift for others advance the cause of *faithfully administering God's grace*?
3. Are there some gifts that are more 'showy' than others? Can you boast of your gifts over the gifts of others? Can jealousy arise because of giftedness? How do you prevent such jealousy from erupting in you?
4. 1Cor 12:11. What does it mean to you that God picked out your gifts just for you?
5. 1Cor 12:12. Besides a variety of giftedness, what does God want us to have? Eph 4:11-13
6. Matt 20:25-28. What does Jesus say will determine your greatness?
7. Rom 12:4-8. Your gifts reveal God's grace in you. How do others see you using this grace on their behalf?
8. Philippians 4:10-13. How content are you with the gifts and life God has given you?
9. What fears keep you from fully using your talents for God?

Based on the passage in 1Cor 12, what was the main problem Paul was trying to correct among the Corinthian church?

- View of God- there must be several gods because of the variety of gifts
- Jealousy- they were jealous of those who had 'showy' gifts
- Covetousness- they wanted the gifts they saw in others
- Divisions- they excluded those with different gifts than their own
- Status- they were elevating the importance of some gifts over others

Place these motives in order from best (1) to worst (5)

To glorify God

To help others

To live a fulfilling life

To let others see my importance

To be a good steward

What word would best describe your own attitude toward others who have different spiritual gifts than you do?

Impatient	wary	cautious
Jealous	condescending	anxious
Angry	inclusive	cooperative
Immature	appreciative	other_____

What can cause you to become dissatisfied with the gifts you have been given by God?

Action steps:

1. Appreciate believers who have different gifts than you do
2. Be content with the gifts you have been given by God
3. Use your spiritual gifts to minister to others on a regular basis

Let's read together Psalm 100.

¹ Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

² Worship the LORD with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.

³ Know that the LORD is God.
It is he who made us, and we are his ^[a] ;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.

⁵ For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Next week: Spiritual gifts, part de **ux**