

May 9, 2010

What Does the Bible Say About Spiritual Gifts? (pt. 2)

Ephesians 4:11-14

Goals for today:

1. To understand that we need each other's gifts
2. To recognize that using our spiritual gifts helps others become mature.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10. Tells us about working alone or with others.

Hebrews 10:24-25. What is our responsibility to other Christians?

If you were in a boat out in the ocean during a thunderstorm which activity would you pursue?

- Take a nap
- Pass out life jackets'
- Jump overboard to save yourself
- Listen closely to the instructions of the Captain
- Get seasick
- Let the rain hit my face to enjoy the experience

1. Eph 4:11-14. Which spiritual gifts are listed here? Have you had any experience with people who exhibit these gifts? Can you name a person possessing one of these gifts that has helped you grow in spiritual maturity? What does it mean to be spiritually mature? (vs 13).
2. 1Cor 12:29-30. A rhetorical question. What is Paul's point in asking these questions?
3. 1Tim 4:14. Have you ever neglected your gift? What caused you to do that? How did you recover? 2Tim 1:6. How do you do this?
4. 1Cor 7:7. How does God distribute gifts among his people?
5. Ephesians 4:16. How can we be cheated by another Christian? We need each other's gifts to be used for His Kingdom. If we keep our gift under wraps, relying fully on others, what is the result for the church?

In the spirit of today's lesson, we learn that God's people should be prepared *for works of service*. What is the major reason that many Christians are not prepared to serve?

1. They have never been asked/challenged
2. They have never been encouraged
3. They have never been trained
4. They have never seen a need
5. They always thought someone else would do it
6. They don't think they have time
7. They don't think anyone would benefit from their gift/ministry

If someone approached you with an urgent need in an area in which you felt ill prepared to minister, how would you likely respond?

- I'll pray about it and get back to you
- I think I know someone who can help you
- I've just got too much going on right now
- That's not really my area of giftedness
- Why me?
- I'm still trying to figure out what my spiritual gift is. Ask me later.
- Tell me how I can be of help to you
- Forget it, go fly a kite.
- When do I start?

What are some wrong motives for using your gifts to serve God and others?

1. To fill others' expectations
2. to get somebody off your back
3. to avoid feeling guilty
4. to gain power and control
5. to get praise or applause
6. to enhance your whining
7. other? _____

1Cor 13:1-3. Is love for God your sole motivation for using your gifts in service to Him and His people? Why or why not? What is the danger in leaving out a loving attitude?

Is it your goal to become spiritually mature? How do you get there; what are the ingredients?