

God's Special Gift

Your Spiritual Gift

As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

1 Peter 4:10



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Bible Study

God's Special Gift

Your Spiritual Gift

Outline:

Chapter 1 - Types of Spiritual Gifts

Chapter 2 - Insights Into Spiritual Gifts

Chapter 3 - Motivational Spiritual Gifts

Chapter 4 - Your Special Gift

*As each has received a special gift; employ it in serving one another
as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 1 Peter 4:10*

Chapter 1 - Spiritual Gifts

Do you know what your spiritual gift is? Hopefully, after this Bible study you will know what gift you have, how your gift works within the body of Christ, and you will be motivated to use your gift for the glory of God.

Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:16

Spiritual gifts are listed several places in the Bible including 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 28, Ephesians 4:11, and Romans 12:1-6. As with many topics in the Bible there are differing interpretations of the use of spiritual gifts in the church today. For purposes of this study I have placed the gifts into three categories: Charismatic gifts, Church Gifts, and Motivational gifts. We will study the Motivational gifts.

Charismatic Gifts - 1 Corinthians 12: 8-10, 28

For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. 1 Corinthians 12:8-10

And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues. 1 Corinthians 12:28

Some believe that the gifts generally categorized as the charismatic or miraculous gifts of 1 Corinthians 12: 8-10, 28 ceased to function in the church after the canon was established. They believe these gifts or some of them were needed and used for the establishment of the early church before the New Testament was established as we know it today. Therefore, they believe these gifts are generally not used today. These gifts as listed in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 28 are: wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, distinguishing of spirits, tongues, and interpretation of tongues.

Others believe the gifts of 1 Corinthians 12 are still in use today and still others believe these gifts reside with the Holy Spirit and are given by the Holy Spirit to individuals as He wills.

Church Gifts - Ephesians 4:11-13

And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. Ephesians 4:11-13

Although some include the gifts listed in Ephesians 4:11-13 as gifts to believers, many believe these are gifts given to the church or church roles. These gifts as listed in Ephesians 4:11-13 are: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers.

Motivational Gifts - Romans 12:6-8

Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. Romans 12:6-8

Given the time we have for this study and since I do not believe this is a subject that should affect our unity, we are going to study the least controversial gifts, the seven motivational gifts in Romans 12:4-5.

Exercise 1 - Motivational Gifts

What are the seven spiritual gifts listed in Romans 12:6-8?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

Chapter 2 - Insights Into Spiritual Gifts

The spiritual gifts work differently than the typical gifts we give each other at Christmas, birthdays, special occasions and so on. Scriptures can give us insight into what these differences are, who gives the spiritual gifts, when we get one, how they are to be used and who they benefit.

Exercise 2 - Insights Into Spiritual Gifts

The Scriptures below will give us some insight into the spiritual gifts. Read the Scriptures and write down any insights you get about spiritual gifts.

1. _____

As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 1 Peter 4:10

2. _____

But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 1 Corinthians 12:7

Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed on you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery. 1 Timothy 4:14

For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many. 1 Corinthians 12:12-14

As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 4:10-11

3. _____

Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 4:11

4. _____

For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Romans 12:4-5

being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; Ephesians 4:3-4

so that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. 1 Corinthians 12:25

5. _____

*So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially **to** those who are of the household of the faith. Galatians 6:10*

As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 1 Peter 4:10

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23

6. _____

The righteous man will flourish like the palm tree, He will grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Planted in the house of the Lord, They will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still yield fruit in old age; They shall be full of sap and very green, To declare that the Lord is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him. Psalm 92:12-15

The motivational gifts are designed by God to help us complement each other in productive ways to benefit the whole body of Christ. This means church, home, community and all parts of our lives.

Many believers don't know what spiritual gift they have. Perhaps they haven't studied their Bible, or they may not have realized the motivation for their actions and have been using their spiritual gift for years, or they may have not understood who receives spiritual gifts. Many people think only pastors and other church employees receive spiritual gifts. No matter the reason it is certainly not too late to use your spiritual gift!

A Different Kind of Gift

Typically when we receive a gift it is something personal and something that we can use or enjoy in some fashion. For instance a gift you get at Christmas is something that you will enjoy for yourself. However spiritual gifts work entirely different. They are to be used to benefit others in the body of Christ; they are not for us.

No Spare Parts

The church has been said to be like a large jigsaw puzzle. When all the pieces come together there is a beautiful picture. A puzzle comes with no spare parts. All the parts of the puzzle are needed just like all believers are needed in the body of Christ for the benefit of fellow members and to the world. (Ephesians 4:15-16)

No Spectators

Each believer in the body of Christ is expected to use their gift at all times and in as many situations as possible. The body of Christ was not designed by God to include spectators. When we don't use our gift, it is detrimental to us, to others in the body of Christ and to the work of the Lord. God desires for all believers to grow more and more into the fullness of Christ and what He intended for our life.

Now after this the Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them in pairs ahead of Him to every city and place where He Himself was going to come. And He was saying to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. Luke 10:1-2

As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 1 Peter 4:10

Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith. Galatians 6:9-10

Chapter 3 - Motivational Spiritual Gifts

A motivational spiritual gift is a God given ability for service in the body of Christ. It is primarily an ability. It is an underlying drive or ability that causes you to do the things you do in the way you do them. Our gift determines the tasks we do best in the body of Christ. The purpose is that God be glorified in everything. (1 Peter 4:10-11)

Our personality along with our spiritual gift makes us unique in the body of Christ; no two people have the same personality therefore people with the same gift may display it somewhat differently.

Our life experiences also enter into making us who we are. Our gifts do not limit us to doing only those things that most ideally line up with our gifts. Understanding your gift will help you see how God has designed you to manifest His life and love to all those around you in the body of Christ, at home, with your family and friends, at work, and out in the world.

The Gift of Prophecy

Prophets are those who speak the truth; God's Word. The general meaning for prophecy in the Bible is forth-telling which means to proclaim the Word of God is true.

Those with the gift of prophecy typically see things in black and white or right and wrong, have strong convictions and express them, and boldly speak God's Word. They will also confront evil, hypocrisy, and false conclusions. (Romans 12:9)

Peter is an example of someone who displayed the gift of prophecy. He depended strongly on Scripture, quoting the Old Testament often. Peter corrected many false accusations such as on the day Pentecost, that followers of Jesus were drunk on wine. (Acts 2:14-16)

Jesus, our ultimate role model, was a prophet. He was designated a prophet by the people of His day. (John 6:14). He always spoke the truth of God regardless of the consequences or circumstances. He also spoke the truth with love and He always had the salvation of the person as His goal.

*But one who prophesies speaks to men for edification and exhortation and consolation. 1
Corinthians 14:3*

A person with the gift of prophecy will have a passion for truth and God's Word.

The Gift of Service

Those with the gift of service have an acute awareness of other people's need and have a desire to help them. They have a compassionate heart and feel they must reach out and help.

Their greatest satisfaction comes in meeting a need for someone else. They have a true desire to bring pleasure to others. They experience true joy when they help others. They are willing to do background work so that others can be successful in their accomplishments.

Timothy in the New Testament had the spiritual gift of service. Paul didn't know anyone who would care for the Philippians with the same tenderness, love and diligence as Timothy. (Philippians 2:19-20) Timothy also continually ministered to Paul and cared for Paul's personal needs. (Acts 19:22)

One of the names given to Jesus was servant. He told His disciples that the servant was never greater than his master. (John 13:15-17)

For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. John 13:15-17

All Christians are called to be servants, but some have a special gift of serving others.

The Gift of Teaching

Those with the gift of teaching are concerned with accuracy when the Word of God is taught. They typically have a strong desire to see the Word of God passed on to the next generation and lives of others changed as a result of information given to them. They are concerned mainly with facts, not illustrations or applications.

They will not find teaching to be a burden. There is no greater joy than to study the Bible to gain knowledge and understanding and share what has been learned.

Those working under the influence of the Holy Spirit will be orderly in their teaching, so that their materials are easy to follow, they will be concerned with accuracy, and will research and report as many details as possible.

One of the foremost teachers in the Bible is Luke. Luke tells us that he is an expert, his understanding is perfect and that his account will be orderly. (Luke 1:1-4). Luke includes the most details about key events of Jesus' birth in his Gospel.

Jesus' disciples frequently addressed Him as Teacher. Jesus taught by direct presentation of facts, examples, and illustrations. (Matthew 4:23).

Those with the gift of teaching are obligated to personally live by the truth. Jesus certainly modeled this. He even made teaching a part of His great commandment to His disciples. (Matthew 28:19-20)

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20

A teacher teaches as much by example as by word.

The Gift of Exhortation

Those with the gift of exhortation desire to see others grow in their faith and spiritual lives. They are people oriented, discipleship oriented, growth oriented and maturity oriented.

They desire to see others discover their spiritual potential. Typically they can discern the person's potential and visualize their spiritual growth. They have insight into what God can do in the person's life.

Exhorters are concerned about the spiritual welfare of others. If they discover an error or blockage in a person's life they are quick to point it out and identify precise steps needed to get back on track. They are focused on pointing others toward Christ. They usually display the traits of wisdom, discernment, faith, discretion, love and enthusiasm. They are concerned with the application of God's Word.

Paul displayed the gift of exhortation. Paul did not shy away from relational problems but helped sort the issues out bringing healing and reconciliation. Paul was always concerned with establishing and maintaining unity in the body of Christ.

We can look to Jesus as the ultimate role model in displaying the gift of exhortation. He was never negative to those in need and He never shamed or belittled someone. The only people He never encouraged was the Pharisees and Sadducees. Perhaps that is because they spent so much time shaming others.

Jesus forgave the woman caught in adultery and told her to sin no more. He pointed her to her potential.

Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. Hebrews 3:12-13

An exhorter encourages others to become more like Christ.

The Gift of Giving

Those with the gift of giving typically spend their money wisely and are content with what they have. They are thankful for what God has given them and grateful when He uses them to meet a need someone has. Giving does not just include their money, but their time, talent, energy or creativity.

They have a special ability to make wise investments and purchases so that they have more money to give. They don't call attention to their giving. Their emphasis is on meeting the need. They also encourage others to give. It brings them joy to be part of meeting someone's need.

Matthew displayed the gift of giving. He was a tax collector. He included more about giving than any other New Testament writer. He was the only one who said that our giving should be done in secret and also addressed our misuse of money and resources.

Jesus, once again is our role model for sacrificial and joyful giving. No one has ever given so much; He gave His life on the cross so that we might have eternal life. (John 15:13). He gave His life in obedience to His Father.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Luke 12:34

The gift of giving enables the giver to meet needs that otherwise would be missed.

The Gift of Leadership

If you are uncomfortable in a leaderless group and feel frustrated if things are not orderly, you may have the gift of leadership. The Greek word used in the New Testament literally means the one who stands out front.

Those who have the gift of leadership typically are organized in their thinking and exhibit orderliness to others. They are quick to act and accept responsibility. They are determined in reaching goals and loyal to God and others in authority. They also demonstrate humility by including others as part of the team to get jobs or projects done.

They are capable of seeing how God has designed something and turn it into reality. They are often said to be visionaries; they can visualize the result that God desires and then make it happen. They can see the big picture.

They also have the ability to break down large projects into small pieces that can be accomplished to bring about the bigger project. They are aware of all the resources needed for projects or goals and use these resources wisely. They are typically self-starters. They are also confident that God-given goals can be accomplished.

Those with the gift of leadership know how to delegate and have little tolerance for details. They are able to receive criticism without falling apart. They are often said to have “thick skin”. They typically have no tolerance for those in the team that are disloyal or wavering in their commitment. Their greatest delight is seeing projects accomplished in a way that is pleasing to God. They enjoy work and work a lot.

James exhibited the gift of leadership. James served as the leader of the early Jerusalem church and presided over the Jerusalem Council which resolved the issue of whether Gentile converts had to accept Jewish practices to be considered Christians. (Acts 15:19-20)

Throughout the book of James we find a strong admonition that we should be doers of the word and not hearers only. (James 1:22). James had a great practical concern for diligence and orderliness. (James 1:23-25)

Jesus is our role model for the proper use of the gift of leadership. In the book of John, Jesus refers to Himself as the Shepherd of His flock. (John 10:11). He organized His disciples and then sent them out (delegated). (Mark 6:7). He gave them their God-given goal: the great commandment in Mark 16:15 to “go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature”.

Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly:he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. Romans 12:6-8

A godly leader is first and foremost a godly follower of Christ.

The Gift of Mercy

If you are attentive and watch over those who are in need or trouble you may have the gift of mercy. Those with the gift of mercy have an ability to feel the joy or distress of others. They have a heightened sense of discernment regarding emotions. They can be especially drawn to those who are lonely, fearful, or troubled.

They have a great desire to alleviate hurt in others. They see virtually no benefit in pain, suffering, distress, or sorrow. For this reason, they may clash at times with those who have the gift of exhortation, who are able to see benefit in suffering.

Those with the gift of mercy are sensitive to statements and actions that may hurt others and are very sensitive to criticism of others. They have an ability to sense when others are insincere or hypocritical. They have a great need for friendship and are reluctant to speak against any person, regardless of what they have done. They seek out those who are hurting so they can show mercy. They have a desire to comfort those who are hurting and defending

those individuals who seem to be outcast, downtrodden, or treated unfairly by the rest of society.

John displays the gift of mercy in the New Testament. He wrote more about love than any of the other writers of the Gospels. John valued love so highly that he referred to himself as the one “whom Jesus loved”. (John 13:23). John saw love as an action, not an emotion. He related love to Christ, who truly is our source of love.

Jesus referred to John and his brother as the “Sons of Thunder” (Mark 3:17), yet John was tenderhearted and merciful. He admonished us to respond to fellow Christians with unconditional love and mercy. (1 John 4:20-21)

Jesus was the embodiment of God’s love. He always acted in a merciful way to people in need. He came not to condemn the world, but to save us. (John 3:17). Jesus expressed His love for us in the most merciful way; by giving His own life for our sins. (1 John 3:16)

Many pastors have stated that most churches have a high percentage of members who have a gift of mercy. Any body of believers characterized by mercy is going to be healthy.

Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Romans 12:15

Those with the gift of mercy will provide a spiritually helpful balance to those who have other ministry gifts.

Your Special Gift

We are all called in the Bible to speak the truth (prophecy), to serve others, to teach, encourage, cheerfully give, lead, and show mercy to others. Those with these special gifts given by the Holy Spirit will be driven to use their gift and will show special ability when using their gift.

Prophets want to make sure the truth is told. Teachers want to make sure it is the whole truth that is told. Exhorters want to make sure the truth is applied to someone's life. Those with the gift of giving will give to make sure everyone gets the opportunity to hear the truth. The leader steps in to organize all their efforts to get the truth to all members, and the one with the gift of mercy is there to manage the wounded when the truth is given.

Can you see the beautiful picture that is formed when all the gifts are used for the purpose of furthering Christ's work until He returns? Do you know what your motivational spiritual gift is?

A good way to determine what your gift is to ask a family member what they think your gift is. You can also pray and ask God to reveal the gift He has given you. There are some Spiritual Inventory/Assessments that you can take to help you determine your gift. You can locate some on the Internet. Just be sure that the assessment contains the motivational gifts.

Exercise 3 - My Special Gift

As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 1 Peter 4:10

Below write down your special gift, your motivational spiritual gift.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord, God Almighty, thank you for giving me a special gift to be an important part of the body of Christ. Thank you for not making us all alike. Let me come to know my gift, to develop it, and then exercise it in love. Open the doors and my spiritual eyes to see where

you would have me use my gift to serve others. Please use my gift to draw me closer to the body of Christ, so that I recognize the strengths in others that I need and do not possess. Our prayer today is that I will become the answer to another person's need. May I always give of myself to You so that I might be used by You in every way possible. Help me to use my gift in love for the body of Christ. Amen

Answers to Exercises

Exercise 1 - Motivational Gifts

1. Prophecy (Also appears in 1 Corinthians 12:10)
2. Service
3. Teaching
4. Exhortation
5. Giving
6. Leading
7. Mercy

Exercise 2 - Insight Into Spiritual Gifts

1. Each believer receives a spiritual gift; it is singular not plural
2. Purpose of our spiritual gift: for the common good of the body of Christ, it is to be used to serve others, it is to complete the body of Christ to glorify God
3. How to use our spiritual gift: We are to use our spiritual gift in the strength of God and not our own strength
4. Our gifts are different but they are to unite us for our work for the Lord. Our differences should unite us.
5. Manner in which we are to use our gifts: As you exercise your gift, love others, do good to all, use your gift to serve others, bear fruit of the spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. (Galatians 5:22-23)
6. You will flourish when you use your spiritual gift

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