

## “Relying On The Holy Spirit” by Charles F. Stanley

## Chapter 8

**Review:** Ch. 5 “Relying On The Holy Spirit in Prayer”, Ch.6 “Avoiding Sin Against The Holy Spirit”, Ch. 7 “Reproducing Christ’s Character In Us”.

**Ch. 8 “Relying On The Holy Spirit For Spiritual Gifts”** What is the difference between spiritual gifts and natural talents?

**1 Thessalonian 5:24** –Paul wrote:“The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.”What is Paul telling us? What is “it”?

**Php. 1:4-6** – “In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” What is Paul telling us about a work in us? Have you ever considered your life a partnership? From the “first day” of Paul’s ministry until “now”, (Paul’s imprisonment), the Philippians were dedicated to Christ and Paul’s ministry. The “work” refers to God’s 1. activity in saving them and 2. a continued work in forming them.

Have you felt God’s direction and encouragement for you towards a certain ministry?

In **Matthew 25:35-40**, Jesus said that we gave Him food, gave Him drink, gave Him shelter, gave Him clothes, visited Him when He was sick, and came to Him when He was in prison. Then He said; “Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.” What is Jesus telling us?

If we are to be like Jesus in character, in thought, in word, and in deed, what deeds have you performed in your life that has helped the least among us? When has someone served you in that way?

### Natural Gifts Vs. Spiritual Gifts

Our ministry is dependent on the leadership of The Holy Spirit. “We minister according to the degree we allow Him to work in us.” He provides us with spiritual gifts to enable us to accomplish what He asks us to do.

**Prov. 18:16:** Solomon wrote: “A gift opens the way for the giver and ushers him into the presence of the great.”

What does this mean? Have you ever given a gift and it later benefit you?

**Rom. 12:6-8** – Paul wrote: “We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man’s gift is **prophesying**, let him use it in proportion to his faith.” Prophesying means to speak as if inspired by God, to make predictions, or to teach religious matters. What does this scripture mean?

“If it is **servicing**, let him serve; if it is **teaching**, let him teach; if it is **encouraging**, let him encourage; if it is **contributing** to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is **leadership**, let him govern diligently, if it is **showing mercy**, let him do it cheerfully.” What advice is Paul giving regarding the use of spiritual gifts?

The Holy Spirit combines our natural gifts with our spiritual gifts to serve God in the most effective way. Only then do we serve God with our whole body, soul, and spirit. Have you ever considered your natural gifts working with your spiritual gifts? And how much more effective can you imagine your ministry be when combined with your talents?

### Three Types of Gifts

1. **Motivational Gifts** – those gifts listed on **Rom. 12:6-8**

2. **Gifts Given to the Church** – **Eph. 4:11-13** – Paul says about Jesus: “It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” What is Paul telling us?

**Mature...fullness of Christ** – not doctrinal conviction or personal maturity, but the maturity of the perfectly balanced character of Christ. Have you considered that Jesus was the perfectly balanced man?

3. **Unique Gifts for Specific Circumstances** – Paul wrote: **1 Cor. 12:1, 4-13** – “Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant.” ...“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines. The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body – whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free – and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Now the body is not made up of one part but of many.”

What is Paul telling us about spiritual gifts and about the Holy Spirit? When and how may they be used?

“Believers may experience one or more of these gifts operating through them during a lifetime, but not necessarily with any predictability or regularity.” The Holy Spirit orchestrates when and how they are to be used. Be aware.