

Ch. 10 “Making Our Ministries Effective” What is the purpose of spiritual gifts and how should I serve the Body?

There are four main reasons for the bestowal of spiritual gifts:

1. For the common good of all believers
2. Equip us for further ministry
3. For our encouragement
4. For our education

Can you see examples of these in your past work or ministry? What are they?

We must recognize that all spiritual gifts belong to God, not ourselves. Have you ever thought of your identity belonging to God? Have you ever thought about everything that you are good at or perhaps an expert at is because of God?

1 Peter 4:11 - Peter wrote: “If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever.” What is Peter telling us? What is “the ability which God supplies”?

Matt. 10:8 – Jesus said: **“Freely you have received, freely give”**. What is Jesus telling us to do? Why is this important? If we are to use our spiritual gifts for the benefit of others and the glorification of Jesus, are they sometimes used in the wrong manner? What examples can you think of where spiritual gifts are used wrongly?

For The Common Good And Equipping The Saints

1 Cor. 12:7-11 – Paul wrote: “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.” Why does Paul repeat “the same Spirit”? What is Paul telling us?

“The gifts of the Holy Spirit are for the benefit of all God’s children.” When one hurts, we all hurt. When one is blessed, we all are blessed. Have you ever thought of your use and/or lack of use of your spiritual gifts effecting God’s children? Ask yourself: How can I use this gift for the common good?

Eph. 2:10 – Paul wrote: “We are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them”. God created you with a purpose and with the gifts He provided for the work He has prepared for you and for the people He has provided for you to affect. Have you ever thought of your ministry being preplanned?

For Encouragement Of The Believers

1 Cor. 12:22-26 – Paul wrote: ...” those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.” In the body of Christ if one Christian suffers, all the Christians are affected. How can this be?

For Edification – the “build up” or the “strengthening” of the church.

Eph. 4:13-15 – Paul wrote: “We all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;” What does this mean?

“that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head – Christ”. Ask yourself: Am I manifesting my gifts so that the body of Christ is built up?

Are my gifts contributing to our perfection as a group of believers?

Lasting Benefits

Your Godly ministry here on earth lasts for eternity as opposed to your worldly ministry. Have you ever thought of the two opposing ministries in your life? Have you ever considered that one will last forever while the other will burn?

1 Cor. 3:12-15 – Paul wrote: “If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is,” What are these things? “because the Day will bring it to light.” What is “the Day”? “It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man’s work. If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.” What is the “fire”? What does this tell you about the purpose of life and your lifetime efforts?