

## SPIRITUAL GIFTS AND HOW WE USE THEM

*ON AN ORDINARY SUNDAY, YOU MAY NOTICE A NEED RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU: A NEW BELIEVER SEEMS UNSURE WHERE TO GO, THE WORSHIP TEAM IS MISSING A SINGER, OR SOMEONE SLIPS OUT QUIETLY IN TEARS.*

*THESE ARE OFTEN THE VERY PLACES WHERE THE SPIRIT'S GIFTS MEET EVERYDAY LIFE. LEARNING HOW TO USE SPIRITUAL GIFTS IS USUALLY LESS ABOUT STANDING IN THE SPOTLIGHT AND MORE ABOUT OFFERING LOVING PRESENCE, STEADY SERVICE, AND SPIRIT-LED COURAGE IN ORDINARY MOMENTS.*

*THE NEW TESTAMENT GIVES US A BEAUTIFUL PICTURE OF THIS: MANY GIFTS, ONE BODY, AND EVERYTHING AIMED AT THE COMMON GOOD. SO HERE IS A SIMPLE DEFINITION TO CARRY WITH YOU: SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE GOD-GIVEN ABILITIES, EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, TO BUILD UP THE CHURCH AND BLESS THE WORLD IN WAYS THAT REFLECT JESUS.*

*THEY ARE NOT TROPHIES TO DISPLAY; THEY ARE TOOLS FOR [LOVE IN EVERYDAY LIFE](#). WE GROW INTO THEM THROUGH PRAYER, SCRIPTURE, HUMBLE PRACTICE, AND HONEST FEEDBACK FROM TRUSTED BELIEVERS. AS WE KEEP WALKING WITH GOD, WE LEARN TO LISTEN FOR THE SPIRIT AND TO SERVE WITH A GENTLE, WILLING HEART.*

**ROMANS 11:28-33**

**WHEN WE PRAY AND ASK GOD FOR A DISCERNING HEART TO LIVE OUT HIS CALLING ON YOUR LIFE. HE WILL DIRECT YOUR PATHS.**

*GOD'S CALLING AND HIS GIFTS ARE IRREVOCABLE:*

- *NOT ABLE TO BE CHANGED*
- *NOT ABLE TO BE REVERSED*
- *NOT ABLE TO RECOVER*
- *IT IS A FINAL DECISION*

*GOD'S PLAN FOR OUR LIFE ARE SET. GOD HAS GIVEN US EVERYTHING WE NEED AND HE DOESN'T ASK FOR IT BACK. HE HAS GIVEN US EVERYTHING FOR LIFE AND GODLINESS.*

*OUR GIFTINGS WORK IN OUR CALLING. (2 PETER 1:10-11)*

*PAUL WROTE TO TIMOTHY TO STIR UP HIS GIFT!*

*WE STIR UP THE GIFT IN US BY USING THEM. THIS IS DONE BY GODLY DISCIPLINE, WHICH PRODUCES THE FRUIT OF GOD'S DIVINE NATURE IN OUR LIVES. WE STIR UP THE GIFT BY NOT QUENCHING OR NEGLECTING THE SPIRIT OF GOD THROUGH SIN AND DISOBEDIENCE TO GOD. WE MUST ALLOW GOD TO THRIVE IN US THROUGH OBEDIENCE LIKE A BLAZING FIRE.*

*OUR GIFTS AND CALLINGS ARE LIKE FAITH; WITH WORKS THEY WORK TOGETHER.*



*A LOT OF OUR CONFLICTS IN LIFE IS TRYING TO LIVE SEPARATE FROM YOUR CALL IN GOD. OUR SECULAR LIFESTYLES CAN PULL AGAINST WHAT GOD DESIRES OF YOUR LIFE. (GALATIANS 5:7-17)*

*IT IS HARD TO USE YOUR GOD GIVEN GIFTS IN YOUR CALL WHEN WE CONSTANTLY COMPROMISE WHAT WE BELIEVE AND OUR CONVICTIONS. KEEPING THE FAITH IS A FIGHT.*

*IN THE OLD TESTAMENT GIFTS AND CALLINGS WERE MORE EVIDENT BECAUSE GOD'S SPIRIT RESTED ON SPECIFIC PEOPLE FOR SPECIFIC TASKS IN SPECIFIC SEASONS. IN THE NEW TESTAMENT EVERY BELIEVER HAS GOD'S SPIRIT FOR THE MAIN PURPOSE OF PERFECTING GOD'S CHURCH. THE GIFTS ARE DIFFERENT AND HAVE DIFFERENT PURPOSES. IT IS THE ENVY AND SCHISM IN THE BODY THAT CAUSES CONFLICT IN CHURCH LIFE. GOD HAS CALLED US TO UNITY AND WE SPEND TOO MUCH TIME AND ENERGY BEING DIVIDED. WHENEVER WE LOSE SIGHT OF WHY WE ARE CALLED AND GIFTED WE BECOME DIVISIVE AND DON'T EVEN KNOW IT. BEING A PART OF GOD'S PLAN IS ALWAYS INCLUSIVE BECAUSE OF JOHN 3:16. WHOSOEVER IS INCLUSIVE BECAUSE OF LOVE. (GALATIANS 5:5-6) OUR IDEAS AND OUR AGENDAS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE WILL OF GOD AND HIS PURPOSE FOR OUR LIFE.*

*FINALLY, NOTICE THE INTERPLAY OF GIFTS IN THE CHURCH COMMUNITY. YOUR ENCOURAGEMENT MAY IGNITE ANOTHER'S LEADERSHIP; SOMEONE'S ADMINISTRATION MAY CREATE SPACE FOR YOUR TEACHING. COLLABORATION KEEPS PRIDE IN CHECK AND MULTIPLIES FRUIT. WHEN A PLAN SUCCEEDS, GIVE THANKS TOGETHER; WHEN SOMETHING FALTERS, LEARN TOGETHER WITHOUT BLAME.*

*ANOTHER APPROACH IS TO SET MICRO-HABITS THAT ALIGN WITH YOUR GIFTS. IF YOU TEACH, READ A SMALL PORTION OF SCRIPTURE DAILY AND SUMMARIZE IT IN TWO SENTENCES. IF YOU SERVE IN MERCY, SCHEDULE A WEEKLY CHECK-IN WITH*

*SOMEONE WHO IS ISOLATED. IF YOU LEAD, MEET MONTHLY WITH A MENTOR FOR PERSPECTIVE AND PRAYER.*

*FINALLY, CARE FOR YOUR SOUL. REST WELL, PRACTICE SABBATH, AND GUARD MARGINS. GIFTS SHINE BRIGHTEST FROM A RESTED, ROOTED LIFE. THE GOAL IS NOT CONSTANT ACTIVITY BUT FAITHFUL AVAILABILITY.*