

The Baptism in The Holy Spirit Spring Bible Study Series

“Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit”
Ephesians 5:18

Week Focus: The Holy Spirit and His Gifts-Part 2-Motivational Gifts

Text: Romans 12

Resource: <https://iblp.org/questions/what-are-seven-motivational-gifts>

Objective:

1. To gain a greater understanding of the Holy Spirit and Me

Bellringer:

Spiritual Gifts Inventory

This week Introduction:

Today we look at the **GIVING Motivational spiritual gift**. Each Christian receives one at the time of salvation, and it is the tool through which God **works in us**.

Giving

A person with the [motivational gift of giving](#) **wants to use financial resources wisely in order to give to meet the needs of others**. A giver is usually good at finding the best buy, noticing overlooked needs, and maintaining a budget.

- **Biblical Example**
 - When Jesus called Matthew to become a disciple, Matthew immediately gave up his lucrative job, that of being a tax collector for the Romans. *“As Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose and followed him”*(Matthew 9:9). Givers often avoid the limelight, so it is not surprising that even in the Gospel written by Matthew we find very little personal information about him.
- **Guidelines in Romans 12**
 - The exhortation of Romans 12:13 particularly relates to the gift of giving: *“Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality”*(ESV).
- **Life Principle to Apply**
 - A giver must learn to wisely apply the [principle of ownership](#). When a giver understands that all things belong to God and should be used to bring glory to Him, he is ready to share his resources as God directs him to give.

General Characteristics

A giver's **basic motivational drive is to conserve and share resources in order to meet needs**. Givers take special delight in discovering needs that others overlook and then meeting those needs.

- Givers particularly enjoy preventing waste by exercising wisdom and accountability.
- A giver **gets joy by finding less costly ways to do things**, whether the cost is measured in time, money, or energy.
- Their families often think givers are very stingy—much too concerned about counting pennies—but the people to whom they give think they are extremely generous.
- **Givers like to stay out of the limelight**, often giving anonymously in order to avoid recognition for their giving.
- Givers evaluate spirituality in terms of resources, accountability, and dependability.
- Saving resources brings a giver almost as much pleasure as giving them, because they regard saving as the key that opens the door to even more resources. They seem to be **able to accumulate savings, even in hard times**.

A Giver's Strengths

- A giver **saves money by making wise purchases**. He also tends to avoid impulsive spending.
- Givers tend to have an excellent understanding of authority and accountability. More than those with other motivational gifts, givers expect to be held accountable and diligently hold others accountable.
- They usually are **hard workers** and tend to have **conservative values**.
- Givers often like to become personally involved in the lives of the people to whom they give support.
- Regardless of his economic status, a giver hardly ever spends more than he makes. Consequently, he **rarely incurs debt**.
- Givers love to motivate others to save and to give generously.

A Giver's Weaknesses

- Sometimes **their efforts to conserve resources can turn into being "plain cheap."**
- Givers can react negatively to pressure to give, assuming that others can and should meet a need, since the need is well publicized.
- If a giver has been offended or has lost confidence in a person or a ministry, **he may allow his feelings to interfere with God-given opportunities** to give.
- A giver can easily be tempted to judge a person or ministry based on a single incident that appears to reflect poor stewardship or lack of accountability, rather than taking the steps necessary to get an accurate account of the situation.
- Just as is true of any other spiritual gift, **if a giver becomes too focused on issues he sees as priorities, his perspective will reflect "tunnel vision"** instead of wise understanding. For a giver, this would often involve placing too much attention on getting the best deal rather than the final goal, whatever that would be.

Are You a Giver?

Following are some traits commonly observed in those who have the [motivational spiritual gift of giving](#). These traits can be used to benefit others, or they can be misused and thereby cause discord in the Body of Christ.

When a believer walks according to the Spirit (see Galatians 5:25), his unique perspective (in this case, giving) is demonstrated through traits that reflect the character of Christ. However, when a believer walks in "the flesh," making choices that are determined by his sinful nature, his unique perspective is demonstrated through undesirable, ungodly traits. (See Galatians 5:16–17.)

Read these examples thoughtfully and prayerfully, and **ask God to help you discern if your motivational gift is giving**. If it is, be encouraged as you learn about the special virtue and wisdom that God has given you with this gift. Be warned of the temptation to misapply these Godly traits when you fail to walk in the grace God gives you to use them righteously. (See Hebrews 12:15.)

Recognizes Resources

A giver has the ability to discern wise investments. He **uses assets of time, money, and possessions to advance the work of the Lord**. If a person with the gift of giving has limited funds, he is still able to use his ability to recognize available resources and draw upon them when needed.

Misuse of this trait: *Hoards resources for self*

The fear of the Lord is the key to using this gift effectively. One way we learn the fear of the Lord is by regular giving. The tithe was established to remind us of our dependence on God and our need to express gratitude to Him, our Provider. (See Deuteronomy 14:22–23.) If a giver loses his fear of God, he stops exercising his gift and his resources become stagnant.

Invests Self First, Then Gifts

A giver needs reassurance that his decisions are in God's will, whether he has little or much to give. To achieve this, **he will first give himself and then his gift to the Lord**. Since all believers must practice giving, Paul explained how the Macedonians "*first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God*" (II Corinthians 8:5).

Misuse of this trait: *Uses gifts to control people*

A giver has a desire to make sure that his gifts are wisely invested and used. Thus, he often prefers to purchase and donate a quality item rather than give the money to make a purchase. However, he may be accused of using his gifts to control lives and ministries when he purchases items or sponsors specific projects.

Desires to Give High-Quality Gifts

A giver wants his gifts to last. **His ability to discern value motivates him to provide quality gifts**. Matthew, who demonstrated the gift of giving, described in greater detail than any other Gospel writer the gifts given to Christ. He is the only writer who mentioned "the treasures" brought by the Magi; he described Mary's ointment as "very precious," and he described Joseph's tomb as "new." (See Matthew 2:11, 26:6–13, and 27:57–60.)

Misuse of this trait: *Forcing higher living standards*

If a giver's primary focus is on the quality of the gift rather than the need the gift is meeting, he can tempt the receiver to become dissatisfied with the quality of the other things he owns.

A giver could also excuse personal luxuries on the basis that he is generous with his money. However, when he is not faithful in little, God will not trust him with much.

Hopes His Gift Answers Prayer

A giver who is in fellowship with the Lord will be prompted to give even when a need is not obvious. The ultimate confirmation that his gift was offered according to God's will comes when he learns that it fulfilled an unknown need or answered a specific prayer.

Misuse of this trait: *Feels guilty about personal assets*

*A giver who is not in fellowship with the Lord will begin to feel guilty as he stores up funds. Even if he is preparing for a special need, **he must have the reassurance from the Lord that his plans are according to God's will.***

Desires to Give Secretly

Just as the giver looks to the Lord for direction, **the giver wants recipients to look to the Lord for provision.** The giver knows that future reward is more valuable than present praise; thus, he will give quietly and often give anonymously.

Misuse of this trait: *Rejects pressure appeals*

*If a giver reacts to all appeals for funds and looks only for hidden or unannounced needs, **he may fail to recognize the Lord's direction.*** He may also miss an important opportunity to give wise counsel or needed funds to a worthy ministry.

Concerned That Giving Will Corrupt

A mature giver understands the destructiveness of the love of money. He is very aware that those who need his assistance may not yet have learned the disciplines that God taught him in acquiring assets. Therefore, **he looks for ways to avoid encouraging dependency, slothfulness, or extravagance** through his gifts.

Misuse of this trait: *Gives too sparingly to family*

*The frugality of a giver is often extended to his own wife and children. However, if he does not show the same concern, care, and delight in meeting their needs as he does in meeting others' needs, **they will react to his generosity toward others.*** By listening to the Lord and the counsel of his wife, he will avoid the damaging consequences of unwise gifts or investments.

Exercises Personal Thriftiness

A giver's personal assets are often the result of **consistent personal frugality and contentment with the basics.** He is concerned about getting the best buy, not with how much he will have left. He invests extra effort in saving money and being resourceful with what he has.

Misuse of this trait: *Gives to projects vs. people*

*If a giver loses his focus of meeting the needs of people, he may be unduly attracted to projects. His desire for measuring value may prompt him to build a "memorial to his generosity." **The emphasis of Scriptural giving is that of distributing to the necessity of the saints.*** Paul's collections were made for needy Christians.

Uses Gifts to Multiply Giving

The motivation of a giver is to encourage others to give. **He wants them to experience the joy and spiritual growth that come by sacrificial giving.** Thus, the giver may provide matching funds or the last payment in order to encourage others to give.

Misuse of this trait: *Causes people to look to him vs. God*

*When a giver lets others know what he is giving, he can cause many to turn their attention from the Lord to him. He also **risks the danger of attracting people with wrong motives**. These people appeal to his human inclinations and extract gifts that are not directed by the Lord.*

Confirms Amount With Counsel

A giver reacts negatively to pressure appeals. **He prefers to look for financial needs that others have overlooked**. A husband who has the gift of giving will often confirm the amount that he should give by seeing if his wife has the same amount in mind.

Misuse of this trait: *Waits too long to give*

*If a giver is not instantly obedient to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, **he may lose the joy of seeing God accomplish a miraculous provision through him**. The one who was to receive the gift will also be denied the opportunity of seeing God provide funds precisely when needed.*

Are You a Giver?

Do you recognize any of these positive characteristics or their misapplication as ones that you have demonstrated? **Do the motivations of a giver guide your decisions and actions?** If so, rejoice, because God has given you a unique responsibility in the Body of Christ!

If these characteristics, and their misuses, do not reflect your motivations, we encourage you to **read and study similar information about each of the other six spiritual motivational gifts** ([prophecy](#), [serving](#), [teaching](#), [exhorting](#), [organizing](#), and [mercy](#)). [Ask the Lord to reveal your spiritual gift to you. God will show you how He has gifted you. Be diligent!](#)

As each of us identifies his or her motivational gift, he or she will be better equipped to achieve maximum fruitfulness with minimum weariness. As we exercise our gifts, we **experience personal fulfillment and a deep sense of joy**.

Russell Kelfer, in his excellent book titled *Discovering Your Spiritual Gift*, gives us an excellent word picture related to the motivational spiritual gifts assigned by God: "This isn't a gift for you to put on the mantle like a trophy to admire. **It is like a certain kind of glove that you put on that allows your hands to do the work of the ministry they were called to do**. It is like a certain kind of spiritual shoes you wear to take you where you need to go" ([Kelfer, page 10](#)). [Let's put on those custom-designed gloves and shoes and get to work](#)