

## Equipped For Ministry Lesson 1

### Spiritual Gifts

- I. Introduction: One of the most dynamic and comforting truths of the Scripture is that God never requires of us something that He has not equipped us to do. Thus, God is not only the author of ministry but also the source of all effective ministry. Spiritual gifts are given to each believer so we can experience the joy and fulfillment of God working through each of us for His glory. (Eph. 4:12; 1 Cor. 12:7)
  - A. Fundamental Facts
    1. Every believer has a spiritual gift. No one is to view himself or herself as gift-less or ministry-less. We are all part of the Body of Christ; thus we need to understand our spiritual giftedness. (1 Cor. 12:1)
    2. Our basic spiritual gift (motivation) is given to each person at their regeneration (conversion). One's basic gift does not await for:
      - a. A second work of grace
      - b. The baptism of the Spirit
      - c. A higher life experience
    3. Since God is the One who gives each of us a gift when we enter into a saving relationship with Him through the Son, we do not need to pray for or fast to obtain it. He alone is he "gift giver."
    4. As all true believers are the Body of Christ because all have been:
      - a. Indwelt by the Spirit (John 3:6; Romans 8:9; 1 Cor 12:3)
      - b. Sealed by the Spirit (Eph. 1:13; 4:30)
      - c. Baptized with (in) the Spirit into the Body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13)
      - d. Anointed by the Spirit with saving knowledge (2 Cor. 1:21-22; 1 John 2:27)
      - e. Gifted by the Spirit to minister to the Body of Christ (Romans 12:3-8; 1 Cor.12:1-30; 1 Peter 4:10)

5. A Christian is someone who has been regenerated (converted; reborn spiritually) by the Spirit applying what the Father ordained and the Son accomplished. Thus, there is no such thing as a “gift-less” Christian. Every Christian has as a present possession one basic spiritual gift motivation. This gift was received at the moment of regeneration (Romans 12:6-8; 1 Peter 4:10).
6. “Spiritual” has to do with the work of the Spirit of God. The Spirit is sovereign in the giving of one’s spiritual gift and in determining manifestation gifts (1 Cor. 12:4-11)
  - a. A gift is not a reward for anything in us or done by us. The “gifts” cannot be earned by praying, fasting or anything else. The Greek word for gift comes from the word “grace.” The gifts were earned by Christ through His obedience in life and in death (Acts 2:33); Eph. 4:7-13; Phil. 2:5-11)
  - b. Joy comes into our lives as we understand and use our gifts that have prepared us for the ministries God has ordained for each of us (Eph. 2:10).

#### B. Personal Application

1. We discover our “niche” in the Church as we find our place in the ministry of the Church and develop a meaningful ministry of being the person God has equipped us to be. Thus, we begin to play a significant role in the Body of Christ
2. Every gift has the goal of the good of the Church as its goal (Eph.4:8, 12-13; 1 Cor. 12:7; 14:12)
3. We should not be ignorant of our gifts (1 Cor.12:1)

## II. The Different Categories of Gifts

- A. There are many ways to categorize or catalog the gifts. Prior to the more recent controversy over the issue of spiritual gifts, historical orthodoxy described gifts in three categories:

1. Motivational Gifts – diversities of operations (1 Cor. 12:6)
    - a. Motivational gifts are the unique “energizing” of the Holy Spirit within a believer, which give that believer the desire and the power to concentrate on a particular aspect of spiritual concern. They are given by the Holy Spirit in order to carry out the ministry.
    - b. Every believer has one of the seven (7) motivational gifts listed in Romans 12:6-8. Each believer then views other Christians and circumstances through his or her motivational gift.
  2. Ministry Gifts – diversities of administration (1 Cor. 12:5)
    - a. Ministry gifts provide opportunities for recognized Christian service through the church.
    - b. These gifts are confirmed by church leaders and are not determined in a vacuum by are recognized by the church as having been qualified by the Holy Spirit for such a role.
  3. Manifestation Gifts – diversities of results (1 Cor. 12:7)
    - a. Manifestation gifts are supernatural results of the Holy Spirit’s work in our lives and also the lives of those who we serve and minister.
    - b. As we develop and use our motivational gift though our given ministry, God causes supernatural results to occur.
- B. Most of the confusion over spiritual gifts is a direct result of not realizing that there are different kinds of gifts divided according to their place and their function in the life of an individual believer and the church to which he or she belongs.
1. As the Head of the Church, Christ endows each church with certain gifts, which focus the ministry of that congregation. No two congregations are the same.
  2. One church may have a predominance of mercy-motivated believers and have great social work. Another church may be gifted in a teaching ministry and have a great educational ministry.

3. The key is not to judge others churches by what your church is doing. God equips each church to do a special calling. The gifts that are given within the church are for that grand end – the glory of God. Each church should understand its own focus of ministry.

IV. Summary: The three kinds of gifts can be understood in terms of Motive, Means and Results (1 Cor. 12:4-6)

A. Gifts (v.4) – Motivations = Basic drive, ability and motivation to minister to others in a certain way.

1. It is given at the new birth
2. It is a sovereign choice of God
3. It is one's basic place and ministry in the Body of Christ
4. Accountability at judgment seat of Christ (Matt. 25:19; 2 Cor. 5:10)
5. It is the main focus of one's life

B. Administrations (v.5) - Ministries = Opportunities of Christian service that allow us to exercise our basic motivational gift.

1. The offices, occasions and opportunities in which or by which one can minister to the Body of Christ through developing one's basic motivational gift.
2. One can seek these opportunities

C. Operations (v.6) – Manifestations = The actual results in the lives of those to whom we minister as determined by the sovereign Spirit of God.

1. The things that the Holy Spirit does in the lives of others
2. We have no control over this
3. The sovereignty of God the Spirit determines these things

C. Motivational Gifts – Romans 12:3-8

Prophecy  
Service  
Teaching  
Exhortation  
Giving  
Ruling  
Mercy

D. Ministry Gifts – Eph: 4:1,11; 1 Cor. 12:28-32

Apostle  
Prophet  
Evangelist  
Pastor-Teacher  
Miracles  
Healings  
Helps  
Government  
Tongues

E. Manifestation Gifts –1 Cor. 12:7-11

Word of wisdom  
Word of knowledge  
Faith  
Healing  
Miracles  
Prophecy  
Discerning of spirits  
Tongues  
Interpretation of tongues