

Peter and His Epistles

Lesson # 14: Using your Spiritual Gift

1 Pet. 4:10-11

I. Introduction

- A. Every Christian has at least one spiritual gift (Rom. 12:5-6). God wants us to know and exercise our gifts (1 Tim. 4:14, 2 Tim. 1:6, 1 Cor. 12:1, 18)
- B. There may be reasons why a person is not able to discern his spiritual gift. Here are a few:
 - 1. A sense of unworthiness that causes us to compare ourselves with others. "I could never be like..."
 - 2. Or an attempt to imitate the gifts of others. "I want to be just like..."
 - 3. Some sort of unresolved root problem in personal living. (Notice that the gifts of Romans 12 are not mentioned until all the moral conflicts of Romans 1-11 are dealt with). "I'm not ready to _____" or "I just can't _____ because _____."
 - 4. A lack of involvement with the needs of the others.

"Our gifts are stirred up and discovered as we focus on the needs of others rather than what our ministry is to be. A servant's heart is essential to discover our spiritual gift." (Gothard)
- C. The purpose of these gifts is to build up the body of Christ (Eph. 4:11-12, 1 Cor. 12:7,12)
- D. The gifts of the Spirit are given to produce the fruit of the Spirit (See Galatians 5:22-23)

The Spirit produces fruit which consists of 9 characteristics of attitudes that are inextricably linked with each other and are commanded of believers throughout the New Testament."
(MacArthur)

Paul uses the singular fruit to contrast with the works of the flesh outlines in verses 19-21. In sin, our lives are fragmented, in Christ we are centered by His unifying love.

"Each fruit of the Spirit was simply love in another form, a revelation of the character of God through Christ and through the Christians who produce it." (Interpreter's Bible)
- E. The Holy Spirit distributes the spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 11:4-6).

II. The gifts

- A. Some believe there are three distinct categories under spiritual gifts (Bill Goddard: Basis Youth Conflicts)

"Now concerning spiritual (matters), brethren, I do not want you to be uninformed...There are varieties of gifts...there are varieties of service and there are varieties of workings." 1 Cor. 12:1-6.

1. MOTIVATIONS (Gifts)	2. MINISTRIES (Service)	3. MANIFESTATIONS (Workings)
CHARISMATION	DIAKONION	ENEHEMA PHANEROSIS
The basic inward drive which God places in each Christian to express His love. 1 Cor. 12:4	The opportunities of Christian service which are open to us for the exercise of our basic motivation. 1 Cor. 12:5	The actual result in the lives of those to whom we minister as determined by the Holy Spirit. 1 Cor. 12:6

Scripture lists the gifts under their specific categories

**1. MOTIVATIONS
(Romans 12:3-9)**

**2. MINISTRIES
(1 Cor. 12:27-31 & Eph. 4)**

**3. MANIFESTATIONS
(1 Cor. 12:7-11)**

When we exercise our motivation (Romans 12) through our ministry (1 Cor. 12:27-31, Eph. 4) the Holy Spirit determines what manifestations (1 Cor. 12:7-11) will benefit the receiver the most (1 Cor. 12:7).

We are not to seek after manifestations but to concentrate on our motivational gift and the most effective ministry of expressing it.

There are seven basic motivations:

1. Declaring truth
2. Serving
3. Teaching
4. Exhorting
5. Giving
6. Ruling
7. Empathizing

B. There are three main passages in the New Testament that outline gifts:

Rom 12:3-8, 1 Cor. 12:4-11, Eph. 4:11-13

These spiritual gifts are listed in these passages:

Prophecy – Acts 15:32
 Service – 2 Tim. 1:16-18
 Teaching – Acts 18:24-28
 Exhortation – 1 Tim. 4:13
 Giving – 2 Cor. 9:2-8
 Leadership – Heb. 13:17
 Mercy – Luke 10:33-35
 Wisdom – 2 Pet. 3:15-16
 Knowledge – Acts 5:1-11

Faith – Rom. 4:18-21
 Healing – Acts 3:1-10
 Helps – Rom. 16:1-2
 Miracles – Acts 9:36-42
 Discerning of Spirits – Acts 5:1-11
 Tongues – 1 Cor. 14:13-19
 Interpretation of Tongues – 1 Cor. 14:26-28
 Evangelist – 2 Tim. 4:5

C. An additional list might include:

Celibacy – 1 Cor. 7:7-8
 Voluntary Poverty – 2 Cor. 8:9
 Martyrdom – Rev. 20:4-5

Hospitality – 1 Pet. 4:9
 Missionary – Rom. 10:15
 Intercession – Col. 4:12-13
 Deliverance (Exorcism) – Matt. 22:22-32

II. The relationship between natural talents, skills or ability

A. One perspective:

“Not natural talents, skills or abilities...(these spiritual gifts) are sovereignly and supernaturally bestowed by the Holy Spirit on believers, enabling them to spiritual edify each other effectively and thus honor the Lord.” (MacArthur)

B. Another perspective:

“Thus, a spiritual gift may be defined as a God-given ability for service. Its origin is from God. It is an ability whether natural or supernatural and it is given for the purpose of service.” (Ryrie)

C. And a third perspective:

“A spiritual gift is the use God makes of an individual’s natural talents when touched by His Holy Spirit.” “We all have all the gifts to one degree or another, depending on our temperament.” (LaHaye)

D. My own thought mirrors J. Oswald Sanders - “They are supernatural but make use of and increase the natural abilities we possess.”

III. But earnestly desire the greater gifts, and I will show you a more excellent way (1 Cor. 12:31)

“Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts ...(1 Cor. 14:1)

“Everyone has some gift, therefore all should be encouraged.

No one has all gifts, therefore all should be humble.

All gifts are for the one Body, therefore all should be harmonious.

All gifts are from the Lord, therefore all should be contented.

All gifts are mutually helpful and needful, therefore all should be studiously faithful.

All gifts promote the health and strength of the whole Body, therefore none can be safely dispensed with.

All gifts depend on his fullness for power, therefore all should keep in close touch with Him.”

(Arthur T. Pierson)

Discussion Questions:

1. Do you have a sense of your spiritual gift? If so, what is it?
2. How does your “giftedness” impact your every day life?