

Topic: Spiritual Gifts

Scriptural References

1 Corinthians 12:1-11, Isaiah 43:1, Ephesians 4, Romans 12, 1 Peter 4, Acts 2, 19,
1 Corinthians 14

Biblical Explanation

God has created each member of the body and knows us by name (Is 43:1). He also places within each of us spiritual gifts, or abilities that serve the purpose of edifying the church and glorifying God. Prior to living for Jesus, people use gifts as a means of worship toward fake gods. Whether miracles (Ex 7:11, Acts 8:9) or pride people used certain abilities to elevate themselves or the false gods they served. But once we declare Jesus is Lord, our mindset and allegiance change. No longer is our goal for worship or the use of gifts toward elevating self or fake gods, but to honor the one and only God.

A spiritual gift is like a man-made gift in that it is given willingly with no payment expected or accepted. You cannot earn spiritual gifts or select them no more than you choose which snowflake lands on your forehead. All gifts are empowered by God and given as He sees fit (1 Cor 12:11). Passages like Ephesians 4, Romans 12, 1 Peter 4, and 1 Corinthians 12 provide lists of gifts but these lists are not intended to be exhaustive. Some of the gifts mentioned in the passages are teaching, which is the ability to help other understand and comprehend God's word. Evangelism, which is the sharing of the gospel to those who have not heard it. Healing, which is the elimination of ailments or disease for the sake of God being revered. Faith, which is the ability to trust and believe in what God can and will do against what might seem like insurmountable odds. Hospitality, which is the gift of making people who are strangers to feel welcomed and accepted some that they would be inclined to hear the gospel.

All gifts flow from God and contribute to the health of the church body. While there is great diversity in the gifts just as there is great diversity in God's people, God is the same and empowers all (1 Cor 12:5-7). When you don't use your gift, the gift God has placed in you, you are affecting the worship of the church. Each gift compliments one another so that we may serve and care for one another, bring God honor and attention, and shine as a powerful light to the world. When you don't operate in your spiritual gift, the potential of the church is diminished. So don't allow fear to hinder

you from operating in your gifting. Be careful not to elevate the demands of family or work to the point where you can't use your gift for God's kingdom.

Gifts and talents are not the same. Talents can be inherited or passed down from one generation to next. Some talents are great hand and eye coordination for things like carpentry or athletics or being inclined to musical expressions. But gifts are given by God and thus are not the product of your upbringing, environment, or training. Allow the feedback of the community to encourage you in your gifts. Your gifts are for the edification of God's body, the church, so allow your brothers and sisters to celebrate or guide you toward gifts that you may not have considered.

Thank you for flourishing in the spiritual gift God has placed in you.

Main Points

- God has created each member of the body and placed a gift within them.
- The gifts vary but all are given by God.
- All gifts should be used in an orderly manner that allow for unity in worship.
- Don't allow fear, stress, or other obstacles to stop you from using your gift.
- The use of your gift or lack thereof has an effect on the body
- Your gift compliments those of your sisters and brothers in Christ. Allow their feedback to refine and/or direct you toward your spiritual gift.

Questions

1. Describe some spiritual gifts and how you see them edifying or blessing the church.
2. What affects does not using one's spiritual gift have on the body?
3. What is your spiritual gift? If you don't know your spiritual gift ask your group to share what they think your spiritual gift might be.
4. How has God used your spiritual gift to grow you look more like Him?

Additional Resources

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, Isaiah 43:1, Ephesians 4, Romans 12, 1 Peter 4, Acts 2, 19, 1 Corinthians 14,