
Spiritual Gifts

Spiritual gifts are an essential part of the body of Christ. If someone were to ask you about your gift or gifts, what would you say?

One thing that is very clear from scripture is that God gives the gifts to testify that salvation is through Christ only,

This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will. (Hebrews 2:3b,4)

and to serve and build up the church,

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. (1 Peter 4:10)

The gifts always pertain to the spiritual welfare of people. As we read through the Acts of the Apostles Luke confirms and records these fact (Acts 1:8).

Gift Lists

The following verses indicate the various gifts that God has given to believers. See if you can identify all of them.

Romans 12:3-8

1 Corinthians 12:1-13:2

Ephesians 4:11

Purpose of the Gifts

Read the two passages and write down what the purposes of the gifts are. Remember to use the Discovery Learning Questions from the study on Teaching the Bible.

Ephesians 4:11-16

1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Gifts and Responsibility

As the Body of Christ, there are a number of gifts that are not to be confused with our responsibility before God:

Serving – Paul tells us that as Christians we are required to serve each other (Phil. 2:3-4).

Teaching – Jesus tells us that a part of making disciples is to teach everything that He commanded (Matt. 28:20).

Encouraging – The Hebrew writer said that as long as it is called today we should encourage each other (Heb. 3:13).

Giving – A principle that Jesus taught was to give to those who ask (Luke 6:30).

Mercy – Jesus said “Blessed are the merciful...” which is a characteristic that every believer should have if he is under the Lordship of Christ (Mat. 5:7).

Faith – Paul explains that we walk by faith and not by sight (2 Cor. 5:7).

Helps – Paul tells us to follow his example and help the weak (Acts 20:35).

Evangelist – Timothy was encouraged to do the work of an evangelist (2 Tim. 4:5) and to preach the gospel (v. 2). Jesus also commanded us to go and make disciples (Mat. 28:18).

Application

1. Discuss with your house church or small group how you all can demonstrate the list of responsibilities we have in the body of Christ. What would it look like in your community if everyone exhibited these characteristics?

2. Spiritual gifts are often identified in the context of relationships in your community. Take some time to discuss with your house church or small group what others see as your spiritual gift.