

How Do I Find My Gifts & Strengths?

3-13-19

How Do I...series

I. Slide1 Intro

- A. Slide2 Our churches 2nd Value is...Participation: *Encouraging all believers to discover & use their unique ministry **gifts**.* [*don't be like* those who watch all the cooking shows, *but then* are afraid to get in the kitchen!]
- B. Slide3 List of gifts & categories of gifts. [list not complete. many ways to categorize]
1. Establishing Gifts (Eph.4:11 & 1Cor.12:29): *Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, and Pastor-Teachers.* [Gifts used primarily for planting & growing churches]
 2. Supporting Gifts (Rom.12:6-8): *Prophecy, Service, Teaching, Encouragement, Giving, Administration/Leadership, and Mercy.* [Gifts used primarily to organize and administrate the church]
 3. Ministry Gifts (1Cor.12:8-10, 27-31): *Wisdom, Knowledge, Faith, Healing, Miracles, Prophecy, Helps, Administration, Leadership, Distinguishing Spirits, Speaking in Tongues, and Interpreting Tongues.* [These are the tools that the Holy Spirit utilizes for the ongoing ministry of the church]
- C. Slide4a A **gift** is by **grace**, which is the very core of the word **gift**.
1. **Grace** = χάρις. **Gift** = χάρισμα. **Gifts** = χαρισματα.
 2. Slide4b We are saved by grace - grow by grace - endowed/gifted by grace.
 - a) *Charismatic* today refers to those who hold the gifts are for today, in which we most definitely do.
- D. Slide5 2 Helpful Reminders:
1. Chuck Smith, *No Holy Spirit and you **dry up**. Too much Holy Spirit and you **blow up**. Right balance and you **grow up**.*
 2. These should be **Tools** to build with, **not Weapons** to slay with, **nor Toys** to play with.
- E. Why are gifts important? They are a reminder *you can't do everything and that you need community*. [Imagine if 1 or more parts of your body *stopped functioning*, *or worse*, began to *perform functions they weren't designed to do?*]

1. *The church needs you, and your functioning gifts.*

F. *Paul & Cindy Lester*: give a little background on yourselves.

II. Slide6 QUESTIONS

A. What's the difference between **spiritual** gifts and **natural** gifts?

1. K - I believe you can have gifts even if you don't know it or recognize it.
2. **Natural talents** = given by God thru parents. **Learned skills** = learned by us.
Spiritual gifts = gifts that God gives.

B. Do **you** get to **pick** your own gifts? (nope HS. Can pray for certain one's though)

C. Do you have to be *really spiritual* to get a gift? (no, look at Corinth church)

D. Do you remember receiving one of your gifts? How did that happen?

1. K - What are my spiritual gifts: well, I think...teaching, discernment, administration, leadership, word of knowledge and wisdom. When needed, helps, hospitality at times. He gives me these because He knows I need them for what I do.

a) **Teaching** was just strong on my heart and although discouraged, knew God had it in my future. **Discernment** was one I realized I had soon on because honestly I just "*know stuff*" about people - He warns me, gives me a check in my spirit, etc. As I'm teaching or counseling, **knowledge** and **wisdom** will come into play. He give same **hospitality** when I need it.

b) Honestly *I prayed and asked God for gifts*. No one encouraged me, no one talked to me or told me what they thought I had, I didn't take any tests. So I sought the Lord, the Word, and then just stepped out and "worked it out" with fear and trembling!

E. Are spiritual gifts the best signs of *spirituality*? (no, fruit of spirit)

1. K - Gifts are spiritual things, so not always make sense. I think they overlap at times with our strengths, talents, and abilities. Our talents provide ways in which to use our gifts.

F. Does **every believer** have a gift?

1. Donald gee said, *The Holy Spirit for His own wise reason imparts to every person a special gift for the special service to which he is called.*
2. K - I think you can have multiple gifts that can work together to do the ministry He's called you to. [Eg. Teaching, often comes w/wisdom, discernment, knowledge]

G. Are some gifts **more important** than others? (yes *prophecy* is over *tongues*. Their value is based on its usefulness to the church)

1. **Electrician - toolbelt.** The **best** tool depends on *the job at hand*.

H. Can spiritual gifts be **misused**? (look at Corinth)

I. **How do I identify and unwrap my spiritual gift(s)?**

1. **Know** what gifts are available.
2. **Be available** to receive the gift (you can't give a gift to someone who won't receive it)
3. **Pray** for God's gift He's designed for you (He has your name on it already)
4. Step out **in Faith** (eg. Be bold in the Word of Knowledge)
5. Don't wait around to *feel gifted*, **earnestly desire the best gifts.**
6. K - First, **pray**. I think the key word is pray **INTENTIONALLY** and ask God to show you. Pay attention to **what energizes you** and is your **passion**. Quote, *"Every spiritual gift gives off clues. Your spiritual gift will usually cause you to react a certain way in a given situation. If there's a problem, people with the gift of leadership will try to find a solution. For those who are gifted as shepherds, they will immediately be concerned that the people are cared for and growing in Christlikeness as a result. Those with the gift of intercession will immediately say, We need to pray about this."*
 - a) Ask mature bel's around you what they see in you.
 - b) Volunteer at church, try things out, to see if it's a fit or not.
 - c) Develop your gifts. Practice, learn, study, awn into flame.

J. *****

K. Congregationally we don't focus on **the gifts** but on *the Giver!*

L. **3 Challenges concerning Gifts:**

1. 1 Cor.12:31 *earnestly desire the best gifts.*
2. 1 Tim.4:14 *do not neglect the gift that is in you.* [like muscles, gifts will atrophy if not used]
3. 2 Tim.1:6 *stir up the gift of God which is in you.*

M. Swindoll gives great advice about gifts, *Your gift is a **privilege**; so accept it, but don't flaunt it. Your gift is a **responsibility**; so use it, don't abuse it.*

N. If these gifts are functioning properly the church will be:

1. **Genuinely spiritual** (controlled by the Spirit so that we minister to His people).
2. **Spontaneous** (serving from the heart rather than from a sense of legislated duty).
3. **Sacrificial** (generously sharing time, money, energy, & talent).

O. K - We need to learn how to **celebrate other's gifts**, not be jealous of them.

1. Learn how to use your gifts together as a team to be unified in purpose, etc.
2. We all need each other's gifts...we are the church - we need to move as a united front both to encourage and build up body and reach out to others.

P. *Next Week: How Do I Find God's Will For Me?* AL