

Spiritual Gifts

Session 3 - Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12,
Ephesians 4, 1 Peter 4

Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts

Having thought about the assigned question from last week's session, "How can I make the best use of what God has given me?" (gifts, abilities, talents); what response did you make?

1. Let's go back for a moment to Ephesians 2:10 and Psalm 139:16

What are these verses telling us about the way God has created us, and about the abilities and responsibilities we each have in this life?

When was this decision made about what we are called to do in and with our lives?
What does this say about the choices we are to make throughout our lives?

2. Read Romans 12:1-5

An old [Danish] proverb says: "What you are is God's gift to you; what you do with your life is your gift to God."

Have you ever thought of yourself in this way before? If you take this proverb along with Romans 12:1-2, how might this affect your life?

Why do you think that it is the whole of our bodily life that we are to sacrifice to the Lord and not just our spiritual activities associated with or through our local church?

In v.5, Paul notes the amazing diversity in the Body of Christ. but at the same time notes the unity of the Body, "we are members of one another." How does this quality of diversity and unity help us to relate to others in the local church who have different gifts from each of us?

Read 1Corinthians 2:12 -14.

According to this Scripture, who, and who only, can receive the gifts of the Spirit?

Why can non-believers in Christ *not* receive spiritual gifts or the things of the Spirit?

3. Before considering what each gift means, we need to briefly consider some factors that will help us to both understand the gifts and how best to discern them.

Read Ephesians 5:17

What do we need to do, as believers, to discern the Lord's will for our lives and how would this apply to spiritual gifts?

Consider these points which Rick Warren makes:

a. Begin by assessing your gifts and abilities. See Romans 12:3

- i - ask other people what they see as your strengths, and even weaknesses
 - ask yourself: "Where have I seen or experienced Spiritual fruit in my life that other people have affirmed"?
- ii - experiment with different areas of service, even before you've taken the gifts questionnaire. Until you actually start serving in a ministry, you probably won't know what you're good at. You discover your gifts by getting involved in a ministry

b. Consider your heart and your personality. See Galatians 6:4,5

- i - ask yourself what it is that you really like doing; what brings me most joy?
- ii - do I like routine or variety? Do I like serving with a team or more often by myself?
- iii - are you an introvert or an extrovert, or somewhere in between?

c. Examine your experiences. See Galatians 3:4

- i - Look to your past experiences, think about how they have shaped you. Can you learn from such experiences as to what areas of service within the church you would be more competent at?
- ii - Are there any experiences that have helped you succeed and move ahead in your life. Or, on the other hand, that have prevented you from being as successful as you had hoped? Have any of these experiences affected your service within the church?

All the above considerations can help us to discern the giftedness God has given us through His holy Spirit

4. The Spiritual Gifts Questionnaire

Review the Gift Definitions - p.13-16 in the Gifts Questionnaire.

Assignment: Complete the Spiritual Gifts questionnaire by the next session. We will begin next week's session by discussing the results of your questionnaire.

Question: After taking the Gifts questionnaire, and considering the items in today's lesson to help us understand and to use our gifts more effectively, were you:

- a. confirmed in any area of ministry you are currently involved?
- b. challenged to consider an area of ministry you have not been involved with?

Closing Prayer