

# **Spiritual Gifts**

## **Session 4 - Galatians 5:22-33; 1 Peter 2:1-2**

Discussion on the Spiritual Gifts questionnaire:

- What did you discover about your possible gift/s?
- Were you by surprised by any results of the questionnaire?
- In what way might the results of the questionnaire affect or change your involvement in ministry at our local church?

### **The Fruit of The Spirit**

1. Read Galatians 5:22-23

What specific qualities make up the fruit of the Spirit?

In looking at the qualities of Spiritual fruit, it is obvious that non-believers can also exercise similar traits in their lives. What then is the difference between believers and non-believers in exercising similar fruit?

Read John 15:4-5 and Romans 8:5-6

What do these verses also tell us about living by the Fruit of the Spirit?

What, then, is the difference between the Fruit of the Spirit and the Gifts of the Spirit?

## Gifts: Natural Talents and Corresponding Roles

### 2. Natural Talents:

"Every human being, by virtue of being made in the image of God, possesses certain natural talents. ... Talents are one of the features that give every human being a unique personality. Part of our self-identity is wrapped up in the particular mix of talents we have. ... Non-believers have natural talents' even superb talents for one thing or another. They have natural talents, but they do not have spiritual gifts. ... Spiritual gifts are reserved exclusively for Christians. No unbeliever has one, and every true believer in Jesus Christ does."

(Dr. C. Peter Wagner - Fuller theological Seminary)

Can you think of people who have some excellent talents, but are not believers in Christ?

What basically would be the difference between believers and non-believers in the use of their talents?

### 3. Corresponding Roles to Gifts:

As we have discussed the various gifts, it becomes apparent that many of them describe activities expected of every Christian. When a gift has a corresponding role, it means the gift has an extra measure of the corresponding role for a particular reason or situation which God has in mind.

Look at each of these gifts, and discuss what a corresponding role might be:

**Faith** - The gift of faith is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to discern with extraordinary confidence the will and purposes of God for His work.

**Teaching** - The gift of teaching is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to communicate information relevant to the health and ministry of the body and its members in such a way that others will learn.

**Giving** - The gift of giving is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to contribute their material resources to the work of the Lord with liberality and cheerfulness.

**Service** - The gift of service is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to identify the unmet needs involved in a task related to God's work, and to make use of available resources to meet those needs and to help accomplish the desired results.

Knowledge - The gift of knowledge is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to discover, accumulate, analyze, and clarify information and ideas which are pertinent to the well-being of the body.

### **Counterfeit Gifts:**

Sadly the Bible warns of counterfeit gifts by Satan and his demons. This warning is seen in both Testaments. Read the following Scriptures and discuss the counterfeit gifts and warnings we receive and how we might discern true prophets and teachers from the counterfeit ones.

4. Read: Exodus 7:20-22 and 8:5-7

Jeremiah 23:13-17

Matthew 7:15-20

Matthew 24:3-5, 23-25

Acts 20:28-30

2 Peter 2:1-3

In light of these Scriptures, and many others, why is it imperative for Christians to be aware of counterfeit gifts?

Read 1 John 4:1-6. How might we discern those who are false teachers?

Read 1 Peter 5:8-9

What is Satan seeking to do that makes him like a 'roaring lion'? What does this mean for us?

Assignment: Question to consider:

How have the discussions in today's session of Spiritual Gifts in relation to the Fruit of the Spirit, corresponding roles of the gifts, and counterfeit gifts, helped your understanding of the role of Spiritual Gifts in the Body of Christ

Closing Prayer