

Spiritual Gifts

Session 5 - Acts 2

Spiritual Gifts in Relationships: Serving God, Serving Others

Homework question discussion: Any further reflections or questions regarding the Fruit of the Spirit, corresponding roles of gifts, the use of talents, or counterfeit gifts?

Rick Warren has said:

You were shaped to serve God. God formed every creature on this planet with a special area of expertise. Some animals run, some hop, some swim, some burrow, and some fly. Each has a particular role to play, based on the way they were shaped by God. The same is true with humans. Each of us was uniquely designed, or '*shaped*,' to do certain things.

1. Read the following Scriptures:

Psalm 139:16; Ephesians 2:10; 2 Timothy 1:9 [referring to the Lord Jesus].
1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 1 Peter 2:9;

What do these scriptures say about the way and the why God has created us?

How does this reflect upon our relationship with God and with others?

2. God has created each of us in such a way so that we might serve Him and others through the His Body, the Church. As Rick Warren says, many people tend to look for a church "that meets my needs and blesses me," rather than, "whose needs can I meet?

Read: Galatians 5:22-26 and 1 Corinthians 12:7

How might living by the fruit of the Spirit and using our spiritual gifts help change the focus of our relationship with others in our church community?

How might such fruit and gifting also change our relationship with ourselves?

Spiritual Gifts and Witnessing

3. Read Acts 2:17-18

According to these verses, when will God dispense the gifts of the Spirit.? Who is to receive them? What gift in particular is given? Why do you think this is so?

If we understand that the life we have now is really a preparation for eternity with the Lord, how might we act differently, what change should occur within us?

Read Acts 2:37-41 - Peter was speaking to those gathered in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost and affirming to the crowd from the Old Testament that Jesus was indeed the Lord and Christ the Messiah (v.29-36).

After Peter finished his sermon, what was the response of the crowd?

What spiritual gifts do you think Peter was using to proclaim his message?

Most of us may not have the gift of evangelism, prophecy, missionary and even others. Nevertheless, God has a lifestyle to which He calls each one of us.

Read the following Scriptures. In what way do these scriptures describe and encourage us to reach out and witness to others, using both the fruit and the gifts of the Spirit?

Matthew 28:19-20 (Jesus is speaking); 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 (Paul is speaking); Acts 20:24 (Paul is speaking); Matthew 24:14 (Jesus is speaking).

Conclusion:

Spiritual Gifts are part of the overall equipment God gives to all believers to assure the health and growth of His body, the Church on earth.

The Gifts are to be used along with the Fruit of the Spirit and the corresponding roles of the Gifts.

The Church is called the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12, Romans 12:5, Ephesians 1:23). As we seek to keep our physical bodies healthy, so we need to do our part in keeping the Body of Christ healthy.

What ways do we seek to keep our physical bodies healthy? Then what ways can we seek the health of our local body of Christ? (Philippians 4:8-9)

Having now completed this course on Spiritual Gifts, consider asking yourself and pray about the following questions:

- What God-given ability or personal experience could I offer to my church?
- In what way can I see myself enthusiastically serving others and really enjoying it?
- Is anything holding me back from serving in an area God may be calling me to?
- Try experimenting with an area of ministry for which you believe you might have a spiritual gift. If you know a person in such a ministry, why not give them a call and discuss how you might try serving.

You may already be serving in a ministry using your Spiritual Gift, but perhaps haven't thought of yourself as being gifted by the Holy Spirit. That being the case, keep on serving in your area of ministry and be encouraged, knowing that the Holy Spirit is equipping and guiding you in the ministry God has chosen for you.

Do you have any questions you would like to share on the Gifts of the Spirit?

Closing Prayer