

Making Disciples As You Go  
Lesson Eight: Basics of Mentoring  
Introduction to Spiritual Gifts

I. Introduction:

This morning we are embarking on two weeks of the consideration of the essential and controversial topic of spiritual gifts.

“Perhaps no area of Biblical doctrine has been more misunderstood and abused, even within evangelicalism, than that of spiritual gifts. Yet no area of doctrine is more important to the spiritual health and effectiveness of the church.” – John MacArthur

Let us begin with two definitions:

- A “Natural Talent” is a God-given ability designed to benefit **MANKIND**. These usually result from a combination of genetics, training, interests, and influence.
- A “Spiritual Gift” is a God-given enablement for ministry bestowed on the Believer at conversion for the building up of the **CHURCH**. These result solely from the sovereign work of the Holy Spirit.

II. Discerning Spiritual Gifts – Part 1:

There is no single list of spiritual gifts in the New Testament. One must look at a number of texts to see them all (Romans 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 12-14, Ephesians 4:11, and 1 Peter 4:11). For our overview we will focus on one text.

➤ See 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

The word “Varieties” means apportionments or **ALLOTMENTS**. The meaning is that there are a variety of gifts given to different believers in different **MEASURES**. So, it is important to speak of your spiritual gifting as your “Gift **MIX**.”

This variety of gifts and service are set against the “sameness” or unity of the Spirit, of Jesus, and of the Father. This speaks to the importance of **UNITY** in **DIVERSITY**.

<sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—<sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. (Ephesians 4:4-6)

Q. How is the Body of Christ made stronger by diversity? How does the church maintain unity in a diverse environment?

➤ See 1 Corinthians 12:7

The word “Manifestation” means to make **KNOWN**, to make clear, or to make evident. The reality is that spiritual gifts are given to make the **HOLY SPIRIT** known in the church and in the world. This manifestation is for the “Common Good.”

<sup>15</sup> Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. (Ephesians 4:15-16)

Q. What would you say to the person who contends that they don’t need church to know Jesus? What would you say to the person who contends that they don’t need church to grow spiritually?

➤ See 1 Corinthians 12:8-11

Next week we will talk about the speaking gifts verses the service gifts and the difference between the permanent gifts and the temporary gifts. But, here we see the divine sovereignty of the Holy Spirit in **CHOOSING** which believers get which gifts.

Q. The Scriptures are honest that some believers will wrestle with discontentment and envy of others over spiritual giftedness. What truths do we need to keep in mind in order to guard ourselves from these negative attitudes?

So, our spiritual gifts are given by the Holy Spirit for a manifestation of His personhood and work for the **NECESSARY** common good of the Body Christ. How do we discern one’s giftedness?

1. Get **INVOLVED** and try things.
2. Seek the **OBSERVATIONS** of others.
3. Examine your **PASSIONS**.
4. Use **TOOLS**.

III. Conclusion:

The Body of Christ is an amazing organism capable of incredible things and yet only when each member of the Body is doing its God ordained and equipped part for the good of the whole. The fact that so many Believers either don't know or aren't using their spiritual gifts explains much of the weakness in the modern church in America. As disciple-makers we need to intentionally help people to not only discern their giftedness but to get plugged into "gift appropriate" service environments.

#### IV. Homework:

- From last week's homework, you should have mapped yourself onto the Spiritual Characteristics worksheet. This week, please look outwardly and take someone you are familiar with and could potentially see as a mentee and map your view of them on the worksheet. Then determine from the worksheet what a good next step would be for that person.

Memory Verse for the week:

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Corinthians 12:7)
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