

Making a Difference (Part 1)

Lesson 5

Spiritual Gifts

Introduction/Review

This Empowered session is called Empowered Purpose. The Lessons gave us all the opportunity to learn more about Knowing God; about Finding Freedom; and about Discovering Purpose. All of the Pastors did a wonderful job of explaining the lessons and insightful discussions happened at each table. Tonight, I have been asked to talk about Making a Difference. This is Part 1 of Making a Difference. Next week is Part 2 and the final week of this session. We all want to make a difference, but most of us are not sure how. So, tonight we will spend some time learning and discussing that we were designed and gifted by God to Make a Difference in the church and Kingdom of God. Let's begin.

A. Spiritual Gifts

The Bible states in the following scriptures: 1 Peter 4:10, " Each of you has received a gift to use to serve others. Be good servants of God's various gifts of grace." (EXB)

1 Corinthians 12:7 "Each believer has received a gift that manifests the Spirit's power and presence. That gift is given for the good of the whole community.)(VOICE)

Ephesians 4:7, "However, Christ has given each of us special abilities—whatever he wants us to have out of his rich storehouse of gifts. (TLB)

1. What is a Spiritual Gift?

A spiritual gift or grace is a manifestation of the Spirit that is given for the benefit of all. It is a supernatural endowment, its source is always Holy Spirit, and its purpose is the building up of others to the glory of God.

God gives spiritual gifts to all who have received Jesus as Savior, so that they will grow and mature in their faith, the needs of the church will be met, and God will be glorified. That means the way to make a difference in the

Kingdom of God is to take what we have learned in Bible study, worship and prayer and put our God-given gifts into action by serving others in this house (BLFC). Serving God by serving others is the fuel that expands our Christian faith into something tangible. Serving others by using our God-given gifts is the best way to make a difference in the Kingdom of God.

1. Where are Spiritual gifts found in the Bible?

1 Corinthians 12:4-7, “ God’s various gifts are handed out everywhere, but they all originate in God’s Spirit. God’s various ministries are carried out everywhere; but they all originate in God’s Spirit. God’s various expressions of power are in action everywhere; but God himself is behind it all. Each person is given something to do that shows who God is. Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. All kind of things handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people! The variety is wonderful.” (MSG)

Paul gives us four lists in three different letters. Each list is a little different from the others. We find the following Spiritual Gifts listed in Scripture. There is unity in the variety of gifts.

In **Romans 12:6-8** , Prophecy; Service; Teaching; Encouragement; Giving; Leadership; Mercy

I Corinthians 12: 8-10 Wisdom; Knowledge; Faith; Healings; Miracles; Prophecy; Discernment; Tongues; Interpretation

I Corinthians 12:28-30 Apostles, Prophets, Teachers, Miracles, Healings, Helps, Administration

Ephesians 4:11 Prophets, Evangelists, Apostles, Teachers/Pastors

NOTE: We are all commanded in scripture to do the following:

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| ● Serve one another | Galatians 5:13 |
| ● Exhort one another | Hebrews 10:25 |
| ● Give | 2 Corinthians 9:7 |
| ● Make Disciples | Matthew 28:19 |
| ● Show Mercy | Ephesians 4:32 |
| ● Walk by Faith | 2 Corinthians 5:7 |
| ● Witness/Evangelize | Acts 1:8 |
| ● Pray | I Thessalonians 5:17 |

B. What is my gift?

I Corinthians 12:7, “ Each believer has received a gift that manifests the Spirit’s power and presence. That gift is given for the good of the whole community.” (VOICE)

I Corinthians 12:27, “All of you together are Christ’s body, and each of us is a part of it.”(NLT)

Most often when we receive a gift, we are excited and can hardly wait to open it. However, in the church many of us do not know what our gifts are. If you were asked the question, “What is your spiritual gift?” What would you say? Most of you would say, “I don’t know .” I’m not sure about that! You, yes you have a gift. Your gift is vital to the work of God in our church family, otherwise God would not have placed you here. As a member of His body, you are important to the work in this House. God has given you a gift and a purpose for being here.

Spiritual gifts allow us to fulfill our purpose in the Church. We may have a variety of gifts, but the goal is always to build up the Body of Christ—the church. Paul uses the analogy of a human body with its many members to enable us to understand that although there are a variety of parts, we have a unity of purpose. **Unity with variety** is what Paul writes about the gifts. This unity enables the church to be an effective instrument in the Kingdom of God.

In a few minutes, you will be asked to take a Spiritual Gifts

Assessment/Inventory to discover your Spiritual Gifts. This tool will help you to know your gift/ giftings. The goal of this Lesson is to be equipped and Empowered to Make a Difference.

C. Motivated by love to make a difference

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 “ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrong. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices in the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.”(NIV)

No matter what spiritual gifts we have received, love must accompany the exercise of the gift, otherwise, the gift will be unfruitful. Love must always be the motivation for using the gifts, because love always protects and it never fails. If we are motivated by love as we exercise our gifts, we will Make a Difference in our church and the Kingdom of God.

D. Designed and gifted to make a difference (now)

Let the Pastors know you are ready to exercise your gifts. Of course, some gifts may need more developing than others.

1 Peter 4:10, “ Each of you has been blessed with one of God’s many wonderful gifts to be used in the service of others. So, use your gifts well.” (CEV)

The best way to use your gifts well is to begin now discovering, developing, and using your gifts to serve the Lord and His church. The great result of using your gift is the entire church family ministers to each other. That is the way the church is supposed to work. That is how we all grow together by serving each other. Remember you were designed and gifted to make a difference in our church and the Kingdom of God.