

Understanding Spiritual Gifts

Week 4 - What Does God Expect You to Do with Your Spiritual Gift?

REVIEW

- Spiritual Gifts fall into two categories: Speaking & Serving.
- You might be surprised to learn that the topic of Gifts in the N.T. are only covered in 4 places.
- Last week we looked at one of Paul's letters to the Corinthians concerning Gifts. Did you read 1 Cor. 12-14?
- Today we'll be looking at what Paul said to the church in Rome.
- The Book of Romans is divided into 2 sections:
 - Chapters 1-11 talks about what God has done to bring about salvation. **(WHAT GOD'S DONE)**
 - Chapters 12-16 Talks about what God expects us to do. **(WHAT WE SHOULD DO)**

Romans 12:1-2

¹ Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God - this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will.

What is Paul urging us to do here? Why?

- To be "molding" in His image; taking on God's attitude and actions.
- We should do this as both a form of worship (showing our love to God) and as a way to better understand God's will and plan for our lives.

What does Paul say is necessary for us to "test and approve" of God's will?

- To totally transform our way of thinking (not as the world thinks - but the way God thinks!)

How does this relate to using our Spiritual Gifts?

- To recognize the purpose and goals of the gifts. To build up the group - not our selves.

Romans 12:3-8

³ For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. ⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

Do all believers have the same Gifts?

- No, as previously covered - God gives as He pleases for His purpose.

List the 6 Gifts listed in V.7-8

- **SERVICE** - To attend, serve, aid, minister to
- **TEACHING** - to instruct, teach the truth of the Word in a clear and understandable way.
- **ENCOURAGE** - literally, "appeal, comfort, encouragement, urging."

- **GIVING** - Literally, "sincerely, generously - without pretense or hypocrisy; to encourage and provide, giving all credit to God's love and provision."
- **LEADERSHIP** - Literally, "to stand before"; the God given ability to lead others so that they follow the Lord.
- **MERCY** - to demonstrate compassion; to feel sympathy with the misery of another, especially sympathy to urges action; to extend help.

How would knowing your spiritual gift(s) enable you to more effectively serve your church?

- Since God has gifted you in an area - it's His plan for you to serve in that capacity for the advancement of the church.
- You'll find the ministry a joy and less/no burden to perform.

Have you ever tried to serve outside of your area of giftedness? If so, what happened?

Let's spend the rest of our time tonight looking at an example from scripture of one of the gifts in action.

Acts 4:36-37

³⁶ Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"), ³⁷ sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

Why did Joseph get this nickname?

- It was the attribute that people identified him with. It's "who he was!"

What Spiritual Gifts do you think Joseph had?

- Encouragement, Giving, Leadership...

SET UP THE NEXT PASSAGE - HAVE SOMEONE READ ACTS 9:22, 26-28

Acts 9:22, 26-28

²² Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Messiah.

²⁶ When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. ²⁷ But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. ²⁸ So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord.

How does Barnabas use his gift of Encouragement here? What was the result?

What difference did Barnabas make in Paul's life by using his Spiritual Gift here?

Acts 15:36-39

³⁶ Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us go back and visit the believers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing." ³⁷ Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, ³⁸ but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. ³⁹ They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus...

How does Barnabas use his gift of Encouragement here? What was the result?

What difference did Barnabas make in Mark's life by using his Spiritual Gift here?

CLOSING

- It's no accident that Paul, when writing to the church in Rome, says we have to present yourself as a sacrifice!
- SURRENDER to God's plan is the basis for being used by Him.
- The first step in being fully used by God in His plan is to give it all to Him to work with!
- Sitting in that Concert hall in Germany in 1992 - I turned it all over to God.
- Once you've surrendered it all to God, you're not swayed off course by the opinions and criticisms of others.
- Barnabas was/is a perfect example of perseverance in the face of opposition - EVEN with PAUL!!!