

Knowing and Operating in Your Spiritual Gifts



Session #11: Going Deeper to Find Your Place In God's Purpose

Ministry Moments: Have you had any ministry moments where you experienced a Holy Spirit gift at work? Either working through you to others, or others to you?

Session Focus: **Serve in a way that is pleasing to God.** (Ephesians 5:8-10)

Prayer: Lord, help us become "difference makers" in the kingdom of God. Help us know Your will and grant us the strength to carry it out, in Jesus' name.

Follow Up: **How can you serve God where you are right now? Can you commit yourself to grow through service in your LBS class?**

Investigation: Leadership, Miracles, Tongues, Interpretation of Tongues

LEADERSHIP: The special ability to influence and direct others toward a specific goal. Similar to the gift of Administration, those with this gift seem to have an independent determination with strong task and people skills. Often results-oriented, driven, and great motivators. **Active Ideal:** Lead by example with a servant's heart. **Trap to Avoid:** Being too demanding and impatient. **Verses:** Romans 12:6-8 (v.8c); John 13:13-17; Hebrews 13:17

MIRACLES: The special ability to authenticate a specific ministry or message of God. Those used in this powerful intervention of God, demonstrate tremendous faith in God's power and always glorify Him rather than self. **Active Ideal:** Point people to Christ and not to the "miracle worker." **Trap to Avoid:** Emotionally manipulating an audience or relying on showmanship. **Verses:** 1 Corinthians 12:10, 28-29; John 2:1-11; Luke 5:1-11

TONGUES and INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES: TONGUES is the special ability to speak in languages that may not be understood by most everyone present. The gift may manifest in three ways: 1) Speaking in a foreign language that the speaker does not understand but that others who are present do understand. 2) Speaking in a non-intelligible language known only to God. 3) Praying with words that only the Holy Spirit can understand. INTERPRETATION is the special ability to understand what has been spoken in tongues and to make it understandable to others present. **Active Ideal:** Edify believers through positive messages. **Trap to Avoid:** Being disruptive, overbearing, confusing, or elitist. **Respective Verses:** 1) Acts 2:1-12 (Pentecost); 2) 1 Corinthians 14:4-19; 3) 1 Corinthians 14:28

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Continuationists: Believe that all the gifts of the Spirit continue to be given by the Holy Spirit, to build the church, and should be prayed for and sought after.

Cessationists: Believe the miraculous gifts of the Spirit gradually disappeared from the life of the church after the death of John, the last apostle. They cite certain passages to build an extra-biblical case based on their own reasoning. However, they can cite no direct passages in the Bible that supports their position.

For an in-depth, exegetical, study consider, "Understanding Spiritual Gifts" by Sam Storms.

"...it would be foolish of us as Christians to expect that the house of God, the body of Christ, the church, will grow into what God has designed if we fail to make use of the tools he has supplied us by his Spirit."

"Yet there are a great many evangelical Christians who are happy to embrace the noun continuationist, yet are admittedly functional cessationists. They concur that the New Testament nowhere teaches that certain gifts of a particular sort ceased with the passing of the apostolic age. But they neither pursue them nor pray for them nor practice them. Theologically speaking, they would agree with the conclusions in this book. However, when it comes to exercising the full range of spiritual gifts, equipping others to do so, and implementing these gifts in the day-to-day ministry of the local church, they look no different from those who believe such gifts died out centuries ago."

In OT times, only prophets, priests, kings, and certain individuals (assigned tasks by God) experienced the power of the Holy Spirit on a regular basis. However, one's sin or failure in the task meant the Holy Spirit could be taken from you. **READ Ps. 51:11**

In NT times, every born again believer is permanently indwelt and empowered by the Holy Spirit. On the day of Pentecost, Peter said this: **READ Acts 2:16-18** (Joel 2:28)

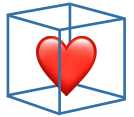
Are you getting a sense of how God might be calling you to serve, or what might be holding you back? (Is your faith being challenged?)

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MEMORY VERSE

God's Great Plan

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)
For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."



Christian Spirituality: Is the framework from within which we allow God's Holy Spirit to have His creative and transforming action on our soul.

Imagine 12 core values we can step into or "put on." – Eph. 4:22-24 [lines of the framework]

1. Rely on God's Way
2. Be Obedient
3. Be Forgiving
4. Be Truthful
5. Be Faithful, Trustworthy
6. Be Courageous
7. Be Giving, Generous
8. Be Humble, Meek
9. Be Hopeful, Helpful
10. Be Compassionate
11. Be Just, Righteous
12. Be Patient, Kind

Imagine 6 sides of the framework represent the active dimensions of a growing spiritual life.

1. We Worship
2. We Pray
3. We Study
4. We Serve
5. We Witness
6. We Fellowship