

Knowing and Operating in Your Spiritual Gifts



Session #12: 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 commit yourself to grow through service in the body of Christ?** (In your Life Bible Study? Other places?) **Are you resisting?**

Expanded Investigation: Craftsmanship, Intercession

CRAFTSMANSHIP: The special ability to design, craft and assemble things that are helpful to others. The use of this gift can be a tremendous blessing to those who need special help to put things together or make things from scratch. Those with this gift tend to be perfectionists and may specialize in a particular craft. **Active Ideal:** Seek to bless others in the work and not to gratify oneself. **Trap to Avoid:** Being too focused on the work and not on others. **Verses:** Exodus 31:1-3; Exodus 35:30-35. Other verses mention the application of skillful work, but not to it being Spirit-empowered. e.g. Acts 9:36-39; 2 Kings 22:5-6

INTERCESSION: Technically speaking, there are no scripture passages that uniquely define intercession as a Spirit-empowered gift. Instead, there is a general call for all believers to faithfully petition God on behalf of others, i.e. intercede. Some qualities we see, and that are reported by those drawn to intercession:

- Deep belief and an extra measure of faith that God will move in response.
- Offers daily, steadfast prayers for people or situations.
- Often experiences heartfelt empathy and passion toward each prayer point.
- Often burdened by a specific need of another, or by God for a situation.
- Often enjoy joining with other intercessors to collectively petition God.

Active Ideal: Confirm God's specific calling before dedicating oneself to a particular prayer effort. **Trap to Avoid:** Neglecting other needs or responsibilities. Being pushy or feeling superior. **Verses:** 1 Timothy 2:1-2

NOTE: If not a gift in itself, intercession can clearly be seen as a personal calling or ministry Spirit-empowered by one or more of other spiritual gifts.

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?)

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

You Are Unique, Uniquely Designed and Created with a Purpose in mind: Psalm 139:13-16 and Jeremiah 1:5

You are NOT, as the world teaches, a human being having a spiritual experience: You are a spiritual being having a human experience.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE ... Powerful, supernatural enablements given so we may serve God more effectively in the world and in the church; given by the Holy Spirit's sovereign choice.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE ...

- 1) NOT natural talents, but can complement them.
- 2) NOT given to just the elite.
- 3) NOT signs of spiritual maturity.
- 4) NOT the fruit of the spirit. (Galatians 5:22-23)
- 5) NOT something to be afraid of.

Paul provides a concise teaching about the purpose of spiritual gifts in a thread that runs through Eph. 4:1-16:

"...He gave gifts to his people" (v.4:8b)

• WHY?

"to equip the saints for the work of ministry" (v.4:12a)

• FOR WHAT PURPOSE?

"for building up the body of Christ," (v.4:12b)

• TO PRODUCE WHAT RESULT?

"...[to promote] the body's growth in building itself up in love." (v.4:16b)

When we exercise our spiritual gifts properly, growth is the result: both collectively and individually.

To operate in our spiritual giftedness we must first - **Believe and Receive** (which connects us to the power of God) and second, **Trust and Obey** (which serves to help us develop a life-giving relationship in faithful service).

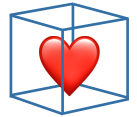
Find your 'ministry sweet spot': Where your **Passion** and **Ability** intersect with the **Needs** of the world around you.

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*

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