

THE GIFTS OF GOD

Midwest City Free Methodist Church

Good Gifts

I. Prayer and the Holy Spirit

A. Instructions on Prayer - *Luke 11:1-4*

1. Conversing with the Father - privilege and responsibility
2. Remembering the holiness of God - His Name and His Word
3. Declaring the Kingdom to come - justice and mercy on the Day of the LORD
4. Requesting help from God
 - a. *Give us our daily bread* - physical needs
 - b. *Forgive us our sins* - relational needs
 - c. *Lead us not into temptation* - spiritual needs

B. The Hospitality of God - *Luke 11:5-8*

1. No matter the circumstances, God is honorable
2. No matter what we need, God is generous
3. No matter the condition of our faith, God is gracious

C. The Nature of Faith - *Luke 11:9-13*

1. A holy desire of God leads to asking - unceasing prayer
2. A holy desire of God leads to seeking - righteous living
3. A holy desire of God leads to knocking - persevering hope
4. A holy desire of God leads to receiving - good gifts

II. Good Gifts

A. The First Good Gift is Forgiveness - *John 4:10*

1. God forgives our sins - thoughts, words, deeds, omissions
2. God forgives our sin nature - washes us clean by the blood of Christ
3. God forgives us as we forgive others - pass on the grace of God
 - a. Reconciliation - exchanging sin for grace
 - b. Restoration - healing for our brokenness, rebellion, suffering
 - c. Restitution - paying back what we owe
4. God's forgiveness comes with a cost - Jesus Christ
 - a. Jesus Christ reconciled humanity to God - perfect human
 - b. Jesus Christ restored humanity to creation - perfect sacrifice
 - c. Jesus Christ restituted humanity to Satan - perfect payment

B. The Second Good Gift is the Holy Spirit - *Acts 1:4*

1. The Holy Spirit comes to those who repent and believe
2. The Holy Spirit fills the disciple with the presence of God
3. The Holy Spirit empowers the disciple for service
4. The Holy Spirit encourages the disciple in times of testing
5. The Holy Spirit leads/guides the disciple in daily living
6. The Holy Spirit connects disciples to the body of Christ
7. The Holy Spirit brings spiritual gifts to the body of Christ and to each disciple

Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts

I. Spiritual Gifts

A. The Work of the Holy Spirit - *I Corinthians 12:1-11*

1. The Holy Spirit is the agent of salvation - 'Jesus is Lord'
2. The Holy Spirit gives different gifts
3. The Holy Spirit comes from the Father and the Son
4. The Holy Spirit gives every disciple a gift
5. The Holy Spirit determines which disciple gets which gifts

B. New Testament Definitions of Gifts

1. GK - *doron* - to give a gift in honor; to the poor; to give to God - *Matthew 2:11*
2. GK - *dorea* - a supernatural gift - Holy Spirit or righteousness - *Romans 5:17*
3. GK - *doma* - character or nature of the gift - *Matthew 7:11*
4. GK - *dosis* - the act of giving - *Philippians 4:15*
5. GK - *charisma* - a gift of grace from God
 - a. Grace for sinners - *Romans 5:15*
 - b. Empowerment for believers by the Holy Spirit - *Romans 12:6*
 - c. A gift from human instruction - *Romans 1:11*
 - d. The natural grace of God as Creator - *I Corinthians 7:7*
 - e. Grace given to answered prayer - *II Corinthians 1:11*

**charis* - grace or thanksgiving
**charismata* - plural form of *Charisma*
6. GK - *merismos* - dividing gifts or distribution of gifts - *Hebrew 2:4*

II. The Meaning of Spiritual Gifts

A. What Spiritual Gifts Are

1. The purpose of all spiritual gifts is to serve others and to glorify God - *I Peter 4:10*
2. Every Christian has been given a gift by God - *I Corinthians 12:7*
3. Every gift is important - *I Corinthians 12:15-16*
4. Gifts are sovereignly bestowed by God - *I Corinthians 12:11*
5. Every gift is given by God's grace - *Romans 12:6*
6. All gifts must be developed and exercised - *II Timothy 1:6*
7. Gifts reflect the nature and character of God - *John 15:5*
8. Love is the key to all spiritual gifts - *I Corinthians 13*

B. What Spiritual Gifts Are Not

1. Gifts are not acquired skills or natural talents - *II Corinthians 5:16*
2. Gifts are not roles - *Acts 1:8*
3. Gifts are not offices - *I Corinthians 16:16*
4. Gifts are not the fruit - *Galatians 5:22-23*
5. Gifts are not for self-gain - *I Corinthians 12:1-3*
6. Gifts are not divisive - *Matthew 7:15-20*
7. Gifts are not the same for everyone - *I Corinthians 12:4-6*

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Body Ministry

I. The Holy Catholic Church

A. New Testament Definitions and Metaphors for the Church

1. GK - *kuriakon* - belonging to the Lord - *Revelation 1:10*
2. GK - *ekklesia* - assembly of people; called out - *Matthew 16:18*
3. GK - *koinonia* - in common; fellowship; society - *II Corinthians 13:14*
4. GK - *oikos* - household; home; friends and family - *Acts 2:46*
5. GK - *soma* - body of Christ - living and active - *Ephesians 1:23*
6. GK - *numphe* - veiled bride waiting for the groom - *II Corinthians 11:2*

B. Triune Nature of the Church

1. *Coetus Electorum* - company of the elect or regenerated community - *Mark 13:20-22*
2. *Corpus Christi* - body of Christ - *Ephesians 4:12*
3. *Communio Sanctorum* - community of saints - *Acts 2:42*

C. The Body of Christ - *I Corinthians 12:12-26*

1. We are one unit made up of many parts - like pieces of a puzzle
2. We are all baptized by one Spirit - washed and renewed
3. We are all given one Spirit to drink from - empowered and strength
4. We treat no person with contempt - everyone has value
5. We need every person to do their part in the church
6. We do not envy other people's gifts, talents or calling
7. We celebrate the diversity of the church and work in unity
8. We give equal concern to everyone in the church - in suffering and in rejoicing
9. We recognize the gifts of spiritual leadership - anointing and appointing
10. We desire the greater gifts that God gives - onward and upward

II. Life in the Body

A. Holy Spirit - *Ephesians 1:13-14*

1. We have been marked by the Holy Spirit - set apart
2. We have a deposit that guarantees our inheritance - quench/extinguish

B. Peace - *Ephesians 2:14-18*

1. We are created new by the cross of Christ
2. We have access to Father God by the Spirit

C. Love - *Ephesians 3:14-19*

1. We are rooted and established in God's love
2. We may be filled with the full measure of God

D. Unity - *Ephesians 4:3-6*

1. We need each other - community of shared faith and holy love
2. We respect each other - all service ranks the same with God
3. We relate to each other - connected by water and Spirit

E. Sacrifice - *Ephesians 5:29-33*

1. We give up our rights to help others find holiness and peace
2. We love others with the love of God - redeeming love

F. Warfare - *Ephesians 6:10-18*

1. We put on the armor of God - head, heart, loins, hands, feet
2. We stand firm as a body of Christ - watching and praying

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Sacrificial Living

I. Practical Sainthood - *Romans 12:1-8*

A. Offering Our Bodies to God - *v.1*

1. Enfleshing the gospel of Jesus Christ - incarnational living
2. Living in the Spirit of God - overflowing with grace
3. Leaning into the presence of God - worship

B. Renewing Our Minds - *v.2*

1. Changing the way we live through the Word and Spirit
 - a. Disciplines: prayer, study, worship, fasting, fellowship
 - b. Behaviors: submitting, serving, forgiving, blessing, caring
2. Transforming the way we think through holy input

C. Examining Our Selves - *vv.3-5*

1. Listening to others as they hold us accountable
2. Recognizing our strengths and weaknesses within our personality
3. Accepting our limits as human beings
4. Humbling ourselves before others - lifting them up

D. Using Our Gifts in the Body of Christ - *vv.6-8*

1. We all have different gifts - do not envy
2. We must use our gifts for the glory of God
3. We must put our faith into practice

II. Action Verbs for Sacrificial Living - *Romans 12:9-21*

A. Fulfilling the Law of Love

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|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Be sincere | 16. Rejoice |
| 2. Hate evil | 17. Mourn |
| 3. Cling to good | 18. Live in harmony |
| 4. Be devoted | 19. Avoid pride |
| 5. Honor others | 20. Connect |
| 6. Never lack zeal | 21. Avoid Conceit |
| 7. Keep fervor | 22. No retribution |
| 8. Serve the Lord | 23. Do right |
| 9. Be joyful | 24. Live in peace |
| 10. Be patient | 25. No revenge |
| 11. Be faithful | 26. Feed others |
| 12. Share | 27. Offer drink |
| 13. Practical hospitality | 28. Do not embrace evil |
| 14. Bless | 29. Overcome |
| 15. Do not curse | |

B. Marks of True Christianity

1. *Joyful in hope* - Christians rejoice in the purposes of God
2. *Patient in affliction* - Christians wait for the power of God
3. *Faithful in prayer* - Christians live for the presence of God