

S P I R I T U A L G I F T S



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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank you to Peggy Lively, Susie Pigg, and Holly Knott for your tedious content and formatting edits.

Thank you to James & Valerie Pool for your prayer, wisdom, and suggestions. Thank you particularly for sharing your learned insights on how to identify our spiritual gifts, as used in Lesson Nine.

And thank you to the Highland Women discipleship team (Beth Smith, Lydia Mathis, and Peggy Lively) for your vision for disciple-making, and for demonstrating to many what it looks like to walk in the Spirit. You faithfully shepherd the women of Highland to be intentional disciples of Jesus Christ, and we are a healthier ministry because of it.

Written by: Emily Kelly

Designed and formatted by: Hannah Coleman

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to your nine-week introduction to spiritual gifts, God's manifold grace given to His people. May God bless your desire to understand and use the gifts entrusted to you.

Below are two things we are asking the Lord to do over the next nine weeks:

- 1. We pray that He will lay a firm, Biblical foundation for your understanding of spiritual gifts.
- 2. We pray that by the grace given to you, you will learn how to lay down your life for the glory of God and for the good of your sisters and brothers in Christ.

The Scriptures tell us that God predetermined the period in which you and I now live (Acts 17:26). Biblical scholars have called this period between Jesus' first and second coming "the age of fulfillment," a time when Old Testament (or Old Covenant) promises are now being fulfilled. One of those fulfillments is the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit (Ez. 36:26-27). Part of the Spirit's role is to make His home within disciples of Jesus, empowering us to glorify Him through moment by moment submission to His lordship- including in service to His Church (1 Cor. 1:7).

Sam Storms defines spiritual gifts as "capacities or abilities imparted to Christians by the Holy Spirit to enable them to exceed the limitations of their finite humanity in order to serve other believers to the glory of God" (Storms, Sam. September 2020. samstorms.org). The Spirit of God distributes spiritual gifts among God's people, empowering us to serve the Church together as one Body, though in different ways (1 Cor. 12:4-11).

While a believer's spiritual gift(s) often complement his or her natural gifts, they are not the same thing. For example, you may be naturally gifted at public speaking, but not have the gift of teaching. Or you may have been born without a tendency to care about the needs around you, but at salvation received the gift of

mercy. In addition, no disciple is exempt from serving outside our spiritual gifts as needs arise. For example, regardless of our gifts, the Scriptures call all disciples to spread the gospel (Acts 1:8), to show mercy (Col. 3:12), to give generously (Matt. 10:18), to teach (Col. 3:16), to exhort (Heb. 3:13), etc. The key is to be attuned to the needs around us, and to lay down our lives for others as the Spirit leads. As you will see in the weeks ahead, there is unity, edification, and personal joy to be found when we steward our gifts according to God's intent: for HIS glory and for the good of His Church.

In Part One of this study, you will look at the New Covenant coming of the Holy Spirit. In Part Two, you will build on that foundation by examining what the Scriptures say about the gifts He distributes. Each lesson is intended to be completed as individual homework over the course of one week, then discussed in a small, discipleship group setting. We believe that the best way to identify our spiritual gifts, and to determine how to practice them, is to do so within the context of intentional relationships. If you have not already done so, consider inviting one or two other followers of Christ to join you in this study. Pick a set, weekly time to meet at a quiet location, to prayerfully discuss what God is teaching you from His Word.

In Romans 12:6, the apostle Paul writes to fellow disciples of Jesus, "Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them." May the Lord deepen your understanding of His Spirit and of spiritual gifts, as laid out in His Word. And may He empower you, by the grace given to you, to lay down your life and use your gifts for His glory and for the good of His Church.

In Christ,

Emily

DEFINITIONS

Covenant: A covenant is a solemn, binding agreement between two parties. God has always related to people on the basis and terms of covenant.

[The word] Covenant is used approximately 298 times in the Word of God. The Old Testament (Hebrew) word for covenant is transliterated berîyth and is pronounced ber-eeth'. It is 'a compact (... made by passing between pieces of flesh).' The (Greek) New Testament word translated 'covenant' is transliterated diathēkē. It means "'a disposition, i.e. (spec.) a contract (espec. a devisory will)'. (Arthur, Kay. Covenant, Precept Ministries, p. 6)

ALL God's dealings with men have had a covenant character. It hath so pleased him to arrange it, that he will not deal with us except through a covenant, nor can we deal with him except in the same manner. - (Spurgeon, C.H. The Blood of the Everlasting Covenant. October, 1859. https://rb.gy/v3jb3)

Listen to Kay Arthur's brief explanation of covenant through this link:



hbcwaco.net/KayArthur

Listen to the Bible Project's explanation of Biblical covenants here:



hbcwaco.net/BiblicalCovenants

Old Covenant: The Old Covenant is the name for the covenant initiated by God with the people of Israel through Moses on Mount Sinai (see Ex. 19-24). The Old Covenant was in effect until Jesus' coming, when He inaugurated the New Covenant.

New Covenant: The New Covenant replaced the Old Covenant at the coming of Christ and remains in effect until His return (Luke 22:20, 1 Cor. 11:25, 2 Cor. 3:6, Heb. 8:8, 13, 9:15, 12:24). It is on the terms of this New Covenant that God now relates with people.

For more information, look up this article from The Gospel Coalition on the Old Covenant versus the New Covenant:



hbcwaco.net/NewCovenant

PART ONE:

THE PROMISED HOLY SPIRIT

Those who have received the Holy Spirit are aware of a power dealing with them and working in them. A disturbance, something, someone interfering in our lives. We are going along, and suddenly we are arrested and pulled up, and we find ourselves different. That is the beginning; that is what always happens when the Holy Ghost begins to work in a human being. There is a disturbance, an interruption to the normal ordinary tenor of life. There is something different, an awareness of being dealt with—I cannot put it better; that is the essence of the Holy Spirit dealing with us. (Martin Lloyd-Jones, Life in Christ: Studies in 1 John, 386)

GRACE GIVEN: LESSON 1

THE PROMISED HOLY SPIRIT

In Ephesians 1:3, the apostle Paul writes to New Covenant disciples of Jesus, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places." Paul then lists several of these blessings, finishing with,

In Him [Christ], you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in Him [Christ], were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of His [Christ's] glory (vv. 13-14, emphasis mine).

In these two verses, we see the following truths about the blessing of the Holy Spirit:

BLESSING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- 1. The Holy Spirit was **promised**.
- 2. God's people are <u>sealed</u> with the Holy Spirit <u>the moment we</u> <u>believe in Jesus.</u>
- 3. The Holy Spirit is the <u>guarantee</u>, or the down-payment, of believers' <u>future inheritance</u>.
- 4. The Spirit indwells God's people <u>until the day we acquire</u> <u>possession of our inheritance</u> (He makes His permanent home within believers from the moment Jesus saves us until we see Him face to face!).

Paul also says in 1 Corinthians 12:11 that part of the Spirit's New Covenant role is to distribute spiritual gifts among believers in Jesus. For this reason, Part One of our study of spiritual gifts is composed of a three-week introduction to His coming, as promised under the Old Covenant and fulfilled in the New Covenant.

We encourage you to spread this lesson out over several days so that your mind and heart can absorb what you are reading. But before you continue, pause to ask the Lord to use these first three weeks of study to give you a firm foundation for your understanding and practice of spiritual gifts.

OLD COVENANT PROPHECY

Look up the following passages, which contain promises God made under the Old Covenant in reference to what He would one day accomplish through the New Covenant. Record what you learn about the promised Holy Spirit, along with any purpose that God gives behind His promises.

Ezekiel 36:22-23, 26-27

Joel 2:28-29

NEW COVENANT FULFILLMENT

The Messenger

Hundreds of years after the above promises were made, God raised up a messenger named John. John's preaching heightened the anticipation of the coming Messiah, the One who would inaugurate the New Covenant and send His Spirit.

Read Mark 1:2-8, paying attention to what is said about John the Baptist.

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send My messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, ³ the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight,'" ⁴ John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And he preached, saying, "After me comes He who is mightier than I, the strap of Whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I have baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

1.	What had God said about His messenger through the prophet Isaiah? (vv. 2-3)
2.	How does verse 4 say that John prepared the way for the Messiah?
3.	How did people respond to John's message? (v. 5)
4.	How did John describe Him who would come after him? (v. 7)
5.	What would this Person do? (v. 8)

Jesus Christ

We now transition to the earthly ministry of Jesus, the One whom John the Baptist faithfully preached. Read Mark 1:9-11 below, paying attention to everything you observe about Jesus and about the Holy Spirit, then answer the following questions.

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ And when He came up out of the water, immediately He saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on Him like a dove. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven, "You are My beloved Son; with You I am well pleased."

- 6. What happened when Jesus came from Nazareth? (v. 9)
- 7. What did He see when He came up out of the water? (v. 10)
- 8. What did the voice say to Jesus? (v. 11)

Read John 1:32-34 below to see John the Baptist's testimony regarding this experience. Pay attention to each reference to the Spirit and to the word "baptize(s)".

And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on Him. ³³ I myself did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴ And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

WORD STUDY

Baptizes, baptizō [Greek]

- to dip repeatedly, to immerse, to submerge (of vessels sunk)
- to cleanse by dipping or submerging, to wash, to make clean with water, to wash one's self, bathe
- to <u>overwhelm</u>

From Outline of Biblical Usage, Larry Pierce

9. What did John witness regarding the Spirit? (v. 32)
10. When we could distribute as I among to I along (or 22)
10. Who revealed the identity of Jesus to John? (v. 33)
11. How would Jesus' baptism differ from John's? (v. 33)
Read Luke 4:14 below, paying attention to references to Jesus, the Spirit, and power. The events of this verse follow Jesus' baptism, and His subsequent temptation and triumph in the wilderness.
And Jesus returned [from the wilderness] in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about Him went out through all the surrounding country. And He taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.
12. How did Jesus return to Galilee?
13. How did people respond to His teaching?

REFLECT

14. What did you learn about God the Father from your time in His Word this week?										
	Jesus?									
	The Holy Spirit?									
Jesu	At the start of this lesson, we read in Ephesians 1:13 that the moment someone responds to as' gospel with belief, he or she is sealed with the promised Holy Spirit. Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 Romans 10:9 below.									
	For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures (1 Cor. 15:3-4)									
	Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. (Rom. 10:9)									
use	s there been a time when you responded in faith and repentance to the gospel of Jesus? If so, the space below to record that miracle. If not, consider reaching out to your discipleship group ler to discuss this more in-depth.									

GRACE GIVEN: LESSON 2

THE HELPER

NEW COVENANT PROMISES FULFILLED: CONTINUED

Last week you saw a glimpse of Old Covenant prophecies and the beginnings of New Covenant fulfillment. You read about Jesus' baptism and the launch of His earthly ministry by the power of the Holy Spirit. This week we will continue to learn about the coming of the Holy Spirit, this time directly from the words of Jesus.

As you begin, ask God to grant you understanding of what He is speaking through His Word and a deep joy in what He is teaching you.

The Helper

Read following passages, which contain some of Jesus' final words to His closest disciples shortly before His crucifixion. Pay attention to references to Jesus and the Holy Spirit, then answer the following questions.

Read John 14:12-17.

"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in Me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ Whatever you ask in My name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it. ¹⁵ "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. You know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you."

WORD STUDY

Helper, paraklētos [Greek]

- summoned, called to one's side, esp. called to one's aid one who pleads another's cause before a judge, a pleader, counsel for defense, legal assistant, an advocate
- in the widest sense, a helper, m. succourer, aider, assistant

 of the Holy Spirit destined to take the place of Christ with the
 apostles (after his ascension to the Father), to lead them to a
 deeper knowledge of the gospel truth, and give them divine
 strength needed to enable them to undergo trials and
 persecutions on behalf of the divine kingdom

From Outline of Biblical Usage, Larry Pierce

1. What other names of the Holy Spirit does Jesus mention in this passage? What do these names communicate about Him? (vv. 16-17)
2. Why would believers in Jesus do the works that He did, and do even greater works? (v. 12)
3. What would Jesus do for His disciples, and why? (vv. 13-14)
Does He give any conditions?
4. What would Jesus ask of the Father? (v. 16)
5. Who cannot receive the Spirit, and why not? (v. 17)
6. What was the disciples' relationship with the Spirit? (v. 17)
Read John 15:25-27.
"These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness about Me. ²⁷ And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning."
7. Who would send the Spirit to the disciples? (v. 26)
From whom does He proceed?

What would those to whom He is sent do?
Read John 16:4-15, underlining each activity that the Spirit would do at His coming.
"I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵ But now I am going to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?' ⁶ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. ⁷ Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send Him to you. ⁸ And when He comes, He will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰ concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see Me no longer; ¹¹ concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. ¹² I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth, for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak, and He will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify Me, for He will take what is Mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ All that the Father has is Mine; therefore I said that He will take what is Mine and declare it to you."
9. Why had sorrow filled the disciples' hearts? (vv. 4-6)
And yet, why was it to their advantage that Jesus go away? (v. 7)
10. In the space below, list what the Spirit would do after Jesus sent Him to them. (vv. 8-15)
11. In case you missed it on your list, who would the Spirit glorify? (v. 14)

8. What would the Spirit do? (vv. 26-27)

REFLECT

12. What did you learn about God the Father from your time in His Word this week?
Jesus?
The Holy Spirit?
13. How does knowing the Spirit as "the Helper" and as "the Spirit of truth" help you discern His role in your everyday life?
How does this increase your appreciation of Him?
14. Do you find it hard to believe that the New Covenant presence of the Spirit is more advantageous to you than the physical presence of Jesus? Why or why not?
15. How might your answer to number 11 help you identify whether or not a ministry, service, or activity, is a work of the Spirit?

GRACE GIVEN: LESSON 3

PROMISE FULFILLED

Last week we read Jesus' promise to send the Holy Spirit to His disciples after ascending to the Father. In John 14:15-16 we read Jesus' promise, "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you." Take a moment to thank the Lord for sending you His Spirit, and ask Him to be your Teacher throughout this lesson.

THE GREAT COMMISSION

After three years of ministry, His crucifixion, and His resurrection, Jesus ascended into heaven where He sat down at the right hand of the Father (Hebrews 1:3). But before He left, He gave His disciples one final commissioning.

Read Matthew 26:18-20, paying attention to the words "authority" and "disciples."

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

WORD STUDY

Authority, exousia [Greek]

- power of choice, liberty of doing as one pleases leave or permission
- physical and mental power
 the ability or strength with which one is endued, which he either possesses or exercises
- the power of authority (influence) and of right (privilege)
- the power of rule or government (the power of him whose will and commands must be submitted to by others and obeyed)

Make disciples, mathēteuō [Greek]

- to be a disciple of one to follow his precepts and instructions
- to make a disciple to teach, instruct

From Outline of Biblical Usage, Larry Pierce

1. Based on verse 18 and the word study above, describe the authority that was given to Jesus.
2. By His authority, what did He appoint His disciples to do? Consider the word study above to help with your answer. (vv. 19-20)
What hope did He give with this command? (v. 20)
Read Acts 1:8, paying attention to references to "power."
"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."
3. Who would come upon Jesus' disciples, and what would they receive with His coming? (Acts 1:8)
What would be the result of this gift? (Acts 1:8)

ANOINTED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND WITH POWER

Read Acts 10:37-39 below to see Peter's witness regarding Jesus' baptism.

"You yourselves know what happened throughout Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. ³⁹ And we are witnesses of all that He did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem."

WORD STUDY

Anointed, chriō [Greek]

• to anoint

consecrating Jesus to the Messianic office, and furnishing him with the necessary powers for its administration

enduing Christians with the gifts of the Holy Spirit

From Outline of Biblical Usage, Larry Pierce

4. What did God do at the baptism of Jesus? (v. 38)

5. What did Jesus do after this, and why? (v. 38)

The Greek word translated as "anointed" in Acts 10:38 is the same word used to describe the anointing of believers in 2 Corinthians 1:21-22:

And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, ²² and who has also put His seal on us and given us His Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

6. What has God done for those who are in Christ? (vv. 21-22)								
7. Considering what you have learned this week, what is the correlation between the anointing (or baptism) of the Spirit at salvation, and the ministry that takes place afterwards?								

REFLECT

8. What did you learn about God the Father from your time in His Word this week?
Jesus?
The Holy Spirit?
9. Think about your current spheres of influence. It could be your home, your neighborhood, your workplace, the greater Waco community, your local church, etc. How does Christ's command to make disciples apply to those areas of your life?
How does the anointing of the Spirit at salvation make this command possible to fulfill?
10. If you have time left in your week, read Acts 2:1-21. This is Luke's record of the Holy Spirit's coming on the day of Pentecost, the fulfillment of Old Covenant prophecies and of Jesus' promise to His disciples.
11. In the space below, write a prayer of response to what the Lord taught you this week. Thank Him for the Spirit's empowerment to glorify Jesus among the people around you.

PART TWO:

GRACE GIVEN

Instead of first asking, "What is my gift?", ask the question, "Who is in need?" If God's people would look outward before they look inward, they will encounter the charismatic and empowering presence of the Spirit to equip them for every good deed. If you're still bewildered by what may or may not be your spiritual gift, act first and ask later. If we would devote ourselves to praying, giving, helping, teaching, serving, and exhorting those around us, the likelihood greatly increases that we will walk headlong into our gifting without ever knowing what happened. God will more likely meet us with his gifts in the midst of trying to help his children than he ever would while we're taking a spiritual gifts analysis test. (Storms, Sam. September 2020. samstorms.org)

GRACE GIVEN: LESSON 4

GRACE GIVEN

The Holy Spirit has been active on earth from the beginning of creation (Gen.1:1-2). And yet Jesus' crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension marked the beginning of the age of fulfillment. In this age, the Spirit would come more powerfully than ever before, anointing every believer in Jesus to "go and make disciples."

We now turn to the New Testament epistles to learn what the early church was taught regarding the Holy Spirit's role under the New Covenant. This week we will look into "spiritual fruit" and "spiritual gifts." Remember to spread this lesson out over several days so that you have adequate time to reflect upon the Scriptures. Ask God for His wisdom, knowing that He "gives generously to all without reproach" (Jas. 1:5).

SPIRITUAL FRUIT

Read Galatians 5:16-26 below, paying attention to every reference to the Holy Spirit.

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

1. Review what you learned from Ezekiel 36:22-23 and 26-27 in Lesson One. How do you see Old Covenant promises align with Paul's New Covenant instructions to the Church?

2. In the space below, list the fruit of the Spirit as described by Paul. (vv. 22-23)

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

The book of Romans was also written by the apostle Paul. It's important to note that before addressing spiritual gifts in chapter 12, he primarily dealt with sound doctrine and godly living in chapters 1-11.

Read Romans 12:1-8, paying attention to every reference to the words "one" and "grace." Underline the specific gifts mentioned in verses 6-8.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷ if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

WORD STUDY

Gifts, charisma [Greek]

- a favour with which one receives without any merit of his own
- the gift of divine grace
- grace or gifts denoting extraordinary powers, distinguishing certain Christians and enabling them to serve the church of Christ, the reception of which is due to the power of divine grace operating on their souls by the Holy Spirit

From Outline of Biblical Usage, Larry Pierce

3. How are believers in Christ to present our bodies before the Lord? (vv. 1-2)
How does this relate to the exhortations that follow regarding spiritual gifts?
4. How ought a person to think about himself or herself? (v. 3)
How does this relate to the following words about spiritual gifts?
5. What analogy does Paul use to describe the Church? (vv. 4-5)
6. Look at the chart on page 67 he Appendix and record the specific gifts mentioned in this passage. (vv. 6-8)
The apostle Peter wrote 1 Peter to believers in Jesus around 62 A.D., during the reign of Emperor Nero. Read 1 Peter 4:7-11 below, noting the instructions he gives his readers. Underline the two types of gifts mentioned in verse 11.
The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. ⁸ Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹ Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: ¹¹ whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves

by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

WORD STUDY

Varied, poikilos [Greek]

- a various colours, variegated
- of various sorts

Steward, oikonomos [Greek]

• the manager of household or of household affairs

From Outline of Biblical Usage, Larry Pierce

7	Howa	re belie	evers to	1:170	in li	oht	of i	the	time) C2	x 7x 7	7	10	١
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How would having this heart posture affect the way we steward our spiritual gifts?

- 8. Who has received a gift? (v. 10)
- 9. How are we to use these gifts? (v. 10)
- 10. In the space below, name the two types of gifts Peter mentions and how they are to be handled. (v. 11)
- 11. What is the end result of stewarding our spiritual gifts in the way Peter lays out? (v. 11)
- 12. What does Peter acknowledge about God at the end of this section of his letter? (v. 11)

How does this relate to the subject of spiritual gifts?

REFLECT

13. What did you learn about God the Father from your time in His Word this week?
Jesus?
The Holy Spirit?
14. What differences do you see between spiritual fruit and spiritual gifts?
What commonalities do you see?
15. Look at Galatians 5:16-21 again. What temptations might your flesh present as you seek to exercise gifts of the Spirit?
How would walking in the Spirit help protect you from those dangerous desires? (see Galatians 5:16)

16. Look again at the fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5. How can you more fully rely on the Holy Spirit to produce this in you this week?
17. Consider the word study you read on the word "varied." How do you see the various "colors" of spiritual gifts among the people in your local church?
18. Record a prayer in response in the space below, asking God for a deep appreciation for the various gifts He has given to His Church.

GRACE GIVEN: LESSON 5

UNITY OF THE SPIRIT

In Romans 12 we learned that as disciples of Jesus we are individual members of one Body, the Church. This week we will look more deeply into the unity of the Spirit, and what it looks like to protect that unity as we operate in our individual gifts. Before you begin this lesson, ask God to give you a deeper, Christlike love for His Church, so that the world might believe the gospel of Jesus.

ONE

Read Ephesians 4:1-16 below, an excerpt from Paul's letter to the church at Ephesus. As you read, pay attention to the word "one." Underline the gifts mentioned in verse 11.

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. 7 But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8 Therefore it says, "When He ascended on high He led a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men." 9 (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that He had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is the One who also ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) 11 And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

WORD STUDY

Unity, henotēs [Greek]

- Unity
- Unanimity, agreement

From Outline of Biblical Usage, Larry Pierce

WORD STUDY

The building up, oikodomē [Greek]

- (the act of) building, building up
 metaph. edifying, edification
 the act of one who promotes another's growth in Christian
 wisdom, piety, happiness, holiness
- a building (i.e. the thing built, edifice)

From Outline of Biblical Usage, Larry Pierce

passage. (v. 11)

1. V	What are disciples of Christ called to eagerly maintain? (v. 3)
2. I	Describe the oneness that exists among God's people. (vv. 4-6)
3. V	What was given, and how? (vv. 7-8)
	Who gave these gifts?
	When did He give them?
	How does this align with what you learned about the coming of the Spirit in Lesson Two (see John 16:7)

4. Look at the chart on page 67 of the Appendix and record the specific gifts you underlined in this

5. What is the role of the apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds, and teachers? (v. 12)
What is the role of the saints, or ALL disciples of Christ? (v. 12)
6. Use a few sentences to summarize the weighty, sacred purpose of these spiritual gifts. (vv. 12-16)
Read John 17:20-21, part of Jesus' High Priestly prayer before His crucifixion.
I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word, that they may all be one, just as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You have sent Me.
7. What did Jesus pray for those who would believe in Him? (v. 21)
8. To what does He compare the unity that we are to have as His disciples? (v. 21)
Do you believe that such unity is possible in the Church? Why or why not?

9. What is the result of such unity? (v. 21)
Read Ephesians 2:19-22.
So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, ²¹ in Whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²² In Him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.
10. Record what you learn about the role of Christ in His Body.
Read Jesus' words to Peter in Matthew 16:18.
And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.
11. Who is ultimately responsible for building up the Church?
Can the enemy prevent this work from being completed?

12.	What did you learn about God the Father from your time in His Word this week?
	Jesus?
	The Holy Spirit?
13.	Has your heart ever ached over unnecessary divisions that exist in the Church? Explain.
	How can you, by the grace given to you, contribute to unity where it seems to be lacking among God's people?
	How can you rest in the truth that Jesus is ultimately responsible for the building up of His arch?

15. How are you partnering with Christ to build up His Church
through humility, gentleness, and in bearing with fellow disciples of Christ? (vv. 2-3)
through ministry (service)? (v. 12)
through speaking the truth in love? (v. 15)
16. In the space below, write a prayer of intercession (i.e.: to make requests of the Lord) for your local church based on the truths you learned in God's Word this week.

GRACE GIVEN: LESSON 6

NOT UNINFORMED

For the next four weeks we will be in the New Testament letter 1 Corinthians, which was written by the apostle Paul to the church at Corinth. Chapters 1-6 contain his response to issues that the church had communicated to him. In chapters 12-14, he answers the questions they had brought to him about spiritual gifts. Before you begin your lesson, ask God to deepen your reverence of Him as He teaches you through these chapters.

I CORINTHIANS 12

Read 1 Corinthians 12 below. As you read, pay attention to references to the word "body." Underline the specific gifts that Paul mentions in verses 8-10 and 28-30.

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. ² You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus is accursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit. 4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills. 12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. 14 For the body does not consist of one member but of many. 15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? 18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²² On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, ²⁴ which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, 25 that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. ²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in

the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

WORD STUDY

Spiritual gifts, pneumatikos [Greek]

- relating to the human spirit, or rational soul, as part of the man which is akin to God and serves as his instrument or organ that which possesses the nature of the rational soul
- belonging to a spirit, or a being higher than man but inferior to God
- belonging to the Divine Spirit
 of God the Holy Spirit
 one who is filled with and governed by the Spirit of God
- pertaining to the wind or breath; windy, exposed to the wind, blowing

Uninformed, agnoeō [Greek]

- to be ignorant, not to know
- · not to understand, unknown
- to err or sin through mistake, to be wrong

Varieties, diairesis [Greek]

- division, distribution
- distinction, difference
 in particular, a distinction arising from a different
 distribution to different persons

Aportions, diaireō [Greek]

- to divide into parts, to part, to tear, cleave or cut asunder
- to distribute

From Outline of Biblical Usage, Larry Pierce

1. What is Paul's desire regarding spiritual gifts? (v. 1)
2. What is true about those who speak in the Spirit of God? (v. 3)
Why did Paul find this needful for them to know? (v. 2)
3. The word "but" is a term of contrast. List the contrasts Paul makes in verses 4-6.
4. Who receives a spiritual gift? (v. 7)
Why do they receive it? (v. 7)
5. Look at the chart on page 67 of the Appendix and record the specific gifts mentioned in this passage. (vv. 8-10, 28-30)
6. Who empowers the use of these gifts? (v. 11)

Look at 1 Corinthians 12 again, and answer the following questions.

7.	How is each person's spiritual gift determined? (vv. 11, 18, 24)
8.	What analogy does Paul use once again? (vv. 12-27)
	What point(s) is Paul making with this analogy?
9.	How are Jesus' disciples baptized? (v. 13)
	Who all is included in this?
	Review Ephesians 1:13-14, when does this take place?
10	. Why did God compose the Body the way that He did? (vv. 24-26)

11. What did you learn about God the Father from your time in His Word this week?
Jesus?
The Holy Spirit?
12. In your life as a disciple of Christ so far, have you been informed or uninformed about spiritual gifts?
Based on Paul's message in 1 Corinthians 12, why is it vital that you be informed by the Scriptures regarding your understanding and use of spiritual gifts?
As you continue in your study of spiritual gifts, how can you purposefully keep the Scriptures as your primary source regarding this subject matter?
13. In the space below, write a prayer of response to the Lord. Ask Him to grant you right, Biblical understanding concerning spiritual gifts.

GRACE GIVEN: LESSON 7

A MORE EXCELLENT WAY

This week, we are going to look at the need we have for the fruit of the Spirit as we steward our spiritual gifts. As you examine the Word of God, ask Him to reveal the motives and thoughts of your heart, and to produce His love in and through you.

I CORINTHIANS 13

1 Corinthians 12 closes with this statement from Paul: "But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way." This week we will focus our attention on this "more excellent way."

Read 1 Corinthians 13 below. As you read, draw a heart over every reference to love. Then answer the following questions.

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. ⁴ Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸ Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. ¹² For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³ So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

WORD STUDY

Love, agapē [Greek]

• affection, good will, love, benevolence, brotherly love

Tongues, *glōssa* [Greek]

- the tongue, a member of the body, an organ of speech
- a tongue

the language or dialect used by a particular people distinct from that of other nations

From Outline of Biblical Usage, Larry Pierce

WORD STUDY

Prophetic powers, prophēteia [Greek]

- From the Greek word prophētēs, or prophecy, which means:
 a discourse emanating from divine inspiration and declaring
 the purposes of God, whether by reproving and admonishing
 the wicked, or comforting the afflicted, or revealing things
 hidden; esp. by foretelling future events
- Used in the NT of the utterance of OT prophets

of the prediction of events relating to Christ's kingdom and its speedy triumph, together with the consolations and admonitions pertaining to it, the spirit of prophecy, the divine mind, to which the prophetic faculty is due

of the endowment and speech of the Christian teachers called prophets

the gifts and utterances of these prophets, esp. of the predictions of the works of which, set apart to teach the gospel, will accomplish for the kingdom of Christ

From Outline of Biblical Usage, Larry Pierce

1. Based on what you saw in 1 Corinthians 12 last week, what prompted Paul to write this portion of his letter?

2. In the space below, list the demonstrations of love listed in verses 4-8. Using the tools for interpretation in the Appendix, look up the meanings of two or three of these words in the original Greek. Write down what you learn next to each word.
Pause after recording each characteristic to consider what your ministry would look like if your love were expressed in this way.
3. Look at the list above. How might each of these demonstrations of love increase the fruitfulness of your spiritual gifts?
How would their absence in your life hinder the fruitfulness of your gifts?

4. Look up the following cross-references and record what you learn about Christlike love.
John 3:16
Romans 5:7-8
Romans 13:8-10
1 John 3:16-18
1 John 4:7-12
5. How is Christlike love different from the world's definition of love?
How does it oppose your flesh?
6. Review Galatians 5:16-22. How is love produced in Jesus' disciples?

7. What did you learn about God the Father from your time in His Word this week?
Jesus?
The Holy Spirit?
8. Slowly read through the list you made under number two. Are there people in your life to whom you struggle to show love?
8. How can you demonstrate Christlike love in your use of spiritual gifts?
9. Use the space below to write a prayer of confession and thanksgiving to the Lord. Thank Him for His forgiveness and for His empowerment to exercise spiritual gifts from a place of Christlike love (1 Jn 1:9, 2 Peter 1:3-4).

GRACE GIVEN: LESSON 8

LOVE AND SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Last week you examined the way of Biblical love, which is more excellent than exercising miraculous gifts of the Spirit. As you move into 1 Corinthians 14, ask the Lord for continued understanding. He is a patient Teacher! Continue to take your questions to Scripture, as the Bible is the primary way that He speaks to us. Trust His Word to inform your belief, understanding, and practice of spiritual gifts.

I CORINTHIANS 14

Read 1 Corinthians 14 below, circling references to tongue(s) and underlining references to prophesy/ prophesies.

Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.² For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit. ³ On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation. ⁴ The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church. ⁵ Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up. ⁶ Now, brothers, if I come to you speaking in tongues, how will I benefit you unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching? ⁷ If even lifeless instruments, such as the flute or the harp, do not give distinct notes, how will anyone know what is played? 8 And if the bugle gives an indistinct sound, who will get ready for battle? 9 So with yourselves, if with your tongue you utter speech that is not intelligible, how will anyone know what is said? For you will be speaking into the air. ¹⁰ There are doubtless many different languages in the world, and none is without meaning, 11 but if I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be a foreigner to the speaker and the speaker a foreigner to me. 12 So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church. ¹³ Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret. ¹⁴ For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. ¹⁵ What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also. 16 Otherwise, if you give thanks with your spirit, how can anyone in the position of an outsider say "Amen" to your thanksgiving when he does not know what you are saying? ¹⁷ For you may be giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not being built up. ¹⁸ I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. ¹⁹ Nevertheless, in church I would rather speak five words with my mind in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue. ²⁰ Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature. ²¹ In the Law it is written, "By people of strange tongues and by the lips of foreigners will I speak to this people, and even then they will not listen to me, says the Lord." ²² Thus tongues are a sign not for believers but for unbelievers, while prophecy is a sign not for unbelievers but for believers. ²³ If, therefore, the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your minds? 24 But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all, ²⁵ the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you. ²⁶ What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up. ²⁷ If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn, and let someone interpret. 28 But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them keep silent in church and speak to himself and to God. 29 Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said. 30 If a revelation is made to another sitting there, let the first be silent. ³¹ For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged, ³² and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets. ³³ For God is not a God of confusion but of peace. As in all the churches of the saints, 34 the women should keep silent in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak, but should be in submission, as the Law also says. ³⁵ If there is anything they desire to learn, let them ask their husbands at home. For it is shameful for a woman to speak in church. ³⁶ Or was it from you that the word of God came? Or are you the only ones it has reached? ³⁷ If anyone thinks that he is a prophet, or spiritual, he should acknowledge that the things I am writing to you are a command of the Lord. ³⁸ If anyone does not recognize this, he is not recognized. ³⁹ So, my brothers, earnestly desire to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. ⁴⁰ But all things should be done decently and in order.

WORD STUDY

Interpret, diermēneuō [Greek]

- to unfold the meaning of what is said, explain, expound
- to translate into one's native language

From Outline of Biblical Usage, Larry Pierce

1. Consider what you have learned the last several weeks about spiritual gifts. What is the ultimate purpose of tongues and prophecy?

2. How does Paul exhort the Corinthian believers in verse 1?
What specific spiritual gift does Paul highlight? (v. 1)
3. On the chart below, list the contrasts that Paul makes between the gift of tongues and the gift of prophecy in verses 1-5.

TONGUES	РКОРНЕСУ

4. How does Paul explain the need for interpretation of tongues in regards to building up the church? (vv. 26-28, 39-40)

5. What else do you learn from Paul regarding the gift of tongues? Look at every place that you see the word mentioned.
6. What is a possible result of prophecy? (v. 24-25)
7. What instructions does Paul give regarding the use of prophetic gifts? Be as specific as you can. (vv. $26, 29-40$)
8. Review 1 Corinthians 12:11, 18, and 28. As a reminder, how does a disciple of Jesus receive spiritual gifts, including the gifts of tongues and prophecy?
9. In the space below, list the facts regarding the interpretation of tongues. (1 Cor. 14: 5, 13, 26-28)

10. What did you learn about God the Father from your time in His Word this week?
Jesus?
The Holy Spirit?
11. How do these truths impact your life?
12. Consider Jesus' words in the Great Commission (Acts 1:8). How does the right, orderly use of the gifts mentioned in this chapter align with this?
13. Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-5. Chapter and verse numbers were not part of Paul's original letter. The content of chapter 14 flowed right into the content of chapter 15. How does Paul redirect the Corinthian church to matters of first importance?
14. Consider something from 1 Corinthians 14 that encouraged your heart. Spend a few minutes expressing thanksgiving to the Lord. Humbly ask for continued wisdom and discernment into what the Spirit is teaching through the Scriptures.

GRACE GIVEN: LESSON 9

STEWARDING YOUR GIFTS

You have now spent eight weeks building a foundation regarding the source, purpose, and function of spiritual gifts. This week you are going to bring the subject closer to home, as you prayerfully consider the spiritual gift(s) that God has given to you.

In 1 Peter 4:10, God tells us that we are to use our gifts "to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." We pray that as you narrow in on individual gifts, you will be equipped to identify them in yourself and in others, and to steward them for the glory of God and for the building up of His church.

IDENTIFYING YOUR GIFT(S)

1. Go to the link below, or scan the QR code, to access a free spiritual gifts assessment. As you complete this assessment, remember that no man made tool is without error. The purpose of this exercise is simply to help you narrow down the spiritual gifts that God may have given you. The best way to identify your gifts is to start serving in the context of the local church, to pay attention to the fruit that results, and to listen to what those closest to you see in you.



hbcwaco.net/assessment

Answer the following questions:

a. Were you surprised by your results?

b. How accurate, or inaccurate, do you believe these results are, and why?

0	D .1		:	4	C-11-	consider.
۷.	Delow	are	DOMES	w	Carefully	consider.

- a. Consider whether or not sin is hindering your fellowship with God (1 Jn. 1). Since the Spirit is the One who reveals and empowers our spiritual gifts, we are hindered from knowing and using them if we are grieving or quenching Him through unresolved sin in our hearts and lives. Remember that the spiritual gifts of Romans 12 are not mentioned until after Paul addresses the moral conflicts of Romans 1-11.
- b. How much time do you spend concentrating on the needs of others around you? Our gifts are stirred up and discovered as we focus on the needs of others rather than what our ministry is to be. A servant's heart is essential to discover our spiritual gift.
- c. Seek to discern your motives for helping and serving others. For example: Do you want others to see the truth clearly and respond to it? Do you receive joy in meeting practical needs? Do you wish to urge people on to spiritual maturity? Do you desire to motivate others to accomplish goals?
- d. What ministry activities do you feel yourself drawn towards, and why? These might be areas in which you can exercise your gift, and fulfill the motivations as described above.
- e. What kind of behaviors or patterns irritate or frustrate you in the Church? For example: not telling the full truth, the mishandling of the Scriptures, unorganized activity, insensitivity to the needs of others, ingratitude, etc. It might be that the opposite behavior or trait flows from a spiritual gift from God to you, intended to meet a need in His Body.
- f. Make a commitment to serve the Body of Christ. Allow the Lordship of Christ, your love for His Bride, and the joy of His Spirit guide you.

3. Turn to your lists of spiritual gifts on page 67 in the appendix. Using the tools for interpretation
on page 68, look up the meaning of the original word(s) in the original Greek, and any cross-
references that you can find that speak to the purpose and function of the gift(s) given to you. Record
what you learn in the space below.

4. Now choose one or two spiritual gifts from page 67 that you do not believe has been given to you, but you think may have been given to someone close to you (for example: a fellow member of your discipleship group). Follow the same instructions as above, and record what you learn below.

As we close out our study, prayerfully consider the following questions:
5. What do you believe to be your spiritual gift(s)?
Name specific ways below that you can use your gift(s) now to serve in and through the local church.
6. Look at your answer to number 4. How can you encourage those close to you in their spiritual gifts today?
7. Provide an example of when God has called you to serve outside of your gift(s).

8. How has your understanding of spiritual gifts changed over the last nine weeks?

9. How has God increased your Christlike love for His Body?	
10. In the space below, record a prayer of response to the Lord and all He has taught you the last nine weeks.	
Thank you for joining us in this study of spiritual gifts, God's manifest grace given to His Church.	
We learned in Ephsians 4:7 that "grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift." Purpose to live each day like this is true! May we all trust the Spirit moment by moment to empower us to lay down our lives for the good of the Church and the glory of God.	

APPENDIX

LISTS OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Rom. 12:6-8, Lesson 4	Eph. 4:11, Lesson 4

1 Cor. 12:8-10, Lesson 6	1 Cor. 12:28-30, Lesson 6

TOOLS FOR INTERPRETATION

CROSS REFERENCES

The Bible is its own best interpreter and never contradicts itself. When you read a passage of Scripture and want to learn more about it, look up other passages with similar content. The following are helpful, free tools to help you find correlating cross references:

A. *The margin of your study Bible*: Look at the superscript above the word, phrase, or verse in your Bible. Look up the correlating passages in the margin.

B. Blueletterbible.org or the Blue Letter Bible app

Watch the tutorial here: hbcwaco.net/BLB

C. *The ESV Bible app*: Look up the verse that you want to learn more about. Tap the superscript above the verse once and suggested cross references will appear!

WORD STUDIES

The Bible was originally written in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. The English language is not always able to capture the fullness of the meaning of the original text. Looking up the word in the original language can sometimes add depth of understanding and application of what you're reading. Below are free tools to help you conduct your own word studies:

A. *The Literal Word app*: Press and hold the word that you want to translate and its meaning will pop up!

B. Blueletterbible.org or the Blue Letter Bible app

Watch the tutorial here: hbcwaco.net/BLB2

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

BIBLE STUDIES

Covenant* Precept Upon Precept Bible study by Kay Arthur

Spiritual Gifts* Precept Upon Precept Bible study by Kay Arthur

*To purchase or to learn more about these studies at www.precept.org

BOOKS

Practicing the Power by Sam Storms

PODCAST EPISODES

Jerry Bridges' two-part sermon series on spiritual gifts: hbcwaco.net/JerryBridges

Let's Talk: hbcwaco.net/LetsTalk