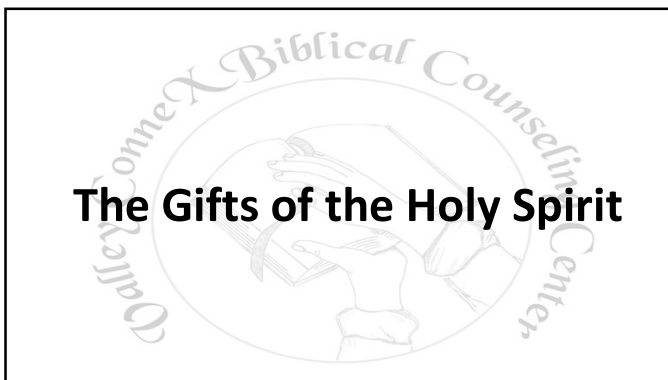
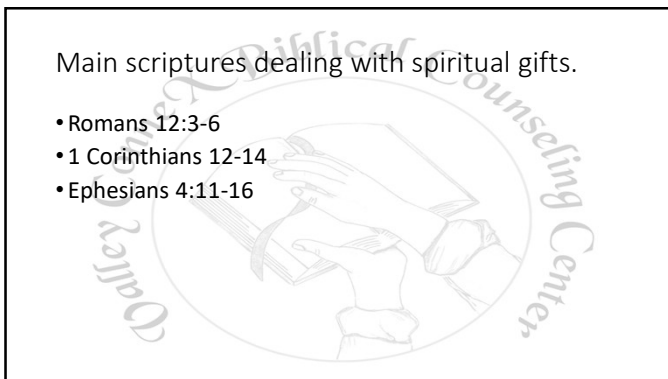


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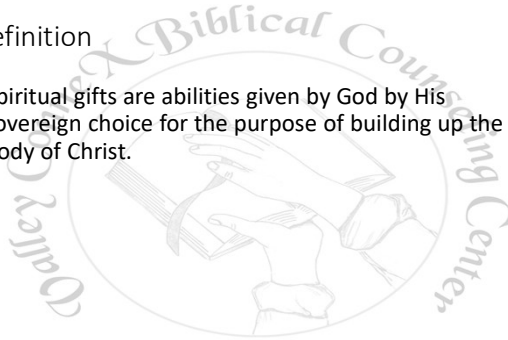
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3

Definition

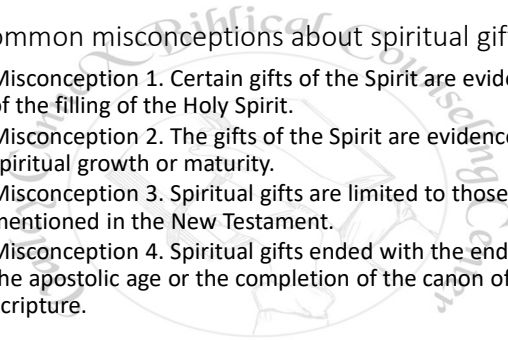
- Spiritual gifts are abilities given by God by His sovereign choice for the purpose of building up the body of Christ.



4

Common misconceptions about spiritual gifts.

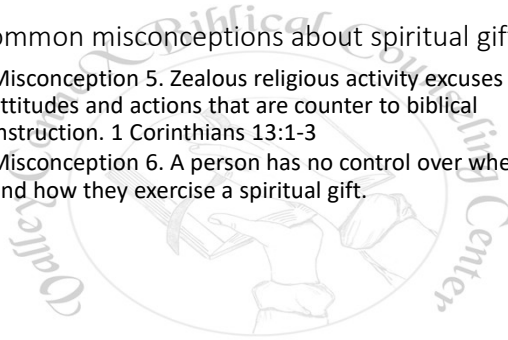
- Misconception 1. Certain gifts of the Spirit are evidence of the filling of the Holy Spirit.
- Misconception 2. The gifts of the Spirit are evidence of spiritual growth or maturity.
- Misconception 3. Spiritual gifts are limited to those mentioned in the New Testament.
- Misconception 4. Spiritual gifts ended with the end of the apostolic age or the completion of the canon of Scripture.



5

Common misconceptions about spiritual gifts.

- Misconception 5. Zealous religious activity excuses attitudes and actions that are counter to biblical instruction. 1 Corinthians 13:1-3
- Misconception 6. A person has no control over when and how they exercise a spiritual gift.



6

Two important tests for the alleged practice of a spiritual gift.

- Does this action exalt the Lord Jesus Christ?
 - *“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. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.” (John 16:13-14, ESV)*
 - *“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.” (1 Corinthians 12:3, ESV)*

7

Two important tests for the alleged practice of a spiritual gift.

- Does this action result in the building up of the body of Christ?
 - *“To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” (1 Corinthians 12:7, ESV)*
 - *“And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 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, 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. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 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.” (Ephesians 4:11-16, ESV)*

8

The corrective instruction for those confusing spirituality with the exercise of spiritual gifts is 1 Corinthians 13

- As biblical counselors we need to let the teaching of this chapter speak to us regarding our approach to those to whom we minister.
 - *“Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.” (1 Corinthians 13:4-7, ESV)*

9

The corrective instruction for those confusing spirituality with the exercise of spiritual gifts is 1 Corinthians 13

- This is a good place to take someone who is under the delusion that he or she has a special “anointing” from God but their actions and attitudes run counter to the descriptions given in 1 Corinthians 13.
 - Don’t assume this person is a believer. Some people are naturally zealous and are drawn to activism, eg. The Apostle Paul before conversion.

10

Some observations:

- Spiritual gifts have been and will continue to be mimicked or counterfeited. When done so they never pass the test of a true spiritual gift. The exercise of a true spiritual gifts has the effect of building up the body of Christ.
- Religious activity will often be offered as a proof of spirituality.

11

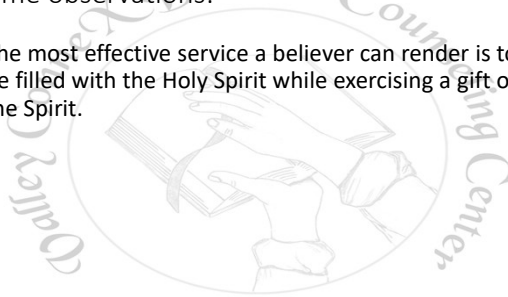
Some observation:

- Spiritual gifts give us the confidence that God’s people are competent to provide God’s counsel as He gives opportunity and equips for those opportunities.

12

Some observations:

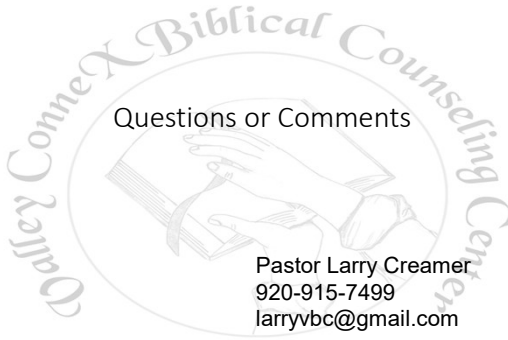
- The most effective service a believer can render is to be filled with the Holy Spirit while exercising a gift of the Spirit.



13

Questions or Comments

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14
