

Discipleship Group

Reaching • Growing • Sending

Week of February 26, 2017

Unwrapping the Gifts

Heartbeat

This week we continue our series entitled *Unwrapping the Gifts*. We will look at several specific gifts this week with a description of each and how they contribute to the life and ministry of the church. We have several overall goals for this study. First, we always want to be more in love with the giver than the gifts. Sometimes, believers become enamored with such gifts as prophecy, healing, miracles etc. and begin to focus and pursue those more than Jesus. Having said that, however, Paul does instruct us to earnestly desire spiritual gifts so we do want our people to understand their purpose and value and to have a hunger for them. Secondly, we want our people to identify the gifts that the Holy Spirit has given them and to begin to exercise those gifts if they have not been doing so. The *AssessMe* profile described at the end of this curriculum is an excellent way to help your group identify their gifts. Thirdly, we want our people to understand how to pursue and develop a gift they desire so *practical* is a key word for this study. Finally, we want to encourage the exercise and practice of these spiritual gifts within the group so that those with developed gifts can bless others and those who are discovering their gifts can practice them in a safe setting. Have fun!

Remember that we are offering a Q&A session each Sunday after each service to respond to questions raised by the sermons about spiritual gifts in SR2 across the foyer from the sanctuary.

Get to Know Me [5-10 Minutes]

- What is your favorite way to unwind at the end of the day?
- What is your “faith” background? What churches did you attend in the past (if any) and what spiritual experiences have been most significant for your growth?

Reach, Grow, Send [5-10 Minutes]

- Were you able to pray with anyone or have a spiritual conversation with anyone outside of our Mid-Cities family this past week? How did that go?
- If you took the *AssessMe* assessment, what were your top 2 or 3 spiritual gifts?

Exploration [20-30 Minutes]

This week, Pastor Daniel began to explore some specific spiritual gifts: knowledge, wisdom, faith, healings, and miracles. Before we get into specifics, let's talk a little more about spiritual gifts in general.

Read Ephesians 2:10

- How do you think spiritual gifts relate to this passage? Do you think we can effectively fulfill God's call on our life without the exercise of spiritual gifts? Why or why not?
- In your opinion, how are spiritual gifts and natural talents different? For instance, how is a spiritual gift for leading worship different from an amazing voice you would hear on a stage in Vegas? How is a spiritual gift of teaching different from a “gifted” atheistic lecturer at Harvard?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:7-11

- In simple language, what does “the manifestation of the Spirit” mean?
- Based on the sermon this week and/or from your own experience, how would you define these spiritual gifts discussed in this week’s sermon?

Message of wisdom / Message of knowledge / Gift of faith / Gifts of healing / Gift of miracles

- Can you recall a time in the life and ministry of Jesus when he displayed any of these gifts?

Application [20-30 Minutes]

Choose the questions most pertinent to your group with the allotted time you have left.

- When have you seen or experienced any of the gifts we just discussed?
- Have you ever witnessed someone using a gift of miracles? If so, tell us about it.
- Have you ever seen the abuse or misrepresentation of spiritual gifts? What did that look like and how did that experience affect you?
- 1 Corinthians 12:31 says that we should “desire the greater gifts.” The Amplified version says it this way: “earnestly desire and *strive for* the greater gifts...”. This implies there is effort on our part to pursue spiritual gifts. What do you think it would look like to pursue or strive for spiritual gifts?

Leader Note:

Check your motive for desiring the gift. Is it personal gain, the admiration of others, or so that you can be effective in the kingdom? Pray for it. Pursue it by reading about it, talking to others who clearly have the gift, attend conferences, seek impartations, etc. Practice it. For instance, if you seek a gift of healing, start praying for people to be healed. If you pursue a gift of teaching, lead a small group or volunteer to lead some discussions in your current group, etc.

- Which spiritual gifts do you operate in now, and what spiritual gifts do you eagerly desire?
- Why might the Holy Spirit *not* give you a gift immediately that you are diligently pursuing?

Ministry Time [10 Minutes]

Please, encourage the exercise of spiritual gifts during your ministry time. Be spirit-led.

- Break into prayer partners of 2-3 people each. Pray for those who desire a spiritual gift they have not yet begun operating in. If someone in the group has a developed gift that others desire, ask them to lay hands on those people and ask the Lord to impart their gift to the others.
- Allow those with gifts of healing or those who desire the gift to pray for any sickness or unhealthy conditions in the group.
- Pray for any other pressing needs and let those who think they have received a word of knowledge or wisdom speak into any issues that need a word from the Lord.

Homework:

We want every group member to take a Spiritual Gifts online assessment this week. Encourage your group members to go to www.mymidcities.org. Click on *Forms* on the upper right side of the home page. Scroll down to *AssessMe Spiritual Gifts Form*. Fill out the form. Cost is \$5.00. They will then receive a link from the church (within 24-48 hours) that will take them to the online assessment. They should be ready to share their results at your next group meeting.