

Some people have never seen a church operating like that at all! Whether you have or not, it's important to understand WHY we use our spiritual gifts because the fact is, there will be times when you won't want to. It happens to everyone, and so being able to easily call to mind the reasons WHY we give can help break down resentment or resistance.

There are two reasons we use our spiritual gifts: It Glorifies God and Edifies others. If we can remember that those are the results of our giving, it makes the giving...giving.

If you think about it, giving for any reason OTHER than glorifying God or edifying someone else sort of makes whatever you're doing NOT giving anymore. It has become about you; making yourself feel better, trying to earn something or just feeling guilty or obligated.

You can see these two motives spelled out right in the 10 commandments: Exodus 20.

Notice that the first 4 have to do with how we are supposed to behave toward God: He comes first, take a day-off to honor Him, etc. The other 6 have to do with how we are to behave toward other people: don't take their stuff or talk smack behind people's back, etc.

Glorify God and Edify others.

We get deeper understanding when we see that the New Testament teaches precisely the same thing, but in a different way. It's in this verse where we get the three loves:

Matthew 22:37-40 "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

You see, using the gifts that God placed in you is a way to love him, it's an act of worship.

Romans 12:1 says I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. **How you live your life is how you glorify God.**

And Ephesians 4:11-13 states that

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Glorify God and Edify others. That's why God gives us gifts in the first place. So before you move on, let's get a good definition of what Spiritual gifts ARE.

- 1. "Spiritual gifts are special abilities given by the Holy Spirit and distributed to every believer according to God's design and grace for the common good of the Body of Christ."**
- 2. They are God given 1 Cor 12:8-10**
- 3. There are no right or wrong spiritual gifts.**
- 4. Spiritual gifts answer the WHAT do I do question.**
- 5. They are used for spiritual purposes.**
- 6. Every believer has at least one gift.**
- 7. They are not earned or chosen.**
- 8. Reveal a part of God's plan for our lives.**
- 9. Given to serve OTHERS for the COMMON good 1Peter 4:10 / 1Corinthians 12:7**
- 10. Meant for diversity not division / unity not uniformity (unity in PURPOSE)**