

Spiritual Gifts in the Work of the Church



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Our Purpose in This Class



- Understand God's gifts to His people
- Discuss "spiritual gifts"
- Examine ourselves to discern our gifts
- Seek to see our gifts applied for the benefits of the saints and the growth of God's kingdom on earth
- Hold each other accountable as good stewards
- To become more zealous for good works
- Glorify God and enjoy Him



Where & How Are You Serving?



CHRPC Draft Ministry Plan

Presented Spring 2011



- Worship
- Fellowship & Community
- Nurture
- Service
- Outreach & Evangelism

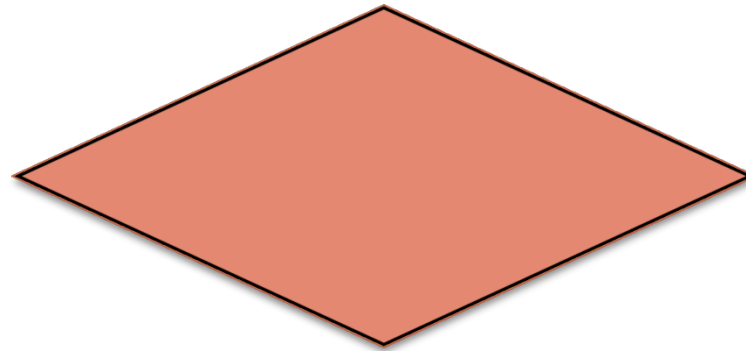
Why are YOU here? Why are WE here?



Ephesians 4:15-16

“...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.”

Architectural Puzzle



Why?

Spiritual Gifts



- **1 Cor 12:1** Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed.
- **Rom 1:11-12** For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you-- that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine.
- **Prov 25:14** Like clouds and wind without rain is a man who boasts of a gift he does not give.

Related Topics

- Good Works
- Stewardship
- Service
- Ministry
- Community
- Bearing Fruit
- Edifying
- Sharing
- Encouraging

College Hill RP Church....



- Is a congregation of people with many gifts and significant potential for kingdom work
- Seeks opportunities to deploy our gifts
- Desires to better understand spiritual gifts
- Has members who may not be using all their gifts
- Will encourage one another in the use of our gifts
- Resolves to apply our gifts in love and good works



What Are “Spiritual Gifts?”



- **John Owen’s Definition:** *a spiritual gift is an ability, divinely bestowed and sustained, to grasp and express the realities of the spiritual world, and the knowledge of God in Christ, for the edifying both of others and of oneself.*
- **Nelson’s Bible Dictionary:** *Spiritual gifts are special gifts bestowed by the Holy Spirit upon Christians for the purpose of building up the church.*
- **Int’l Std. Bible Dictionary:** *Spiritual gifts are varied endowments graciously bestowed by the triune God upon individual Christians, but particularly intended to enhance the community, worship, and service of locally gathered Christians and thereby to enrich the whole Church.*

Some Questions About Spiritual Gifts



- What is a “gift?” What are “spiritual gifts?”
- Are all gifts spiritual gifts?
- Does every believer have a gift? Multiple gifts?
- Is our “gift” the same as our calling and vocation?
- What is different about those gifts given to believers compared to those given to every man?
- How is “gift” distinguished from “ability”, “interest” or “talent”?
- How are spiritual gifts distinguished from common (or natural) gifts?
- How are spiritual gifts distinguished from fruit of the Spirit?
- How are we to know that we have a particular gift?



Called to Good Works – To Use Our Gifts



- **Matt 5:16** In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.
- **Eph 2:10** For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.
- **1 Tim 6:18** They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share
- **Titus 2:14** who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Called to Good Works – To Use Our Gifts



- **Titus 3:8** The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.
- **Titus 3:14** And let our people learn to devote themselves to good works, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful.
- **Heb 10:24** And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works
- **Luke 4:8** And Jesus answered him, "It is written, "'You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.'"

What is Meant by Good Works?



WCF – Chapter 16 Of Good Works

- **Paragraph 2** These good works, done in obedience to God's commandments, are the fruits and evidences of a true and lively faith: and by them believers manifest their thankfulness, strengthen their assurance, edify their brethren, adorn the profession of the gospel, stop the mouths of the adversaries, and glorify God, whose workmanship they are, created in Christ Jesus thereunto, that, having their fruit unto holiness, they may have the end, eternal life.
- **Paragraph 3** Their ability to do good works is not at all of themselves, but wholly from the Spirit of Christ. And that they may be enabled thereunto, beside the graces they have already received, there is required an actual influence of the same Holy Spirit, to work in them to will, and to do, of his good pleasure: yet are they not hereupon to grow negligent, as if they were not bound to perform any duty unless upon a special motion of the Spirit; but they ought to be diligent in stirring up the grace of God that is in them.



We are Called to Service Together



- **Eph 6:7** rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man,
- **1 Tim 1:12** I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service,
- **Rev 2:19** ‘I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first.’
- **Isa 14:3** When the LORD has given you rest from your pain and turmoil and the hard service with which you were made to serve, you will take up this proverb against the king of Babylon...



How Do We Work Together?



Chapter 26 Of the Communion of Saints

- 1. All saints, that are united to Jesus Christ their Head, by his Spirit, and by faith, have fellowship with him in his graces, sufferings, death, resurrection, and glory. And, being united to one another in love, they have communion in each other's gifts and graces, and are obliged to the performance of such duties, public and private, as do conduce to their mutual good, both in the inward and outward man.
- 2. Saints by profession are bound to maintain an holy fellowship and communion in the worship of God, and in performing such other spiritual services as tend to their mutual edification; as also in relieving each other in outward things, according to their several abilities and necessities. Which communion, as God offereth opportunity, is to be extended unto all those who, in every place, call upon the name of the Lord Jesus.



We Must be Good Stewards of Our Gifts



- **1 Pet 4:10** As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:
- **1Cor 4:1** This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy.
- **Matt 25:29** For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.

In Order to Serve as Stewards in Good Works...



- We must learn what gifts are given by God to His people
- We must discern our particular gifts – as individuals and as a congregation
- We must have a plan to deploy our gifts
- We must be diligent to serve according to the measure of our gifts
- We must continue to develop and apply our gifts in Kingdom work
- We glorify God as good stewards in His service

God Equips Us – We're Not Equipped the Same



- **Ezek 36:27** And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.
- **Eph 4:8** Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men."
- **2 Tim 3:16-17** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.
- **Rom 12:6** Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them



God Gives Gifts to All -- For the Church



- **1 Cor 7:7** I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another.
- **1 Pet 4:10** As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:
- **Rom 12:6** Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them...
- **1 Cor 14:12** So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.
- **Heb 2:4** while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

Let's talk about "ALL"



- ALL the gifts mentioned in the scriptures are present in the work of the church
- Gifts are given to ALL God's people
- None of God's people are given ALL gifts
- ALL God's people are commanded to use the gifts they are given
- ALL means ALL

1Co 14:12 So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.

What Happens If We Don't Use Our Gifts?



There is a biblical law of atrophy and judgment

- **Matt 13:12, 15** For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away... For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.
- **Matt 21:43** Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits.
- **Rev 3:15-16** "I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth."

The Ultimate Gift Given to Us In Christ



- **Acts 2:38** And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- **Rom 6:23** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- **Eph 2:8** For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God

Love is the Greatest Spiritual Gift



- **1 Cor 13:2** 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.
- **1 Cor 13:3** If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.
- **1 Cor 14:1** Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts,
- **Titus 1:5** The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.
- **1 Pet 4:8** Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.

We Desire God's Good Gifts and Give Thanks



- **1 Cor 12:31** But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.
- **1 Cor 14:1** Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts,
- **Isa 51:1** Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the LORD: look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug.
- **Eph 1:3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,

We Can Ask God for His Gifts...And Seek Them



- **Matt 7:11-12** If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him! So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.
- **2 Cor 9:8** And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.
- **Psa 84:11** For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.

How Do Our Gifts Help Unify the Body?



- **1 Pet 3:8** Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.
- **Eph 4:1-7** I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit-- just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call-- one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.
- *“Our relationship to Christ affects our relationship with one another – and our relationship with one another affects our relationship to Christ.” (Joel Ward)*

What is the Goal of Our Service?



- **1 Pet 4:8-11** Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: 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.

Why Are You Here?

- We are living stones placed carefully and specifically here - in relation to the Cornerstone
- We are purposefully placed and equipped
- What are your gifts?
- How is God developing your gifts?
- Where are your gifts applied at CHRPC?



YOU ARE HERE!

Key Passages to Learn About Spiritual Gifts?



- **Romans 12** (A Living Sacrifice)
- **I Corinthians 12** (Spiritual Gifts, One Body Many Members)
- **I Corinthians 13** (Love)
- **I Corinthians 14** (Prophecy and Tongues)
- **Ephesians 4:1-16** (Unity in the Body of Christ)
- **I Peter 4:8-11** (Stewards of God's Grace)