

# Covenant Life Fellowship: Kingdom 101

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## Session 5: Discovering and Using Spiritual Gifts

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*"Now about spiritual gifts I do not want you to be ignorant." 1 Cor. 12:1*

**A SPIRITUAL GIFT:** Is a special ability, given by the Holy Spirit to every believer at their conversion, to be used to minister to others in order to build up the Body of Christ and minister to the world.

### I. 10 TRUTHS ABOUT SPIRITUAL GIFTS

1. Only \_\_\_\_\_ have spiritual gifts. 1 Cor. 2:14
2. Every Christian has at least \_\_\_\_\_ gift. 1 Cor. 7:7
3. No one receives \_\_\_\_\_ the gifts. 1 Cor. 12:27-30
4. No single gift is given to \_\_\_\_\_. 1 Cor. 12:29-30
5. You can't \_\_\_\_\_ a spiritual gift. Eph. 4:7
6. The \_\_\_\_\_ decides what gifts I get. 1 Cor. 12:11
7. The gifts I'm given are \_\_\_\_\_. Rom. 11:29
8. I am to \_\_\_\_\_ the gifts God gives me. 1 Tim. 4:14
9. It's a sin to \_\_\_\_\_ the gifts God gave me. 1 Cor. 4:1-2 Mt. 25:14-30
10. Using my gifts \_\_\_\_\_ God and \_\_\_\_\_ me. John 15:8

### II. THE PURPOSE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS.

A. NOT FOR MY BENEFIT, BUT \_\_\_\_\_.

*"Each one of you, as a good manager of God's different gifts, must use for the **good of others**, the spiritual gift he has received from God." 1 Peter 4:10 (GN)*

*"The Holy Spirit displays God's power through each of us as a means of helping the entire church." 1 Cor. 12:7 (LB)*

B. TO PRODUCE \_\_\_\_\_ AND \_\_\_\_\_ IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY.

*"It was He who gave gifts to men... to build up the Body of Christ so we shall all come together to that oneness in our faith... and become mature... Then we shall no longer be children, carried by the waves and blown about by every shifting wind..." Eph. 4:11, 13-14 (GN)*

### III. CAUTIONS ABOUT SPIRITUAL GIFTS

1. Don't confuse gifts with natural talents.
2. Don't confuse gifts with the Fruit of the Spirit. Gal. 5:22-23
  - "Fruit" shows my Maturity.
  - "Gifts" show my Ministry.
3. Don't confuse gifts with Christian roles.
4. Be aware of the "*gift projection*" tendency. (Expecting others to serve the way you do and have similar results)
5. Don't feel my gift makes me superior to others. 1 Cor. 12:21
6. Realize that using my gifts without love is worthless! *"I may be able to speak the languages of men and even of angels... I may have the gift of inspired preaching... I may have all knowledge... and all the faith to move mountains -- but if I have not love, I am nothing... it does no good."* 1 Cor. 13:1-3 (GN)
7. Recognize that I have both a *Primary* and a *Secondary* ministry in my church:

My *PRIMARY MINISTRY* commitment should be in the area where I am \_\_\_\_\_.

My *SECONDARY MINISTRY* includes serving where I am \_\_\_\_\_.

### IV. CLEARING THE CONFUSION ON "GIFT LISTS."

#### **I Corinthians 12:4 – "There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit."**

- Diversities = "Various distributions."
- Gifts = "charisma" – granted favor, gratuity, endowment.
- This verse indicates that the Holy Spirit provides the church with a diverse distribution of gifts. The 3 diverse groups are explained in the verses that follow.

#### **I Corinthians 12:5 – "There are differences of ADMINISTRATIONS..."**

- Administrations = spiritual service of an official character.
- These are the ministry offices that are seen in Ephesians 4:11.
- These "offices" are given by Christ as gifts to His Body. They are sovereignly chosen by God and recognized and called forth by others who function in these offices. This recognition by others is not random but should be done in the context of relationship.
- Not every believer operates in these gifts.

*Ephesians 4:11-13 (NIV) - It was he who gave some to be **apostles**, some to be **prophets**, some to be **evangelists**, and some to be **pastors and teachers**, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until 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.*

#### **I Corinthians 12:6 – "There are diversities of OPERATIONS..."**

- Operations = from the word “energema” which means to be active, to show forth, an effective working.
- These are the motivational gifts which are listed in Romans 12:6-8.
- Every believer functions in all or most of these at times. However, there is one primary motivational gift that is the driving force (energy) of a believer’s life and ministry.

*Romans 12:6-8 (NIV) - We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is **prophesying**, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is **servicing**, let him serve; if it is **teaching**, let him teach; if it is **encouraging**, let him encourage; if it is **contributing** to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is **leadership**, let him govern diligently; if it is showing **mercy**, let him do it cheerfully.*

**I Corinthians 12:7 – “The MANIFESTATION of the Spirit is given to every man for the profit of all.”**

- Manifestation = “exhibition or expression.”
- These gifts are listed in I Corinthians 12:8-10.
- They are given at salvation to every believer in order to equip us for ministry.
- While we may be used more in a few of these manifestations, all 9 of them are at our disposal as the Holy Spirit wills. (e.g., Rather than say, “I have the gift of prophecy” we should realize that we have Holy Spirit living in us, therefore, we have the capacity to flow in all 9 manifestations as the Spirit determines.)

I Corinthians 12:7-11 (NIV) - Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the **message of wisdom**, to another the **message of knowledge** by means of the same Spirit, to another **faith** by the same Spirit, to another **gifts of healing** by that one Spirit, to another **miraculous powers**, to another **prophecy**, to another **distinguishing between spirits**, to another **speaking in different kinds of tongues**, and to still another the **interpretation of tongues**. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.

Following is an easy to read chart of the 3 Gift Lists:

<b>Ministry</b> (Administrations)	<b>Motivational</b> (Operations)	<b>Manifestation</b> (Manifestations)
1. Apostle 2. Prophet 3. Evangelist 4. Pastor 5. Teacher	1. Prophecy 2. Serving 3. Teaching 4. Exhortation 5. Giving 6. Administration 7. Mercy	<u>Revelation Gifts:</u> 1. Word of Wisdom 2. Word of Knowledge 3. Discerning of spirits <u>Power Gifts:</u> 4. Faith 5. Gifts of Healing 6. Working of Miracles <u>Utterance Gifts:</u> 7. Prophecy 8. Tongues 9. Interpretation of Tongues

## V. IDENTIFYING MOTIVATIONAL GIFTS.

**Note:** Since Ministry Gifts are called forth by others and Manifestation Gifts are already at the disposal of every believer, my Motivational Gift, which is the driving energy of my life, is important to identify.

Following are some brief descriptions of the 7 Motivational Gifts:

Prophecy – An inner desire and motivation to minister to God's people by revealing their weaknesses and leading them to repentance. God's truth is proclaimed with an eye to correcting the sins of the people of God so that they can be in right relationship with Him.

Serving – An inner drive and desire to demonstrate true Christian love by meeting the practical needs of others..

Teaching – The motivation and inward drive to clarify God's Word in order to present God's truth to others and to search out and validate truth which has been presented.

Exhortation – The inner drive or desire to stimulate Christian growth in others and to encourage them to mature in their walk with the Lord with the goal of seeing them develop into strong believers.

Giving – The inward drive or motivation to see the work of God supplied with the necessary funds to minister to the church and to the world. A desire to see the financial needs of people supplied even if it mean a giving of one's personal assets.

Administration – The inner drive or motivation to organize , administrate, arrange, and provide leadership over activities and organizations that you deem to be unruly.

Mercy – The inner drive or motivation to empathize with the emotional needs of others, particularly when others are in pain or misery.

**Illustration** - At a family dinner, someone drops a dessert on the floor. If all 7 Motivational Gifts were present, this is what you might hear:

Prophecy – "That's what happens when you're not careful!" (Motivation: To correct his life.)

Serving – "Oh, let me help you clean that up!" (Motivation: To fulfill a need.)

Teaching – "The reason that fell is that it ws too heavy on one side." (Motivation: To discover why it happened.)

Exhortation – "Next time, let's serve dessert with the meal." (Motivation: To correct the future.)

Giving – "I'll be happy to run to the store and buy another dessert." (Motivation: To give to a tangible need.)

Administration – "Jim, would you get the mop. Sue, please help pick it up, and Mary, help me fix some other dessert." (Motivation: To achieve the immediate family goal.)

Mercy – “Don’t feel badly. It could have happened to anyone.” (Motivation: To alleviate the embarrassment.)

Identifying the Motivational Gifts of a church family can be a tremendous help in understanding those we work with. It can reduce conflict and replace it with an appreciation for the diversity that God created in us. We can then see others and realize that they are not wrong, just different.

The best way to discover them is to get involved in ministry. It is easier to discover your gift through ministry than to discover your ministry through your gift.

