

Holy Spirit

Spirit Gifts – what are they?

Introduction:

1. Our flag is in the ground – we are people of the bible
2. We are Continuists as opposed to Cessationists or those who manipulate the Word of God to suit their theology
3. Some Cessationists still believe that God is the God of the supernatural but what they object to is that God uniquely impowers individuals with miraculous powers
4. As a Continuist Church we believe that the whole bible is true today and that all the Gifts of the Spirit are operative today

God has a dream:

1. God has a dream for you
2. Think about the following:
 - a. The Spiritual Gifts He has given you
 - b. The natural talents and abilities He entrusted to you
 - c. The experiences that have shaped who you are
 - d. Your passions – what things make your heart beat faster
 - e. The personality traits that make you unique
3. Peter Drucker said: *Progress is obtained only by exploiting opportunities, not by solving problems. When you solve problems, all you do is guarantee a return to normalcy.*
4. Solving problems only gets us back to the status quo
5. Progress comes when you avail yourself of opportunities
6. I sense the Holy Spirit is saying two things:
 - a. There is a contagious optimism about the future
 - b. A new willingness to get involved

A New Beginning:

1. There are three major goals for this message:
 - a. We want you to know what the Spiritual Gifts are
 - b. We want you to discover what Spiritual Gifts you possess
 - c. We want you to employ your Spiritual Gifts in the service of the Lord
2. In studying the Spiritual Gifts, we are not solving a problem but making use of the opportunity God has placed before us
3. There are three things that happen when the truth about Spiritual Gifts are ignored:
 - a. There is wasted effort as people try ministries for which they are not gifted
 - b. There is unused potential because people want to serve Him but don't know where
 - c. Some ministries prosper because people with the right Spiritual Gifts are involved while others die because they lack properly gifted leadership
4. It is my prayer that God will ignite all of us and this church

Some preliminary Questions:

1. What is a Spiritual Gift?
 - a. So much fuzzy thinking
 - b. Definition: ***“A spiritual gift is a God-given ability which enables a believer to effectively serve the body of Christ”***
 - c. You don't earn it or apply for it

- d. It is not a natural talent
- e. They are not the Fruit of the Spirit
- f. It is not a ministry role
- 2. Does every believer have a Spiritual Gift? – **Rom 12:6; 1 Cor 12:7; Eph 4:7.**
- 3. When are the Gifts given?
- 4. Why are the Gifts given?

How many Gifts are there?

- 1. This is a controversial question
- 2. There are 6 lists in four passages: **1xRomans 12; 3x1 Corinthians; 1xEphesians 4; 1x1 Peter 4**
- 3. Why Should I attempt to Discover my Spiritual Gifts?
 - a. It is like your personal job description from God
 - b. You benefit the whole church

Ephesians 4:16 he explains exactly how your spiritual gifts help the church grow.
"From him (that is, from Christ) the whole body (that's the church), joined and held together by every supporting ligament (that's you and me as we work together in the church), grows and builds itself up in love (that's the end result) as each part does its work (that's the key!)."
 - c. You glorify God

1 Peter 4:10-11. ***"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen."***

Esteem one another:

- 1. ***Ephesians 5:2*** ***"And walk in love, [esteeming and delighting in one another] as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us..."***
- 2. Hold in high regard
- 3. When we see others as valuable the way God sees them, we treat them carefully.

What Steps should you begin to take today?

- 1. You can read – key chapters - **Rom 12; 1 Cor 12 & 14; Eph 4; 1 Peter 4**
- 2. You can pray
- 3. You can ask
- 4. I am excited to see what the Lord has in store for you