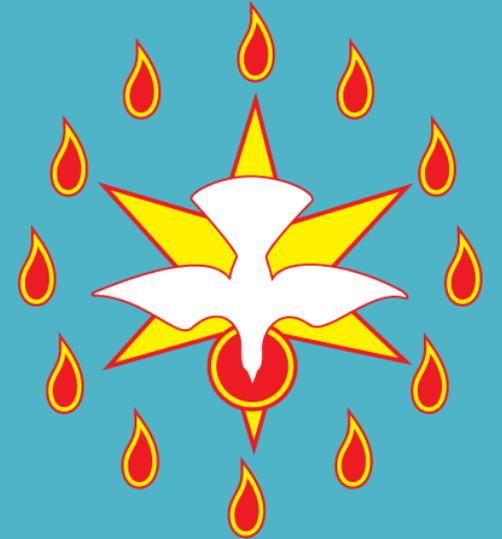


Discovering and Using Your Spiritual Gifts

*Presented By: Jim Pierson-Perry
First Presbyterian Church—Newark
Feb-Mar 2023*



Course Outline

Week 1: **The What, Who, How, and Why of Spiritual Gifts**

Week 2: Varieties of Spiritual Gifts

Homework: Spiritual Gifts Self-Assessment

Week 3: Making Use of Your Spiritual Gifts

Course Basis

This course is primarily based on *Discover Your Spiritual Gifts the Network Way* by Bruce Bugbee and Don Cousins. Other main references used were:

- *Rediscovering Our Spiritual Gifts* by Charles V. Bryant
- *Discerning Your Spiritual Gifts* by Lloyd Edwards
- *Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts* by Phyllis Bennett

The on-line self assessment is from the Rock Church in San Diego. It was selected as it most closely follows the gifts identified in the Network program and is one of the shorter assessments (66 questions versus 88, 125, or 133 in others).

Scripture citations are from the New International Version Bible (NIV)

Week 1

**The What, Who, How,
and Why of Spiritual Gifts**

What Are They?

What Are Spiritual Gifts?

Spiritual Gifts are:

- **special abilities given by the Holy Spirit**
- **distributed to every believer** according to God's design and grace for the **common good of the body of Christ**
- **not personal property** or qualities to be used as we desire
- **used in unity** to build up the body of Christ

[Given]. . . to equip his 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.

Ephesians 4:12-13 (NIV)

Are Spiritual Gifts Important?

The establishment of the original church (chronicled in Chapter 2 of Acts) was accomplished by the coming of the Holy Spirit and his ministry within the body of Christ through spiritual gifts that were distributed to each of its members.

What You Do Best In the Body of Christ
by Bruce Bugbee

Paul wants us to be aware of them and use them.

Now about the gifts of the Spirit, dear brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed.

1 Cor 12:1 (NIV)

Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you.

1 Timothy 4:14 (NIV)

Spiritual Gifts Are Special Abilities

- Divine endowments
- Used for spiritual purposes
- Tasks or functions
- Enable us to do meaningful service

To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, . . . and to still another the interpretation of tongues.

1 Cor 12:8-10 (NIV)

**From Whom
and How?**

Given By the Holy Spirit

- God gives these gifts to His children
- Every believer has at least one spiritual gift
- We do not earn or choose them
- Without the Holy Spirit there are no spiritual gifts
- Unbelievers do not have spiritual gifts

All these are the work of one and the same Spirit
and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

1 Cor 12:11 (NIV)

Distributed to Every Believer

- Show us how we can make our unique contribution
- Reveal a part of God's will for our lives
- Confirm that every believer has a place of service
- Given for power and purpose in our ministry

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others,
as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

Why?

For the Common Good

- Spiritual gifts are to benefit others, not for personal gain
- Given to build up other believers
- Help us serve one another better to glorify God and edify others
- Empower believers to expand the kingdom of God

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

1 Cor 12:7 (NIV)

To Build Up the Body of Christ

- Our spiritual gifts are given by design and make us unique
- The diversity of these spiritual manifestations is a reflection of who God is
- Diversity is not division—unity is not achieved by being alike
- Spiritual gifts work interdependently

We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.

Romans 12:6 (NIV)

Independent Vs. Interdependent



Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body.

1 Cor 12:12-13 (NIV)

Spiritual Gifts Are Different

Spiritual Gifts Are NOT . . .

- Natural talents
- The Fruits of the Spirit—i.e., love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (*Galatians 5:22-23*)
- Christian disciplines
 - habits that enable believers to become fully devoted followers of Christ
 - examples: prayer, study, fasting, tithing, solitude, journaling, simple lifestyle, etc.
- Church position

Spiritual gifts cannot be used effectively when there is confusion surrounding what they are and how God intends for them to be used

Spiritual Gifts Versus . . .

Natural Talents	Spiritual Gifts
Given at physical birth	Given at spiritual birth
God-given to all people	God-given to believers

- Natural Talent—playing keyboard in a rock band
- Spiritual Gift—using music through the gift of Creative Communication to enhance worship and spread the Good News to unbelievers

Spiritual Gifts Versus . . .

Fruits of the Spirit	Spiritual Gifts
“Being” qualities—what we should be	“Doing” qualities—functions that we do
Attitudes—our hearts	Aptitudes—our minds and hands
By-product of healthy walk with God	Supernatural abilities from the Holy Spirit
Necessary for effective ministry	Necessary for effective ministry

Using the Spiritual Gifts of Hospitality and Helps to bring about Fruits of the Spirit such as kindness, love, and joy

Spiritual Gifts Versus . . .

Christian Disciplines	Spiritual Gifts
Believers can practice all	Believers can practice a few
Builds up the individual believer	Builds up the body of Christ (the church)
All should exercise all the disciplines	All should express their gift(s)

Good habits for all believers (prayer, tithing, studying, etc.) as opposed to specific abilities bestowed to different believers

Spiritual Gifts Versus Church Positions

Church Positions	Spiritual Gifts
Indicate general roles	Indicate specific functions
Show organizational positions	Show ministry contributions

- Positional titles are given by humans
- Spiritual Gifts come from the Holy Spirit

Benefits of Spiritual Gifts

Personal Benefits of Spiritual Gifts

- Knowing your spiritual gifts lets you know your “spiritual job description”
- Knowing your spiritual job description lets you better focus your ministry; i.e., find the areas where you can best serve
- Your service will be more effective and fulfilling when you knowing use your spiritual gifts
- Serving through our giftedness is a pleasing form of worship to God

Church Benefits of Spiritual Gifts

Churches that teach and develop spiritual gift-based ministries show:

- More unity and harmony
- Less pride and false humility
- More maturity and growth
- Interdependent relationships among members, rather than dependent or independent relationships
- God is glorified and people are edified

... so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

Romans 12:5 (NIV)

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

1 Cor 12:27 (NIV)

So What ARE the Spiritual Gifts?

- There is no single, agreed upon list of all spiritual gifts
- The Network program identifies 23 gifts; other references drop some of these or add more esoteric gifts
- We will go into more depth next week but here is a list of the “Network 23”

Administration	Apostleship	Craftsmanship	Creative Comm.	Discernment
Encouragement	Evangelism	Faith	Giving	Healing
Helps (Service)	Hospitality	Intercession	Interpretation	Knowledge
Leadership	Mercy	Miracles	Prophecy	Shepherding
	Teaching	Tongues	Wisdom	

Quick Review of Week 1

Spiritual Gifts are:

- special abilities given by the Holy Spirit
- distributed to every believer according to God's design
- used interdependently to build up the body of Christ
- not natural talents, Fruits of the Spirit, disciplines, or church position
- tools to make your personal service more effective and fulfilling
- tools to improve unity, growth, and maturity of your church