



This daily Bible study is basically designed for the individual who would like a supplement to their regular Bible study or for those who want to take just a few minutes each day to have a directed Bible study schedule.

From now until July 2010, we will be studying the Gifts of the Spirit to correspond with our current church Hagaii Project 2:9. Each month we will examine a different aspect of that topic. Part One of the study is a basic teaching on the gifts for you to read while Part Two is a daily Bible study assignment for each day of the month. This is for you to get into your own Bible, color code scriptures and do cross references. Also in the study assignment there will be a suggested Memory Verse for each week.

GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

(Part 1)

This study will not only define the meaning of the Gifts of the Spirit but also the function and operation of each individual gift.

The *gifts* (plural) of the Spirit, sometimes called "Spiritual Gifts," are tools or instruments which are given to certain individuals within the church to edify the church body. In these gifts, one sees the Trinity in unity creating, working, and administering the total charismatic structure of the church. There are various lists of gifts, callings, ministries, and powers in the New Testament which demonstrate the completeness of this spiritual structure. As you will discover in the daily scriptures, every Spirit-filled Christian has been given a gift. No one has been neglected. As you study, ask the Lord to open your understanding to the gifts and reveal to you your gift, how to develop, exercise and use your particular gift/gifts.

GIFTS

What does the word *gift* mean? In scripture the word *gift* has five basic meanings:

1. God's free redemption upon sinners (Rom 6:23).
2. God's endowments upon believers by the operation of the Holy Spirit within the church body. (Rom 12:6).
3. That which is imparted through human institutions (Rom 1:11).
4. The natural gift of continence—self-restraint (1 Cor 7:7).
5. Gracious deliverances granted in answer to the prayer of fellow-believers (2 Cor 1:11).

In this study of "*Spiritual Gifts*" we will be using the second meaning listed above. The word '*gifts*' in this setting is translated from the Greek as *charisma*. Literally, it means a "gift of grace, a gift involving grace (charis) on the part of God as the donor."

So exactly, what is a "*spiritual gift*?"

It is an ability or skill when surrendered to the Holy Spirit enables the recipient (the believer) to perform a function in the Body of Christ with ease and effectiveness. It is a spiritual power given to carry on the works of God in the church body.

The "*gifts*" are related to a calling from God to every Christian into a role/ministry which will edify the church body. And with that calling He gives every Christian gifts to accomplish that ministry. Again, every individual in the Body of Christ has received at least one *spiritual gift*. This *gift/gifts* was received when you accepted Christ as your Savior. *Spiritual gifts* are not given to edify the person but the Body of Christ. If you do not use your *gift* (no matter how big or small) the Body of Christ is affected and you are equally affected and lose out on a deep-down sense of fulfillment and obedience.

PURPOSE OF GIFTS

1. To testify of Jesus Christ
2. To edify the body as a whole
3. To build up the believer

SPIRITUAL ANALOGY

The physical body is made up of many members and each member of the body has a different function. You cannot pick anything up with your ear, nor can you hear with your hand. It is easy to see that bodily members are designed to function in a specific area and we do not expect them to do what they are not naturally designed to do.

The same is true in the spiritual body. Spiritual gifts determine which member of the Body of Christ you are and what the special task God has given you to perform. The concept of a "personal ministry" must be developed in your life. You must know God has personally given you a specific gift to carry out His work in His church. You are a part of the whole.

CATEGORIES OF GIFTS

There are just about as many categories of *gifts* as there are books written about the *gifts*. I have chosen to categorize the *gifts* into three areas:

Supporting gifts also called Motivational gifts

Service gifts also called Ministry gifts

Sign gifts also called Manifestational gifts

DISCOVERING YOUR GIFT

Nowhere does the Bible give a prescription to be followed in finding one's *spiritual gift*. However, it is clearly understood that Paul taught that Christians were not to be ignorant of the *gifts* and were to stir them up to edify the church.

The place to begin in the discovery of *spiritual gifts* is one's own desires and aspirations. What *spiritual gift* do you desire? It may well be that your personality characteristics, background, training, and present circumstances have all converged to create in you some burning desire that will find fulfillment in the sovereign bestowal of a particular *gift*. The desires and aspirations you feel are caused by the very *gift* within you, pressing to be released in loving service. Or it may be God has already given you a *spiritual gift*, which has been lying dormant.

STEPS TO DISCOVERY

Step One: Explore the possibilities

- ✓ Study the Bible. Read the major passages on *spiritual gifts*.
- ✓ Read the current books on church growth and how various *gifts* are used in growing churches.
- ✓ Seek out and talk to gifted people who have discovered, developed, and are using their *spiritual gifts*.
- ✓ Vocalize your desire or gift to your family and friends.

Step Two: Experiment with as many as you can.

- ✓ Ray Stedman says, "You discover a *spiritual gift* just like you discover your natural talents! If you don't ever try, how will you ever know?"
- ✓ Get involved in different ministries. If you discover you are drawn to a particular gift and you like it, perhaps God is showing you your gift is in that area. Obviously you will discover some gifts you don't have.
Remember: It is much easier to direct a moving object.

Step Three: Examine your feelings.

- ✓ God matches feelings with your *gifts*. He understands that if you enjoy doing a task, you do a better job at it than if you do not enjoy it.
- ✓ If you are trying to force a positive feeling into something someone else has drafted you into, more than likely, this is not your *spiritual gift*.
- ✓ It is true, there are times when you may not "feel" positive about a gift you are using but because of necessity some circumstances demand it.

Step Four: Evaluate your effectiveness.

- ✓ When true *gifts* are in operation, whatever is supposed to happen will happen. If you are teaching, people will enjoy learning. If you have the *gift* of administration, the organization will run smoothly. If you have the *gift* of hospitality, you will, without frustration and stress, enjoy cleaning, preparing, and opening your home to visitors.
- ✓ Although there will be various degrees of effectiveness in your *gift*, never compare your *gift* with someone else's *gift*. Although some *gifts* are more visible than others, there is not one *gift* that is more important than any other. When you work within the *gift* God has equipped you with and knowing others are ministering in their *gifts*, together you make the whole complete. Again, the *gifts* edify the Body, not the person.

Step Five: Expect confirmation from the Body.

- ✓ If you are trying to exercise a gift, but no one else thinks you have that particular gift, you are in trouble! It needs positive confirmation. If you are trying the gift of administration and all that you are trying to accomplish is chaotic, most likely you do not have that gift. If you have a deep desire to sing but cannot stay on tune, it would be best to sing praises to the Lord in private.
- ✓ When you have been a recipient of someone else's gift, be sure to share that with the person. This will help confirm their gift in the Body.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FROM 1 COR 12:4-11

- Gifted Christians are not all alike. They are diverse - vv.4,5
- Although gifts, ministries and activities differ with each Christian, the Holy Spirit gives all the gifts - v.6.
- A Christian is given a gift of the Holy Spirit to benefit others as well as himself - v. 7.
- The Holy Spirit decides who gets what gift - v. 11.

GIFTS VS FRUIT

It must be remembered that Spiritual Gifts do not make one person more spiritual than the other. In fact, Matthew 7 talks about false prophets who display gifts, so it is not the gifts that God is looking for, but it is the Fruit. If you are wanting to be spiritual, do not strive for displaying the gifts, but produce the fruit and they will display themselves.

DAILY SCRIPTURE STUDY

(Part 2)

KEY

R-read scripture

Yellow-God

Blue-praise

Brown-sin/temptation/sinners

U-underline scripture

Red-Jesus

Green-myself

W-Write in notebook

Purple-Holy Spirit

Black-Satan

Day

1. **MEMORY VERSE #1 - I Cor 12:1.** What does Paul admonish the Christian? W this verse on a 3x5 card and place card in a Memory Bank (box). R it every morning this week.
2. From **I Cor 12:1** look up the word ignorant in the dictionary. In a study notebook, W this verse several times by replacing the word *ignorant* with other definitions. Then rewrite the verse in your own words.
3. R **John 16:13.** Make this verse your personal confession of faith.
4. R **I Cor 12:31a, 14:1 and 39.** What kind of attitude do the words "covet" and "desire" suggest we have about spiritual gifts?
5. In **1 Cor 14:26** notice the words "everyone" and "hath" (has). What is suggested by this verse.
6. In **1 Cor 14:26** what is the first item listed that everyone should have? A psalm is a song of praise. When we come together, we should sing praises because it ministers to God and builds up the body.
7. According to **Eph 4:7-8**, who is the giver of spiritual gifts? Who is the receiver? UG the first phrase in v:7. Marking in your Bible W your name over the word *everyone*.
8. **MEMORY VERSE #2 - 1 Tim 4:14a.** R this verse on a 3x5 card. Place it also in your Memory Bank. Now R both verses each day.

9. List the nine fold purpose of the gifts in **Eph 4:12-15**.
10. What are spiritual gifts compared to in **Eph 4:16**, **I Cor 12:12**, and **Rom 12:4,5**?
11. R how the members of the body are organically related in **Rom 12:13-16**.
12. R **I Cor 12:8-10** for a list of nine spiritual gifts. List these in your study notebook as "*Gifts to Empower the Church.*"
13. W in your notebook the list of eight spiritual gifts found in **1 Cor 12:27-30**. Title these as "*Gifts to Equip the Church.*"
14. What thought does the last verse in **1 Cor 12** and the first verse in **1 Cor 14** convey? What gift do you desire to see completely developed in your life? W this desire in your notebook.
15. Sandwiched between yesterday's two verses is **chapter thirteen**, known as the *Love Chapter*. However, it is also a chapter about spiritual gifts. Draw a box around **vv. 1-3**. In the margin of your Bible W External Gifts. Draw a box around **vv 4-7** and W Internal Gifts. Then draw a box around **vv 8-13** and W Eternal Gifts.
16. Paul had a guiding principle concerning spiritual gifts. What common thread runs through the following verses? (**Rom 14:19; 15:2; II Cor 10:8; 12:19; 13:10**) W these references in your Bible margins for your own concordance.
17. In **Eph 1:22-23**, what is Christ's body?
18. To what is a gift compared in **Proverbs 17:8**? What does a gift like this yield?
19. **MEMORY VERSE #3 - 2 Tim 1:6a.**
20. W in your study notebook the seven gifts listed in **Rom 12:4-8** as "*Gifts to Transform the Church.*" These are sometimes called the personality gifts.
21. What does **Lk 11:11-13** say about the Father giving us the Holy Spirit?
22. What does **Jn 14:26** say the Father would send the disciples? What two things would He do? UP

23. Draw a purple box around **Jn 16:7-15**. **R** what the works of the Holy Spirit are.
24. In **Jn 15:26**, what will the Holy Spirit testify of?
25. What effect does Paul say in **Romans 1:11** that a spiritual gift will have on the believer?
26. **MEMORY VERSE #4 - Jam 1:17**.
27. **W** in your study notebook the gifts listed in **Eph 4:11-12**.
28. It is not the exercising of spiritual gifts that distinguish the marks of Christianity, but according to **Jn 13:35**, what is it?
29. **R** in **2 Cor 6:1-13** how Paul spoke of his blameless ministry. **W** your own paragraph about the gift which you believe God has given you and how you have used it to edify the Body.
30. How does **Proverbs 17:23** say the result of a good gift in the hands of a wicked man will be used?
31. Let's end this last day of the month with my favorite scripture: **2 Tim 1:9**.

CHUCK SWINDOLL'S THOUGHTS ON 1 TIM 4:14a

"Much thought and emotion goes into selecting gifts. Imagine how hurt you would be, if after picking just the right gifts, beautifully wrapping each one, placing them under the tree, and giving them out on Christmas morning, they were received with indifference. How would you feel if your children simply took them - without acknowledgment, without thanks, without even bothering to open them - and then casually laid them aside?

Now imagine how the Lord must feel when He gives gifts to His children, and they never take the trouble to find out what the gifts are, never thank Him, never put them to use. Shelved away, never to be shared...that's where most spiritual gifts end up! Take those gifts out of mothballs, unwrap them one by one, and put them into action. Failure to exercise our gifts can adversely affect the Body of Christ and the very glory of God." (Copied from *Just Between Us*)