

Center Grove Presbyterian Church
Spiritual Gifts Class – “Discover Your Gifts and Learn How to Use Them”
Rev. Don Hulsey
January and February 200/8

*Resource: “Discover Your Gifts and Learn How to Use Them” by Alvin. J. Vander Griend through *Faith Alive Christian Resources* (CRC) © 1996.

SESSION 2: NAMING THE GIFTS

In this session we will cover three areas:

- We will examine four of the NT passages that name specific Spiritual Gifts
- We will learn how the NT categorizes the gifts
- We will look particularly at the Spiritual Gifts of Shepherding, Teaching, and Evangelism

ROMANS 12: 6-8

7 Spiritual Gifts given to FOLLOWERS of Christ are identified in this passage:

prophesying (preaching/proclamation – forthtelling), **servicing, teaching, encouraging, contributing to the needs of others** (giving what is yours to someone who is in need of that particular item), **leadership**, and **mercy**

1 CORINTHIANS 12: 7-11

9 Spiritual Gifts given to FOLLOWERS of Christ are identified in this passage:

wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing (a temporary “sign” gift), **miraculous powers** (another temporary “sign” gift), **prophecy, distinguishing between spirits** (discernment), **tongues** (another temporary “sign” gift), **interpretation of tongues** (another temporary “sign” gift).

1 CORINTHIANS 12: 27-31

8 Spiritual Gifts are given in this passage:

The first three (**apostles, prophets, and teachers**) are gifted offices in the Church. The office of apostle ceased in the death of the last apostle, the apostle John, around A.D. 100.

Then Paul repeats three of the Spiritual Gifts he mentioned in vv. 8-10 (**miracles, healing, and tongues** – temporary “sign” gifts).

AND Paul adds two new ones - **those able to help others** and **administration**.

EPHESIANS 4: 11-12

The 4 Spiritual Gifted Offices identified specifically in v. 11 are:

apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor/teacher

1 Peter 4: 10-11 reveals how the NT categorizes the gifts:

SPEAKING Gifts AND SERVING Gifts

[SEPARATE HANDOUT of 4 different groupings of the gifts]

The Gifted person is to USE whatever gift he or she has WITH DEPENDENCE on God.

A combination of spiritual gifts given to a Christian is called a **gift mix**.

The four temporary sign gifts are: tongues, interpretation, miracles, and healing

They were given, mostly to the apostles of Christ, to prove that their message about Christ was true (Acts 14:3). They ceased with the apostles around A.D. 100.

The following quote, from A.T. Pierson found in *The Holy Spirit and His Gifts* by J. Oswald Sanders (Zondervan 1970), captures how we should view Spiritual Gifts:

“Everyone has some gift, therefore, all should be **encouraged**. No one has all gifts, therefore all should be **humble**. All gifts are for the one Body, therefore all should be **harmonious**. All gifts are from the Lord, therefore all should be **contented**. All gifts are mutually helpful and needful, therefore all should be **studiously faithful**. All gifts promote the health and strength of the whole Body, therefore **none can easily be dispensed with**. All gifts depend on his fullness for power, therefore all should **keep in close touch with Him**.”

The Spiritual Gift of SHEPHERDING (Ephesians 4:11)

The special Spirit-given ability to keep watch over, care for, and feed members of the body of Christ, guiding, admonishing, and discipling them toward spiritual maturity. This gift is a special passion and empowering by God to lead people into green pastures, steer others away from danger, fight off predators, and bind up wounds.

Certainly, a teaching elder and a ruling elder should have the Spiritual Gift of Shepherding.
Ephesians 4: 12-13; Acts 20: 28-31; 1 Peter 5: 1-4

However, the Spiritual Gift of Shepherding is not only given to those called to the office of elder. Persons gifted as Shepherds do their work willingly and eagerly, operating not with heavy-handed authority but by means of a good example.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SPIRITUALLY GIFTED SHEPHERD

- You have assumed responsibility for the spiritual well-being of others who have grown spiritually through your assistance, guided by the Holy Spirit.
- You are enabled by the Spirit to provide ongoing care, spiritual nourishment, and protection to other believers.
- The Lord has used you to watch over and guide other Christians and nurture them toward spiritual maturity.
- You are willing to be personally involved in nurturing and discipling others.
- You have a sense when others need spiritual counseling and you have the desire to do it.

WAYS TO USE THE GIFT OF SHEPHERDING IN THE CHURCH

- Become a ruling elder (limited to men only)
A man should be doing this type of service BEFORE he is nominated as an elder.
- Become a Spiritual Mother in the Titus 2 ministry
- Disciple a believer who is less spiritually mature than you; not just in the church, but also friends, family members, or acquaintances
- Become a youth group helper – we especially need females right now!
- Be part of the Good News Club team as a counselor who goes through the plan of salvation with individual children
- Be a camp counselor (June 2-6)
- Be a youth counselor during the Colorado trip (June 14-21)

The Spiritual Gift of TEACHING (Romans 12:7 & 1 Cor. 12:28)

The special Spirit-given ability to *understand* and clearly and effectively communicate biblical truths and information that helps believers mature in the faith, building up the body of Christ. This is the gift of making disciples who are then equipped to make more disciples.

THE GIFT IS MODELED BY JESUS AND HIS DISCIPLES

Jesus: Matthew 7: 28-29

Paul: Acts 13: 42-44; Apollos: Acts 18: 24-25

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SPIRITUALLY GIFTED TEACHER

- You are able to communicate biblical truths and aspects of Christian living clearly and effectively in such a way that others learn.
- You can usually sense what it takes to hold the interest of those you teach.
- Your desire is to teach in a way that helps others mature in the faith and build up the church
- You get excited about discovering new ideas that you can share with others.

WAYS TO USE THE GIFT OF TEACHING IN THE CHURCH

- If you are a parent, begin at home by teaching your own children biblical truths
- Ways to teach at CGPC: Sunday school (children, youth, adults), women's Bible studies, men's Bible studies, Kid's Quest, Pioneer Club, Good News Club, VBS, Children's Worship, Youth Groups (Jr. and Sr. High), Youth Camp (2 Timothy 2:2)

The Spiritual Gift of EVANGELISM (Ephesians 4:11)

The special Spirit-given ability to present the Gospel to unbelievers in clear and meaningful ways that lead to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. The person with this gift has the wisdom to know when, who, and how to call the rebellious into the Kingdom of God.

Let us not forget that it isn't the evangelist's words or methods that bring people to Christ; it is the Spirit of God working in and through the evangelist AND in and through those who hear him. See 1 Cor. 3: 5-7.

There are many instances in the NT signaling the operation of the Spiritual Gift of Evangelism.

Peter, on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2.

The Deacon, Philip, in Acts 8: 26-40.

Paul and Barnabas on their first mission trip, as indicated in Acts 14:21.

In 2 Timothy 4:5, Paul encourages Timothy to do the work of an evangelist.

***The objective of the Spiritual Gift of Evangelism is to bring unbelievers to faith in Jesus Christ AND INTO THE CHURCH!

Gifted evangelists should be equippers.

This happens BEST if the evangelist can involve trainees in an apprentice role, *showing the apprentice* as well as *telling them* how evangelism is done. This requires on-the-job training.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SPIRITUALLY GIFTED EVANGELIST

- You enjoy talking about Christ to those who do not know Him, and find it easy to steer conversations that way.
- You pray for opportunities to share Christ with unbelievers
- You find yourself making acquaintances with those who don't know Christ.
- With the Spirit's leading and power, you find it easy to clearly present the message of salvation to unbelievers.
- It is your strong desire to share your faith with others.
- You have an unusual burden for those who do not know Christ.

WAYS TO USE THE GIFT OF EVANGELISM IN THE CHURCH

- Work with Pastor Aaron as he ministers to the Senior High Youth
- Be involved in the Good News Club where you can weekly share the Gospel with children.
- Go on short-term mission trips to Biloxi, the Lummi Reservation in Bellingham, WA, and to Mexico City
- Monthly outreach projects sponsored by the Deacons and the Missions Committee
- Children's Sunday school classes; VBS; Pioneer Club