

Center Grove Presbyterian Church
Spiritual Gifts Class – “Discover Your Gifts and Learn How to Use Them”
Rev. Don Hulsey
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*Resource: “Discover Your Gifts and Learn How to Use Them” by Alvin. J. Vander Griend through *Faith Alive Christian Resources* (CRC) © 1996.

SESSION 3: DISCOVERING MY GIFTS

In this session we hope to accomplish three things:

- Learn the benefits of knowing and using YOUR Spiritual Gifts
- Learn how to discover Spiritual Gifts
- Explore the Spiritual Gifts of Compassion of Mercy, Exhortation (Encouragement), Service, Helps, and Craftsmanship

The main principles about Spiritual Gifts from 1 Peter 4: 10-11:

- Every true FOLLOWER of Christ has been given at least one Spiritual Gift from the HS
- Every true FOLLOWER of Christ should use his/her Spiritual Gift in the service to others
- Using our Spiritual Gifts is channeling God’s grace to others
- There is a great variety in the different Spiritual Gifts
- Spiritual Gifts are to be used based on biblical principles of service (love, humility, etc)
- It is God who provides us with the grace and strength to use the Spiritual Gifts
- The goal of using Spiritual Gifts is for the praise and glory of God through Christ

The Benefits of Knowing and Using YOUR Spiritual Gifts:

- 1) It assists you in finding God’s will for your life
- 2) It helps you to overcome feelings of inadequacy and inferiority
- 3) It can result in more effective service
- 4) It will help you to take your appropriate place in the Body of Christ; AND
- 5) It will free you from serving in areas where you are not particularly gifted

How to Discover Your Spiritual Gifts

Consider the following eight principles that will help you to discover YOUR Spiritual Gifts:

- 1) Understand the gifts
- 2) Accept that you are gifted
 - A WORKING GIFT is a Spiritual Gift you are using right now
 - A WAITING GIFT is a Spiritual Gift that you have the potential to develop and use
- 3) Dedicate yourself to ministry
- 4) Pray for guidance – very important! (James 1:5)
- 5) Analyze yourself
 - What are your interests? What have you done well in the past? What do you really get excited about? What needs are you most aware of in this church and/or community?
- 6) Seek confirmation from other Christians
- 7) Get involved in ministry; AND
- 8) Evaluate the results

Five responses that hinder Christians from discovering their Spiritual Gifts

- 1) Lack of ministry experience
- 2) Disobedience
- 3) Lack of commitment
- 4) An unloving spirit
- 5) Lack of prayer (James 4:2)

The following five Spiritual Gifts, Compassion or Mercy, Exhortation (Encouragement), Service, Helps, and Craftsmanship ALL fall under the DIRECTION of the office of Deacon.

It should be noted that the office of Deacon is NOT just about building and grounds. The office of Deacon is about ministering to PEOPLE first – to their needs. Buildings and grounds are the responsibility of the Deacon, but take a lesser priority while they are to focus on the needs of people.

The Spiritual Gift of COMPASSION or MERCY (Romans 12:8)

The special Spirit-given ability to feel genuine empathy and compassion for hurting people and to translate that feeling into cheerful acts of service. This can be accomplished through a ministry of care and intercessory prayer.

At the heart of this gift is a deep and extraordinary compassion that transcends normal human caring. The person with this gift NOT ONLY feels deeply but is moved to action. Cheerfulness is the attitude with which mercy is shown.

The recipients of the gift of Mercy are the sick, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged or disabled, the home-bound, the poor, the homeless, the imprisoned – any who are in troubled situations.

Our acts of mercy may be one of our best witnesses to those outside the Kingdom.

Bible examples of the gift of MERCY:

Jesus, all throughout the Gospels

The parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10

Dorcas, Acts 9:36

James 2: 15-16 shows that mercy is not just caring, it is also sharing (an action)

CHARACTERISTICS OF ONE WHO HAS THE GIFT OF MERCY

- You feel deeply for and are drawn to hurting people and have a gift for turning compassion into practical help, cheerfully done.
- You enjoy ministering to those who suffer physical, mental, or emotional troubles, and you do it regularly.
- With the Spirit's help, you are effective in ministering to hurting people who often attest to the blessing they have received.
- The sight of misery always makes you want to find a way to express God's love to those who suffer.

WAYS TO USE THE GIFT OF MERCY IN THE CHURCH

- Send cards to persons with special needs
- Provide meals for those who are sick or unable to make meals themselves (WIC Compassion)
- Call on those who are home-bound
- Volunteer at the Glen-Ed Pantry; volunteer at New Beginnings Pregnancy Resource Center
- Assist the Deacons in their ministry to those in need in our congregation and outside our congregation.
- Serve as a Deacon (men only)

The Spiritual Gift of EXHORTATION or ENCOURAGEMENT (Romans 12:8)

The special Spirit-given ability to effectively encourage, comfort, challenge, or rebuke others to help them live lives worthy of God. This is the gift of timely and wise counsel.

This gift is similar to the ministry of the Holy Spirit who stands alongside of a believer to help. This a ministry of comfort and counsel.

Biblical examples: Paul, Barnabas (Encourager Extraordinaire!)

This gift can be exercised either publicly or privately. The objective in both cases is to strengthen Christians for effective service.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PERSON WITH THE GIFT OF ENCOURAGEMENT

- People in the Christian community have been spurred on “to love and good deeds” by your counsel and encouragement, guided by the Holy Spirit.
- You are excited at the potential you see in people, and you often encourage them in order to bring out the best in them.
- You regularly minister to others by offering practical counsel and guidance for their spiritual Growth, using the Word of God.
- You identify deeply with hurting people and want to help them experience God’s answers to life’s problems.
- You are glad when people who need comfort, encouragement, and counsel seek your help.

WAYS TO USE THE GIFT OF ENCOURAGEMENT/EXHORTATION IN THE CHURCH

- Counsel someone with a problem
- Encourage a new Christian
- Serve as a spiritual mentor (WIC Titus 2 ministry coming in the Fall of ’08)
- Visit and counsel inactive members
- Help other church members find ways to use their gifts in ministry
- Counsel at New Beginnings Pregnancy Resource Center
- Teach a “Christian Living” topic in a class (members of CGPC)

The Spiritual Gift of SERVICE – Romans 12:7 (and HELPS – 1 Corinthians 12:28)

The Spiritual Gift of SERVICE is the special Spirit-given ability to see and meet the needs of others by willingly helping them in practical ways. The Spiritual Gift of SERVICE focuses on taking care of lowly or time-consuming tasks to allow others to be more effective ministers. This gift is similar to HELPS, but in the gift of SERVICE the work performed is menial rather than skilled.

The Spiritual Gifts of HELPS assists others in SKILLED ways that are supernaturally enhanced by the anointed of the Holy Spirit. The helped person has the impression that they have been touched by God. The gifted HELPER lifts a burden from the one they help.

Both gifts, SERVICE AND HELPS, should be highly esteemed in the Church as both gifts enable others to minister much more effectively because of the work of these gifts. These gifts are sorely needed in the Church AND are very important to the Church’s overall ministry.

Biblical examples: Jesus (Mark 10:45); Phoebe (Romans 16: 1-2); Titus (2 Cor. 8: 16-19); Onesiphorus (2 Tim. 1: 16-18)

CHARACTERISTICS OF THOSE SPIRITUALLY GIFTED IN SERVICE AND HELPS

- You enjoy doing tasks that help others to minister effectively
- You are not put off by menial tasks but do them willingly as long as they help to build the Body of Christ (SERVICE)
- You find practical ways of helping others, and you gain satisfaction in doing this
- You sense when others need a helping hand, and you are ready to give it
- You love to serve, and you often take the initiative to meet needs
- You are able to identify needs quickly, and you can be counted on for almost any kind of help (mostly SERVICE)

WAYS TO USE THE GIFTS OF SERVICE AND HELPS IN THE CHURCH

- help busy parents or a busy single parent by watching their children
- assist a widow or elderly person with a difficult home maintenance task (HELPS)
- help out in the nursery
- do kitchen work for church functions
 - move tables and chairs (ask the Deacons if you can help in this way!)
- giving a ride to someone who is unable to drive to the store or doctor
- take a meal to the sick, disabled, or someone presently unable to cook
- work at the Glen-Ed Pantry sorting cloths, food, etc.
- repair OR remodel homes for those who are disadvantaged, poor, or unable to do the work themselves (HELPS)

The Spiritual Gift of CRAFTSMANSHIP

The Spiritual Gift of CRAFTSMANSHIP is the special Spirit-given ability where the Spirit endows certain Christians to use hands and minds to build up the Kingdom through artistic, creative means.

Biblical examples: Bezalel and Oholiab, craftsmen in charge of constructing the Tabernacle, are two prime examples. The Bible makes it clear that their gift is Spiritual in nature as they use their gifts for the Kingdom of God. Exodus 31: 1-6.

WAYS TO USE THE GIFT OF CRAFTSMANSHIP IN THE CHURCH

- make building modifications or improvements to the church building
- create new outside signage
- design or renovate existing landscaping around the church
- help create sets and designs for VBS and Christmas plays/programs
- construct furnishings within the church

What you should be doing as you consider how the Lord has uniquely gifted YOU:

- Let us give praise to God for the power of the HS given to members of the Body of Christ to ministry in the Kingdom.
- Remember to continue to THANK GOD for how He has specifically gifted you
- Ask the Lord for wisdom and guidance to understand and develop the gifts He has given you AND to find a place within the Church where you can use them.
- Commit yourself to the Lord to use His gifts to you for HIS GLORY.