

**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 5: GIFTS AND GOD’S OTHER GRACES**

In this session we will:

- compare Spiritual Gifts to: the fruit of the Spirit, filling of the Spirit, and the sealing of the Spirit.
- learn how temperament, ministry passions, skills/talents, spiritual maturity, and availability affect our ministry.
- explore the Spiritual Gifts of Faith, Preaching/Proclamation (Prophecy), Missionary Gift/Church Planter, and Music

Eight principles about Spiritual Gifts from Ephesians 4:11-16:

- 1) It is Christ who gives the gifts necessary for the work and ministries of the Church. Christ accomplishes this through the ministry of the Holy Spirit. (v. 11)
- 2) V. 11 focuses on gifted offices; vv. 12-16 focus on the gifts of the whole body.
- 3) Offices in the Church (the offices of elders and deacons) differ from Spiritual Gifts. While the offices of the Church (elders and deacons) belong to SOME members; Spiritual Gifts belong to ALL members!
- 4) Officers of the Church are responsible for teaching its members to USE their Spiritual Gifts in the work of different ministries for the purpose of building up the Body of Christ (v. 12)
- 5) In addition to building up the Church, the proper USE of Spiritual Gifts ALSO unifies the Body AND increases our head and heart knowledge of Christ (v. 13).
- 6) As we exercise our Spiritual Gifts and grow in Christ, we will be better prepared to confront the world with the truth of Christ AND defend against attacks on Christ (v. 14).
- 7) V. 15 is another reminder to exercise our Spiritual Gifts in LOVE.
- 8) V. 16 instructs us that as EVERY TRUE FOLLOWER of Christ properly uses his/her Spiritual Gifts, the whole Body of Christ grows as the Lord intends it to grow.

**Comparing Spiritual Gifts to: the FRUIT of the Spirit, the FILLING of the Spirit, and the SEALING of the Spirit.**

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT (Galatians 5: 22-23)

The FRUIT of the Spirit are spiritual **virtues** produced in the believer’s life by the indwelling Holy Spirit. On the other hand, Spiritual Gifts are Spirit-given **abilities** to be used by the believer for the building up of the Church.

Christians should possess ALL of the FRUIT, while possessing only SOME of the GIFTS.

THE FILLING OF THE SPIRIT (Acts 2:4, 4:8, 4:31, 9:17, 13:9)

The FILLING of the Spirit is **the complete control the Spirit** exercises in the life of a believer who has yielded to the Spirit. Being FILLED by the Holy Spirit is NOT a once-for-all experience. Repeatedly, as the occasion requires, the Holy Spirit empowers someone for worship, service, and testimony.

## THE SEALING OF THE SPIRIT (Ephesians 1: 13-14; 4:30)

The SEALING of the Spirit is the Spirit's indwelling presence, which serves as our downpayment on AND our guarantee of future blessing forever in the presence of Christ.

SEALING guarantees our eternal standing before God in Christ.

Spiritual Gifts, which are the result of the work of the Spirit, empower and enable us for directed service in the Kingdom of God until we pass into the next world.

**How temperament, ministry passions, skills/talents, spiritual maturity, and availability affect our ministry.**

### TEMPERAMENT

Temperaments need to be taken into consideration as you choose a ministry in the Kingdom.

There are four questions you need to answer:

- 1) Where do you tend to focus your attention? (outer world or inner world?)
- 2) How do you find out about things? (rely on senses or do you go beyond senses?)
- 3) How do you make decisions? (rely on thoughts and ideas or rely on feelings?)
- 4) How do you orient to the world? (prefer a planned, orderly world or a flexible, spontaneous world?)

### MINISTRY PASSIONS

Your ministry passion is that yearning the Lord has implanted in you where you would like to make a difference in a particular area of ministry. Your ministry passion is God's way of pulling you toward a particular area of ministry.

You will be most effective AND fulfilled in ministry if you apply your Spiritual Gifts to an area in which you have a strong desire to make a difference.

### SKILLS/TALENTS

In addition to Spiritual Gifts, God has given you skills and talents to perform specific tasks. You may have been born with these OR developed them through life experiences.

God's work will be accomplished more effectively AND you will feel more comfortable and productive in service if you are using your talents.

### SPIRITUAL MATURITY

It is important to realize that the level of spiritual maturity you have will affect the type of service you will be able to give to Christ and His Church.

Are you: a new/young Christian, a stable/growing Christian, or a leading/guiding Christian?

### AVAILABILITY

You must consider your priorities and determine how much time you are willing and able to commit to a ministry in the Church.

Temperament, ministry passions, skills/talents, spiritual maturity, and availability are important in the ministries in which we choose to serve. If we combine these with our Spiritual Gifts, by the work of the Spirit our ministry will be effective AND fulfilling WHILE we bring glory to God and His Kingdom!

## **The Spiritual Gift of FAITH (1 Corinthians 12:9)**

The Spiritual Gift of FAITH is the special Spirit-given ability in having extraordinary confidence in God that is unshakable by situations, pain, apparent failure, or ridicule. This gift strengthens the individual and other believers (by example) to endure persecution and to wait upon the Lord.

Biblical examples of those showing the Spiritual Gift of FAITH:

Abraham (Gen. 22:8); Jesus (John 11:23); Paul (Acts 27: 21-26)  
Moses, Joshua, Peter (after Christ's ascension into heaven)

### **CHARACTERISTICS OF ONE WHO HAS THE SPIRITUAL GIFT OF FAITH**

- You have had the experience of knowing with certainty that God willed to do something, and then you saw Him do it in response to faith and prayer.
- In specific cases God has given you assurance that He would do what seemed unlikely.
- You are often able to TRUST God to intervene in supernatural ways in spite of evidence to the contrary.
- You have a sense, at times, when a "prayer of faith" is needed.

### **WAYS TO USE THE GIFT OF FAITH IN THE CHURCH**

- Be a part of our regular prayer ministry on Wednesday evenings
- Pray for those in need sent to you from the church by email
- Pray for and/or lead the church in capital raising campaigns
- Help keep up hope in a discouraging situations in both personal lives and in the corporate life of the church
- Help lead or support a new ministry especially as many obstacles must be overcome

## **The Spiritual Gift of PREACHING/PROCLAMATION (PROPHECY) – 1 Cor. 12:10**

The special Spirit-given ability to speak what God wants said with clarity, creativity, and power so that believers may be edified and encouraged AND so that unbelievers may be convicted by the Word and Spirit of God.

The primary ministry in this gift is NOT prediction but forthtelling – confronting people with the truths about God and man through the Word of God.

The Spiritual Gift of PROCLAMATION/PROPHECY is foundational for the Church.

Ephesians 2: 19-20; 4: 11-13

The Spiritual Gift of PROCLAMATION/PROPHECY SATURATES the Bible.

Moses, in the whole book of Deuteronomy is an example; Elijah and Elisha are examples in 1 & 2 Kings; the books of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther provide clear examples; all of the major and minor prophets are examples; Jesus, all throughout the four Gospels, is the prime example; AND Peter and Paul in the book of Acts provide more examples.

### **CHARACTERISTICS OF ONE SPIRITUALLY GIFTED IN PROCLAMATION/PROPHECY**

- God has used you to proclaim timely and urgent messages or to give directions that have come to you through His Word and Spirit.
- God is using you to build up and encourage other Christians by speaking to them of Spiritual things.
- You receive Spiritual insights from the Word concerning people and issues, and you desire to express those insights.
- You are strongly motivated to declare the truth as God has impressed it upon your heart and mind.
- You are convinced that God wants you to speak out for Him on moral issues of our day.

## WAYS THE SPIRITUAL GIFT OF PROCLAMATION/PROPHECY CAN BE USED IN THE CHURCH

- Preach the Word (specially called and trained men only)
- Teach the Word (All Christian Education ministries, WIC, youth groups, camp)
- Bring the Word of God to individuals' lives who are struggling with some issue
- Lead a Bible study
- Speak out publicly on crucial moral issues
- Write about political and social issues from a biblical perspective

### **The Spiritual Gift of MISSIONARY GIFT/CHURCH PLANTER**

The special Spirit-given ability to communicate across cultural barriers and plant churches where there is no knowledge of the Gospel.

We see this supremely in the Apostle Paul in the book of Acts in chapters 13-20.

### CHARACTERISTICS OF ONE WITH THE MISSIONARY/CHURCH PLANTER SPIRITUAL GIFT

- He/She is very entrepreneurial – is one who is willing to try new things and take risks.
- He/She is a visionary leader
- He/She is an effective evangelist or at least has the passion to see the Gospel taken to areas where it is not prevalent.
- He/She is not averse to other cultures, as a matter of fact, he/she enjoys other cultures.
- A church planter must be an above average Christ-centered preacher

### WAYS TO USE THE SPIRITUAL GIFT OF MISSIONARY/CHURCH PLANTER IN THE CHURCH

- Become a short-term or long-term missionary (come to our Missions conference this year!)
- Become a church planter (there is a process for this)
- Be involved in our church's Missions Committee
- Be involved in evangelistic outreach opportunities (Sr. High Youth Group, Good News Club)

### **The Spiritual Gift of MUSIC**

The special Spirit-given ability where the Spirit enables certain Christians to praise God through various forms of music and enhance the worship experience of the local congregation.

The focus must always be on bringing glory to God AND NOT glory to oneself.

Biblical examples of the Spiritual Gift of music: David (2 Sam. 23:1); the book of Psalms; musicians were specially appointed for temple worship to enhance worship (1 Chronicles 16: 41-42; 2 Chronicles 5: 12-13; 7:6); Ephesians 5:19; Matthew 26:30 (Ps. 118).

### CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PERSON WITH THE SPIRITUAL GIFT OF MUSIC

- You have used music to benefit the body of Christ.
- You are able to communicate divine truth musically in interesting and inspiring ways.
- People have been spiritually stimulated and have grown in their appreciation of the Lord through your music efforts.
- You are drawn to people who share your love for music.
- You enjoy the preparation and practice that is necessary to keep your musical gift sharp.

### WAYS YOU CAN USE THE GIFT OF MUSIC IN THE CHURCH

- Become a choir member (See Music Director, Mindy Myers)
- Offer to be a soloist in worship (See Music Director, Mindy Myers)
- Let our Music Director, Mindy Myers, know of your desire to play a musical instrument in worship
- Volunteer to assist with music in VBS (See Music Director, Mindy Myers), youth group (See Pastor Aaron, camp (See Pastor Don)