

**DISCOVERING
YOUR
SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

LESSON ONE

(TEACHER COPY)

INTRODUCTION

God has given each believer a combination of opportunities and gifts that is perfectly suited to his or her situation in life.

Every Christian is really a minister with a unique contribution to make to The Body of Christ.

The central thrust of your ministry depends on the spiritual gifts you have received.

In this four-week study, we will look at the definition, design, desirability, and description of the gifts of the Spirit.

We will also see how to discover and develop spiritual gifts, consider the danger of their abuse, and the directions for their use.

I. DIVERSITY AND UNITY IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

When the Holy Spirit descended on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2, a new “ORGANISM” was created.

This organism consists of all those who have received the gift of eternal life in Christ Jesus.

In the Scriptures, it is referred to by three names:

1. SPIRITUAL HOUSEHOLD –

Romans 8:14-17, Galatians 4:4-7 and Ephesians 2:19 describe it as a spiritual household or family, because through our adoption and new birth, we have become sons and daughters of God.

2. HOLY TEMPLE – Ephesians 2:20-22 and 1 Peter 2:4-5, refer to this organism as a holy temple, and affirm believers as its living stones.

3. BODY OF CHRIST – the most frequently used metaphor for this new creation.

(References: Romans 12:4-5, 1 Corinthians 12:12-27, Ephesians 1:22-23, Ephesians 3:6, Ephesians 4:4-16, Ephesians 5:23-30, Colossians 1:18, Colossians 2:19).

In addition, all three major New Testament lists of the gifts are introduced by a description of this unity and diversity in The Body of Christ (Romans 12, 1 Cor. 12, Eph. 4).

Paul's metaphor (The Body of Christ) could not be more appropriate.

We are different and yet conjoined by our commonality as believers, baptized by the Holy Spirit into The Body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13).

Christ is our head, and we are His individual components.

As Christians, each of us has been given a special function to perform and the ability to fulfill it in a way that will benefit the other members of the body.

And because each part of the body depends on the rest for its well being, there are no useless organs.

This is why fellowship is so important to the baptized believer.

Just as an organ detached from its body will atrophy, no Christian can enjoy spiritual vitality in a relational vacuum.

The Spirit has distributed spiritual gifts to every member of the body, and no single member possesses all the gifts.

Thus, growth will not take place unless we acknowledge our mutual dependence upon each other.

The Body of Christ is an organism...not a dictatorship or a democracy.

The local church is best structured around the distribution and function of the spiritual gifts found in its members.

Exercise: In Ephesians 4:4-16, Paul outlines the role of God-given gifts in the edification of the body.

What are the seven points of unity found in verses 4-6?

(One body, one Spirit, One hope, One Lord, One faith, One baptism, One Father)

According to Ephesians 4:12, what is the basis for the giving of gifts to the church?

(Answer: “for the perfecting of the saints, the work of the ministry, and the edifying of the Body of Christ.”)

II. DEFINITION AND DESIGN OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

A. DEFINITION:

The Greek word most frequently used for spiritual gifts is “*CHARISMATA*”, a word that relates to the grace of God.

Paul writes, “*But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of the gift of Christ*” (Ephesians 4:7).

Spiritual gifts are a divine endowment of special abilities for service within The Body of Christ.

These special attributes are given by the Holy Spirit to every member of the body of Christ.

DESIGN:

There are twelve principles that relate to God's design for spiritual gifts:

1. **Every Christian has two or more spiritual gifts, which are given for the benefit of all. Reference: 1 Corinthians 12: 7 – “*But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.*” 1 Corinthians 12:11 – “*But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as He will.*”**
2. **Each multi-gifted Christian has received a combination of spiritual abilities that are perfectly suited to his or her God-given ministry.**
3. **Spiritual gifts may be given at the moment of regeneration, but they are often undiscovered or dormant for a long time, until the Christian discovers his gifts through a gradual maturing process.**
4. **Spiritual gifts can be abused and neglected, but if they are received at regeneration, it appears that they cannot be lost. They can, however, be wasted, for lack of use. What good is a spiritual gift to the body of Christ if it lays dormant in the believer?**
5. **Spiritual gifts are not the same as The Gift of The Spirit. The gift of the Spirit has been bestowed on all believers (John 14:16; Acts 2:38), and every member of the body should appropriate this gift of the Holy Spirit.
The GIFTS of the Spirit, however, are distributed as God decides.**
6. **Spiritual gifts are not the same as The Fruit of The Spirit. Spiritual fruits is produced from within. Spiritual gifts are imparted from without. Fruit relates to Christ-like character; gifts relate to Christian service.**

Paul made it clear in 1 Corinthians 13 that spiritual gifts without spiritual fruit are worthless...especially the fruit of LOVE.

7. **Spiritual gifts are not the same as natural talents. Unlike the natural abilities which everyone has from birth, spiritual gifts**

belong exclusively to believers in Christ. In some cases, the gifts of the Spirit coincide with natural endowments, but they transcend these natural abilities by adding a supernatural quality. Both natural and spiritual gifts are given by God (James 1:7), and should be developed and used according to their purpose for the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10:31).

8. ***ALL CHRISTIANS ARE CALLED TO A MINISTRY, BUT NOT ALL ARE CALLED TO AN OFFICE.*** Ministry is determined by divinely given gifts and opportunities (Ephesians 3:7). Offices (i.e. deacon, evangelist, teacher) are humanly recognized and appointed spheres of ministry within the body.
9. ***SOME SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE MORE DESIRABLE IN THE CHURCH THAN OTHERS.*** The reason is that they result in greater edification of the body. Paul exhorted the Corinthian church to be eager for the greatest gifts (1 Corinthians 12:31; 12:28-29; 14:5).

“CHARISMATA” literally means ***‘GRACE GIFTS’***.

They are absolutely sovereign in nature, and undeservedly given by The Holy Spirit. There is no basis for boasting or envy. Every member of the body has a special place and purpose.

Whether one is more or less prominent in the eyes of men, the same standard applies for all...*it is required of stewards that one be found faithful* (1 Corinthians 4:2).

Work with what has given you (2 Timothy 1:6), and *seek to please Him rather than men* (Galatians 1:10, 1 Thessalonians 2:4).

Gifts are God’s spiritual equipment for effective service and edification of the body.

They are not bestowed for the self-aggrandizement of the recipient, or as an evidence of a special endowment of the Spirit.

They are solely for the profit and edification of the Body of Christ.

Gifts are given so that God will receive the glory in everything we do for Him.

Reference: 1 Peter 4:11 – *“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”*

High mobilization of spiritual gifts was the key to the rapid multiplication of the church in the New Testament.

References: Romans 1:11 – *“For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established;”*

Eph. 4:12 – *“For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of The Body of Christ:”*

2 Tim. 2:2 – *“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”*

DISCOVERING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

LESSON TWO

III. DESIRABILITY OF THE GIFTS

YOU WILL BE SATISFIED!!!

When you know and use your gifts, it gives you an understanding of the unique and indispensable ministry you have been called to accomplish in The Body of Christ.

You will discover a significant part of your purpose for being on this planet and realize that God has made you competent to produce something that will last for eternity.

You will have a sense of fulfillment and joy in the service of others as you become an available instrument through which the Holy Spirit can work.

In addition, knowledge of your spiritual gifts will greatly assist you in discerning and affirming the will of God at various points in your life.

God will not call you to accomplish anything without giving you the power and enablement to do it.

You will be able to make more intelligent decisions about possible involvement in specific opportunities and training in light of your God-given function in the body (Romans 12:4).

You will also use your time more effectively by focusing on the things you have been equipped to do well, rather than expending your energy in areas of minimum potential.

OTHERS WILL BE EDIFIED!!!

When you know and use your gifts, others in the body of Christ will be edified.

Your spiritual gifts will play a substantial role in building up other Christians and leading them into maturity (Ephesians 4:12-16).

If you fail to develop your gifts or let them decline through disuse, your brothers and sisters in Christ will actually be hurt, because they will be deprived of the unique ministry that only you could perform in their lives.

GOD WILL BE GLORIFIED!!!

According to 1 Peter 4:10-11, your spiritual gifts are ultimately designed to bring glory to God.

This is your highest calling.

As you use your gifts in conjunction with the power and fruit (especially love) of the Holy Spirit and in the Name of Jesus Christ, the Father receives the glory.

IV. DIGGING FOR YOUR GIFTS (SELF-EXCAVATION)

There are three places in the Scriptures where the spiritual gifts are discussed – Romans chapter 12, 1 Corinthians chapters 12-14, and Ephesians chapter 4.

Read each scriptural reference and begin to list the gifts you find in these passages.

Ponder these questions as we explore the gifts:

WHAT IS THE NATURE OF EACH OF THESE GIFTS?

ARE ALL OF THESE GIFTS PRESENT IN THE CHURCH TODAY?

ARE THERE ANY OTHER GIFTS THAT ARE NOT MENTIONED IN THIS LIST?

V. DESCRIPTION OF THE GIFTS

A spiritual gift is a manifestation of the Spirit, given for the benefit of all.

As a supernatural endowment, its source is ALWAYS the Holy Spirit, and its purpose is the building up of others to the glory of God.

THE GIFTS

PROPHECY - The ability to receive and proclaim a message from God. (Romans 12:6, 1 Corinthians 12:10, 28-29; Ephesians 4:11)

This could involve the foretelling of future events, though its primary purpose as seen in 1 Cor. 14:3 is forth-telling: one who speaks to people for their strengthening, encouragement, and consolation.

This gift provides a Word from God to a specific group, and not to all believers.

Most theologians maintain that this gift is still operative through spirit-empowered preaching.

SERVICE– The ability to identify and care for the physical needs of the body through a variety of means. (Romans 12:7)

The Greek word for this gift is the same as that for ministry or deacon, but the gift should not be confused with the office.

TEACHING – The ability to clearly explain and effectively apply the truths of God’s Word so that others will learn. (Romans 12:7; 1 Corinthians 12:28-29; Eph. 4:11)

This requires the capacity to accurately interpret Scripture, engage in necessary research, and organize the results in a way that is easily communicated.

EXHORTATION– The ability to motivate others to respond to the truth by providing timely words of counsel, encouragement, and consolation. (Romans 12:8)

When this gift is exercised, believers are challenged to stimulate their faith by putting God’s truth to the test in their lives.

GIVING – The ability to contribute material resources with generosity and cheerfulness for the benefit of others and the glory of God. (Romans 12:8)
Christians with this spiritual gift need not be wealthy.

LEADERSHIP– The ability to discern God’s purpose for a group, set and communicate appropriate goals, and motivate others to work together to fulfill them in the service of God. (Romans 12:8)
A person with this gift is effective at delegating tasks to followers without manipulation or coercion.

MERCY– The ability to deeply empathize and engage in compassionate acts on behalf of people who are suffering physical, mental, or emotional distress. (Romans 12:8)
Those with this gift manifest concern and kindness to people who are often overlooked.

WISDOM– The ability to apply the principles of the Word of God in a practical way to specific situations and to recommend the best course of action at the best time. (1 Cor. 12:8)
The exercise of this gift skillfully distills insight and discernment into excellent advice.

KNOWLEDGE – The ability to discover, analyze, and systematize truth for the benefit of others. (1 Cor. 12:8)

With this gift, one speaks with understanding and penetration. Some also associate supernatural perception with this gift.

FAITH – The ability to have a vision for what God wants to be done and to confidently believe that it will be accomplished in spite of circumstances and appearance to the contrary. (1 Cor. 12:9)

The gift of faith transforms vision into reality.

HEALING – The ability to serve as a human instrument through whom God supernaturally cures illnesses and restores health (1 Cor. 12:9, 28, 30)

The possessor of this gift is not the source of power, but a vessel who can only heal those diseases the Lord chooses to heal.

Inner healing (emotional healing) is sometimes associated with this gift.

MIRACLES – The ability to serve as an instrument through whom God accomplishes acts that manifest supernatural power. (1 Cor. 12:10, 28, 29)

Miracles bear witness to the presence of God and the truth of His proclaimed Word, and appear to occur most frequently in association with missionary activity.

DISCERNING OF SPIRITS– The ability to clearly discern the spirit of truth and the spirit of error (1 John 4:6). (1 Cor. 12:10)

With this gift, one can distinguish reality versus counterfeits, the divine vs. the demonic, true versus false teaching, and in some cases, spiritual versus carnal motives.

TONGUES– The ability to receive and impart a spiritual message in a language the recipient never learned. (1 Cor. 12:10, 28, 30; 14:1-40)

For other members of the body to be edified, this message must be interpreted either by the recipient (1 Cor. 14:13) or by another person with the gift of interpretation (1 Cor. 14:26-28).

This gift is very controversial, and is therefore worthy of the following observations:

Paul qualified the public use of this gift, stating that in a meeting of the church, two or at the most three could speak in a tongue, it must be

done one at a time, and a person with the gift of interpretation MUST be present so that the body would be edified (1 Cor. 14: 26-28)

There are a number of differences between the manifestation of tongues at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-13) and its use in Corinth (1 Cor. 14), and these differences suggest that the two are not identical.

In 1 Corinthians 12:28, Paul spoke of kinds of tongues.

Many theologians readily distinguish a private use of tongues, often called a prayer language (1 Cor. 14:14-15), from the public use of tongues, which must be interpreted.

The gift of tongues is easily counterfeited and often abused. It can be a source of spiritual pride, excessive preoccupation, and divisiveness.

Contrary to some denominational teaching, tongues are not the only sign of the filling of the Spirit, and not all believers are to manifest this gift (1 Cor. 12:17-19,30)

INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES– The ability to translate into the vernacular a message publicly uttered in a tongue. (1 Cor. 12:10, 30; 14:5, 13; 26-28)

This gift may be combined with the gift of tongues (1 Cor. 14:13), or it can operate separately (1 Cor. 14: 26-28).

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LESSON THREE

V. DESCRIPTION OF THE GIFTS (Continued)

APOSTLESHIP (1 Cor. 12:28, 29), Eph. 4:11) –

As a spiritual gift, this is the ability to begin and/or oversee new churches and Christian ministries with a spontaneously recognized authority.

In the New Testament, the Apostles were not limited to the Twelve, but included Paul, Barnabas, Andronicus, Junias, and others as well (Acts 14:14, Romans 16:7, 1 Cor. 15:5-7, 1 Thess. 2:6).

If the requirement for the office of Apostle includes having seen the resurrected Jesus (Acts 1:22, 1 Cor 9:1), this office ceased to exist by the second century.

HELPS (1 Cor. 12:28) – The ability to enhance the effectiveness of the ministry of other members of the body.

This is the only usage of this word in the New Testament, and it appears to be distinct from the gift of service.

Some suggest that while the gift of service is more group-oriented, the gift of helps is more person-oriented.

ADMINISTRATION (1 Cor. 12:28) – This word, like *HELPS*, appears only one time in the New Testament.

Outside of Scripture, it refers to one who steers a ship to its destination.

This suggests that the spiritual gift of administration is the ability to steer a church or Christian organization toward the fulfillment of its goals by managing its affairs and implementing necessary plans.

A person may have the gift of leadership without the gift of administration.

EVANGELISM (Ephesians 4:11) – The ability to be an unusually effective instrument in leading unbelievers to a saving knowledge of Christ.

Some with this gift are most effective in personal evangelism, while others may be used by God in group evangelism or cross-cultural evangelism.

SHEPHERD OR PASTOR (Ephesians 4:11) – Peter was commissioned by Christ to shepherd His sheep (John 21:16), and Peter exhorted the elders in the churches of Asia Minor to do the same (1 Peter 5:2, Acts 20:28).

A person with this spiritual gift has the ability to personally lead, nourish, protect, and care for the needs of a flock of believers.

Unfortunately, not all people with the office of pastor have the gift of pastoring or shepherding; some have coveted this position in error.

Ironically, there are others who possess and effectively apply this gift, who do not hold the office of pastor.

OTHER GIFTS

None of the lists in Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, and Ephesians 4 is complete, and it is evident that there are other spiritual gifts apart from those listed above.

Here are some other spiritual gifts:

CELIBACY – the ability to enjoy being single and maintain sexual self-control (1 Cor. 7:7-9)

VOLUNTARY POVERTY – the ability to renounce material comfort and adopt a lifestyle of relative poverty (1 Cor. 13:3).

MARTYRDOM – the ability to display an attitude of joy while suffering or even dying for the faith (1 Cor. 13:3).

HOSPITALITY – the ability to welcome and provide for those in need of food and lodging (Romans 12:13, 1 Peter 4:9).

MISSIONARY – the ability to minister effectively in a second culture.

INTERCESSION – the ability to pray for a long period of time on a regular basis for the ministries and needs of others.

EXORCISM – the ability to discern and cast out demons with authority.

OTHER SPIRITUAL GIFTS – (music, craftsmanship, technologies, etc.) These gifts are also given to members of the body of Christ for mutual edification.

EXERCISE: Divide into four groups and have each group discuss one of the applications of the following gifts today: Celibacy, martyrdom, missionary, exorcism.

Report back your conclusions.

(Conclusions: Celibacy – a requirement in the Catholic church;

Martyrdom – continues in foreign lands where Christians are persecuted;

Missionary – there are still parts of the world where the Gospel has not been spread;

Exorcism – although still practiced openly in the Catholic church, it is evident that the universal Church is neglecting this gift.)

COMBINATIONS AND VARIATIONS OF GIFTS

Many if not all believers have combinations of two or more spiritual gifts.

Some combinations are unusual, while others are commonly combined.

Gifts that usually work together include pastor/teacher, leadership/administration, evangelism/teaching, tongues/interpretation, and discernment/exorcism, but these are by no means exhaustive combinations.

In 1 Corinthians 12:4-6, the Apostle Paul distinguishes three parameters: Gifts (charismaton), Ministries (diakonion), and Effects (energematou).

GIFTS are linked to the Holy Spirit and have a specific capacity or function.

MINISTRIES are linked to Jesus, and represent the sphere in which a gift is performed.

EFFECTS refers to the Father, and represents the degree of power by which a gift is manifested or ministered on a specific occasion.

Thus, there are not only gifts and gift-combinations, but also many variations in the spheres and manifestations of gifts.

For example: there are many variations in the spiritual gift of teaching.

Some are more effective with small groups, others with large groups; some can effectively communicate with youth, while others are best at teaching adults.

A Christian must not only discover his gifts, but also the best application of those gifts for the good of the body of Christ.

D. CLASSIFICATIONS OF GIFTS

According to 1 Peter 4:10-11, there are two classifications of gifts:

- 1) Speaking gifts (ministry of the Word),**
- 2) Serving gifts (ministry of practical service).**

Peter says, “Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of the varied grace of God.

Whoever speaks, let it be with God’s Words.

Whoever serves, do so with the strength that God supplies, so that in everything God will be glorified through Jesus Christ.

To Him belong the glory and the power forever and ever.

Amen”

**Class Exercise: List all the gifts according to their distinction.
Do any of them overlap?**

Speaking Gifts	Serving Gifts
Prophecy	Service
Teaching	Giving
Exhortation	Mercy
Leadership *	Wisdom *
Faith *	Knowledge *
Discerning of Spirits *	Healing *
Tongues	Miracles *
Interpretation of Tongues	Apostleship
Evangelism	Helps
Pastor or Shepherd	Administration *
Intercession *	Celibacy
	Missionary
	Martyrdom *
	Voluntary Poverty
	Hospitality
	Music
	Technologies
	Craftsmanship
* these gifts can overlap	

DISCOVERING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

LESSON FOUR

VI. DISCOVERING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT(S)

Three Prerequisites – As you seek to discover your spiritual gift or gifts, ask yourself these questions:

1. HAVE I RECEIVED CHRIST AS MY SAVIOR?

Remember that unlike natural talents, spiritual gifts are bestowed only on believers.

2. AM I WALKING IN FELLOWSHIP WITH THE LORD?

To be effective, spiritual gifts must be manifested in the context of the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

If you have unconfessed sin and are not ‘abiding in Christ’, the Holy Spirit’s fruit will not be present in your life – love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance (Galatians 5:22-23).

The absence of this fruit of the Spirit will impede or obstruct the exercise of any spiritual gifts.

3. DO I REALLY WANT TO DEVELOP MY GIFT(S)?

You must have a willingness to put forth the effort to discover and develop your spiritual gifts.

SIX STEPS

ASKING: Begin to ask God to show you your gifts (Philippians 4:6-7; James 1:5).

AWARENESS: Expose yourself to biblical teaching on spiritual gifts by studying Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12-14, and Ephesians 4. Spend time with other Christians who clearly know and use their spiritual gifts.

Ask them about their gifts, and how they discovered them.

ASPIRATION: God is committed to your joy, not your misery. Expect that you will take delight in serving the Lord.

As you pray to Him, ask yourself what you would most like to do for the Kingdom.

Then ask the Lord to reveal your purpose in His plan, *“For it is God who is at work in you both to will and to work for His good pleasure”* (Philippians 2:13).

Your feelings will not be the only indication, but they will give you some direction.

ACTIVITY: Just as we discover our natural talents by trying our hand at numerous things, in the same way we can discover our spiritual gifts by experimenting with several of the available gifts.

If we don't try, we will never know.

Don't be afraid to discover your weaknesses as well as your strengths.

ABILITY: Activity eventually points to ability.

Don't be premature in your personal evaluation, because ability increases with practice.

Be sensitive to areas of improvement.

Look for opportunities within your church community, and seek the evaluation of mature Christians who are familiar with your activities.

Because of the danger of self-deception, spiritual gifts are best recognized by other members of the body.

AFFIRMATION: Once you discover your gift, others will respond in a positive fashion, and you will see evidence that your gift(s) is blessing The Body of Christ.

As you use your gift in the power of the Spirit, God will confirm and establish you in your ministry, and there will continue to be positive feedback from those to whom you minister.

It has been said that desire may indicate your gift, ability will confirm it, and blessing will accompany it.

VII. DEVELOPING YOUR GIFTS

Having discovered your gifts, you are accountable to yourself, others and God to develop and cultivate that which the Spirit has implanted within you.

The gifts of the Spirit are developed in three ways:

- A. BY EXERCISE: Like natural talents, spiritual gifts are developed by practice, not just by desire. Without regular exercise, they will suffer from atrophy. Continue to pursue opportunities and persevere in the use of your gifts.**
- B. BY EVALUATION: Be open to the evaluation and counsel of other believers. Periodically ask godly people to evaluate your ministry in terms of strengths, weaknesses, and ways to improve.**
- C. BY EDUCATION: More Christian educational and developmental materials are available today than ever before. Take advantage of the best books, classes, tapes, and seminars that can help you improve your God-given abilities.**

VIII. DANGER OF ABUSE

The effective mobilization of spiritual gifts is critical to the growth of Christianity.

Watch out for the following pitfalls:

1. SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE NOT FOR YOUR PERSONAL USE.

They are designed to edify others.

2. SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE NOT GAINED BY MERIT OR BEGGING.

They are given by the grace of God (charismata).

3. SPIRITUAL GIFTS CAN BE ABUSED WHEN EXERCISED IN THE POWER OF THE FLESH.

Unless they are being used in the power of the Spirit and through the love of Christ, they are of no value.

The discovery of your gifts is not a game, or an option.

Your gifts determine your ministry, and your ministry has eternal consequences.

4. Spiritual gifts should not be a cause of discouragement.

Gifts develop gradually over time.

Don't be in a hurry, and don't envy another person's ministry.

5. Spiritual gifts should not be a cause of pride.

They are divinely-entrusted responsibilities, not status symbols or trophies.

6. Spiritual gifts can not only be counterfeited by the flesh, but also by Satan.

Avoid the temptation to project your gifts onto others.

What works for you will not necessarily work for others.

IX. DIRECTIONS FOR USE

Remember that the Holy Spirit is the true dynamic behind your gifts.

Exercise your gifts in total dependence on His power.

Spiritual gifts function best in a sphere of love.

**Concentrate your energy in productive areas.
Maximize your time in gift-related areas, and minimize your time in activities for which you are not suited.**

However, remember that certain ministries are the responsibility of all believers, regardless of your gifts; ministries such as intercession, faith, service, helps, mercy and giving.

Be careful to avoid spiritual cop out!

**Exercise: Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8.
Visualize each of the characteristics of love in relation to the exercise of spiritual gifts in the body of Christ.**

Answer these questions:

**How can the lack of love hinder the discovery of your gifts?
The use of your gifts?**

(Answer: The expression of love for the body of Christ is evidence of conversion. Without love, there is no basis for the discovery OR use of spiritual gifts.)

CONCLUSION

We have seen through this study that God has given each believer a combination of opportunities and gifts for the building up of His kingdom.

Now it is your duty as a believer in Jesus Christ to discover your gifts and put them to work in the ministry

God has chosen for you.

Remember...the discovery and use of your spiritual gifts will bring you great joy!

Personal Evaluation:

What areas of spiritual gift exploration will I begin immediately?

What spiritual gifts do I already suspect I possess for which I will seek competent confirmation?

How do I plan to practice using those gifts?
