

The gifts of the Holy Spirit – part 3: “So, WHAT should I DO?”

Introduction

- Greatest gift of the HS is HIMSELF... given to EVERY Christian... by whom we are given Christ
- The Spirit gives gifts: in variety... to build the body
- “So, what should I do?”
 - o DON'T treat NT gift lists like a checklist
 - Not every gift is listed
 - Some gifts were for the NT era only.

1 Peter 4:10-11 = helpful verses! = every gift of the Spirit is either...
a gift of Word or
gifts of Deed/Service/Help.

Discussion questions to talk about together...

“Different people have different gifts. And different people have different opportunities. Some will lean far more towards practical service – others towards teaching and prayer. But, even though we all have strengths, and it's good to work to those strengths, we all have the call to do what's needed to serve those around us. You may be primarily a teacher, but you can still offer someone a bowl of soup as they come round to study the Bible with you at lunchtime if that's what's needed to keep them fed that day. You may be primarily a gardener, but you can still utter a simple, 2 sentence, prayer thanking God for the wonder of his creation before you dig, to help the person you're visiting remember the goodness of God. Everything spiritual can be combined with something practical – everything practical can still remind people of the glories of Christ.”

(Steve Midgely, Helen Thorne, Biblical Counselling UK)

Discuss this quotation...

1. Any immediate responses?
2. How does it help us as we think about “spiritual gifts”?

Look at 1 Peter 4:10-11 and talk about the aim of spiritual gifts:

3. What is the aim(s) of spiritual gifts?
4. Why is helpful to remember this?

Talk together about gifts of Bible teaching and Bible sharing.

5. How should different church members be responding to the need for these gifts?
6. How should we pray with this in mind? (for ourselves, for the church, for our families, etc).
7. What might hinder us from exercising gifts of Bible ministry?

Talk together about gifts of serving and helping.

8. What does it mean to serve “by the strength that God supplies”?
9. What else do you think is needed if we are to serve one another well?
10. Share some experiences of giving and receiving help in the body of Christ.
11. What might hinder us from exercising gifts of service / helping?

How would you respond to these statements (or unspoken thoughts)...

12. I'm not needed – there are so many better Christians here.
13. He/she needs to pull his/her weight a bit more.
14. My gifts mean that I'm more important and/or I don't need to bother with that other need.
15. I know there's a need. But that's not my gift.
16. I find it hard to love some of my brothers and sisters. I don't always want to serve them.
17. I have to work really hard at X [speaking... or serving]. Does that mean I've not been gifted by God in that thing? Shouldn't it just come naturally and easily?