

GOD'S E.R.
FREED FROM ALL THINGS

Acts 13:39 and through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things

Class 2 – Basic Training for Christians - Lesson Seven

“Purpose – Plugging in to Service”

The Lord Jesus promised that when He had gone on to the Father, that He would send the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit brought with Him gifts of various natures, to help believers and build up the Body of Christ remaining in the Earth. This is the Lord’s purpose for each believer: that we understand the gifts He has given us, and “plug” them into service in the Body of Christ!

These gifts are what enable believers to enter into service, to our Lord, and to one another. There are three categories of giftings:

- **Ministry (office) gifts:** Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor, and Teacher. (Eph 4)
- **Motivational (practical) gifts:** Prophecy, Service, Exhortation, Giving, Leadership, Mercy, Helps, and Administration. (Romans 12)
- **Spiritual gifts:** Wisdom, Knowledge, Discernment, Prophecy, Tongues, Interpretation, Faith, Healing, and Miracles. (I Cor 12 – also mentions other gifts)

Ephesians 4	Romans 12	1 Corinthians 12
apostle evangelist pastor prophet teacher	prophecy service (helps) teaching exhortation giving leadership mercy	wisdom knowledge discernment tongues tongues interpretation prophecy faith healing miracles

1. **Ministry (office) gifts** serve to reveal the plan of God. These gifts are characteristic of a full-time office or calling (rather than a spiritual gift that can operate in and through any believer as the Father wills):

Ephesians 4 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, 3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all. 7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8 Therefore it says, "WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH, HE LED CAPTIVE A HOST OF CAPTIVES, AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN." ...11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ ; 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. 14 As a result, we are no longer to be children,

tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; 15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

The calling to a Ministry Gifting should never be taken lightly, but the understanding is that the Lord has given His precious children into your care in one of these areas. You must prudently care for God's children in your called capacity.

The Ministry Gifts are:

- **Apostle** - An apostle builds and establishes churches to the glory of God. An apostle is able to function in all of the ministry gifts.
- **Prophet** - Prophet in the Greek means to "foretell" future events. A prophet functions as God's mouthpiece, speaking forth God's Word. Often Prophets are used to warn and correct God's children - always to build them up and to help them avoid the traps of the enemy.
- **Evangelist** - An evangelist is called to be a witness for Jesus Christ. The Evangelist is a bringer of good tidings, sharing the gospel of salvation through Christ. The Evangelist will minister through the local churches to bring people into the body of Christ.
- **Pastor** - The pastor is the shepherd of the people. A true shepherd lays down his life for the sheep and is more concerned for them than himself. The Pastor is responsible for the spiritual welfare and feeding of the people.
- **Teacher** - The teacher and the pastor are often a shared office. The teacher lays a Scriptural foundation and is concerned with detail and accuracy. He loves to research to validate truth. The Teacher is responsible to teach only verifiable Truth.

You may be called to one of these ministry offices. However, you will always function in at least one of the *Motivational (practical) Gifts* as you are preparing to serve in ministry capacity.

2. **Motivational (practical) gifts** work in the Body of Christ, among the Body of Christ. Gifts are always to give help to another, never for selfish gain or motivation.

Romans 12:3-13 For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. **4** For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, **5** so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. **6** Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; **7** if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; **8** or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. **9** Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. **10** Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; **11** not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; **12** rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, **13** contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.

The Motivational (practical) Gifts are:

1. **Prophecy** - Those with the motivational gift of prophecy are the "seers" or "eyes" of the body. They have insight, foresight, and are the *watchmen* in the church. They warn of sin or reveal sin. They are usually very verbal and may seem judgmental or even impersonal; they are loyal to truth over friendship, serious, dedicated.
2. **Ministering/Serving/Helps** - Those with the motivational gift of serving are the "hands" of the body. They are concerned with meeting needs; they are highly motivated, doers. They may tend to over commit, but find joy in serving and meeting short-term goals.
3. **Teaching** - Those with the motivational gift of teaching are the "mind" of the body. They realize their gift is foundational; they emphasize accuracy of words and love to study; they delight in research to validate truth.
4. **Giving** - Those with the motivational gift of giving are the "arms" of the body. They truly enjoy reaching out in giving. They are excited by the prospect of blessing others. Givers desire to give quietly, in secret, but will also motivate others to give. They are alert to people's needs; they give cheerfully and always give the best that they can give.
5. **Exhortation/Encouragement** - Those with the motivational gift of encouragement are the "mouth" of the body. They encourage other believers and are motivated by a desire to see people grow and mature in the Lord. They are practical, positive and like positive responses. They seek to bring people up to a higher level and to help people see the best in themselves and others.
6. **Administration/Leadership** - Those with the motivational gift of leadership are the "head" of the body. They have the ability to see the overall picture and set long-term goals; they are good organizers and find efficient ways of getting work done. Although they may not seek leadership, they will assume it when no leader is available. They receive fulfillment when others come together to complete a task.
7. **Mercy** - Those with the motivational gift of mercy are the "heart" of the body. They easily sense the joy or distress in other people and are sensitive to feelings and needs. They are attracted to and patient with people in need, motivated by a desire to see people healed of hurts. They are truly meek in nature and avoid firmness.

Ministry gifts then, operate in such a way as to bring the Body of Christ together so that the Body can function with appropriate leadership, teaching, and covering. Motivational gifts are provided for the individual members to help them serve and help one another, every part of the body supplying all that is needed for the body to function properly.

Finally, there are the Spiritual gifts. These giftings are to help us understand God, the spiritual realm, and the things operating within the spirit of Man. Often these gives are used for correction and encouragement to the Body of Christ as well.

3. **Spiritual gifts** are authored by the Holy Spirit to bring *spiritual* understanding to the Body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12 (NLT) And now, dear brothers and sisters, I will write about the special abilities the Holy Spirit gives to each of us, for I must correct your misunderstandings about them. **2** You know that when you were still pagans you were led astray and swept along in worshipping speechless idols. **3** So I want you to know how to discern what is truly from God: No one speaking by the Spirit of God can curse Jesus, and no one is able to say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit. **4** Now there are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but it is the same Holy Spirit who is the source of them all. **5** There are different kinds of service in the church, but it is the same Lord we

are serving. **6** There are different ways God works in our lives, but it is the same God who does the work through all of us. **7** A spiritual gift is given to each of us as a means of helping the entire church. **8** To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another he gives the gift of special knowledge. **9** The Spirit gives special faith to another, and to someone else he gives the power to heal the sick. **10** He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and to another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to know whether it is really the Spirit of God or another spirit that is speaking. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, ^b and another is given the ability to interpret what is being said. **11** It is the one and only Holy Spirit who distributes these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have. **12** The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up only one body. So it is with the body of Christ. **13** Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into Christ's body by one Spirit, and we have all received the same Spirit. **14** Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part. **15** If the foot says, "I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand," that does not make it any less a part of the body. **16** And if the ear says, "I am not part of the body because I am only an ear and not an eye," would that make it any less a part of the body? **17** Suppose the whole body were an eye -- then how would you hear? Or if your whole body were just one big ear, how could you smell anything? **18** But God made our bodies with many parts, and he has put each part just where he wants it. **19** What a strange thing a body would be if it had only one part! **20** Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. **21** The eye can never say to the hand, "I don't need you." The head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you." **22** In fact, some of the parts that seem weakest and least important are really the most necessary. **23** And the parts we regard as less honorable are those we clothe with the greatest care. So we carefully protect from the eyes of others those parts that should not be seen, **24** while other parts do not require this special care. So God has put the body together in such a way that extra honor and care are given to those parts that have less dignity. **25** This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other equally. **26** If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad. **27** Now all of you together are Christ's body, and each one of you is a separate and necessary part of it. **28** Here is a list of some of the members that God has placed in the body of Christ: first are apostles, second are prophets, third are teachers, then those who do miracles, those who have the gift of healing, those who can help others, those who can get others to work together, those who speak in unknown languages. **29** Is everyone an apostle? Of course not. Is everyone a prophet? No. Are all teachers? Does everyone have the power to do miracles? **30** Does everyone have the gift of healing? Of course not. Does God give all of us the ability to speak in unknown languages? Can everyone interpret unknown languages? No! **31** And in any event, you should desire the most helpful gifts

Gifts of the Spirit		
Revelation Gifts	Vocal Gifts	Power Gifts
Word of Wisdom	Tongues	Faith
Word of Knowledge	Interpretation of Tongues	Healings
Discerning of Spirits	Prophecy	Workings of Miracles

Word of Wisdom: Application of God's Word – Applying the Word into a situation. You must KNOW the Word for this gift to operate. It was used by the Lord against Satan in the wilderness. "Man shall not live by bread alone..." You receive this gift as you learn the Word and the Spirit brings it to remembrance.

Word of Knowledge: "Similitude's" which are impressions or mental pictures – from Hosea. The knowing of a problem or a sickness. Ex: Paul looked at Ananias and said, "You lied." Then in **Ps 45:7** *You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You*

With the oil of joy above Your fellows. The Word of Knowledge came through the joy of the Lord. It is the knowing by the Spirit of a situation or condition. This Gift operates in fullness in the presence of the Holy Spirit, which comes by WORSHIP.

Discerning of Spirits: Discerning who (what spirit) is at work - The Holy Spirit gave this gift to Paul to discern that the woman (although speaking truth) was operating in the demonic. **Acts 16:16** *It happened that as we were going to the place of prayer, a slave-girl having a spirit of divination met us, who was bringing her masters much profit by fortune-telling. 17 Following after Paul and us, she kept crying out, saying, "These men are bond-servants of the Most High God, who are proclaiming to you the way of salvation." 18 She continued doing this for many days. But Paul was greatly annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!" And it came out at that very moment.* This Gift is for discerning the Holy Spirit, the Human Spirit or the Demonic Spirit. Peter discerned that the Cornelius, a gentile, was full of the Holy Spirit. You receive this Gift by Praying for it!

Tongues: There are 3 types of tongues:

1. A language people understand (but not necessarily the speaker)— a “known” language given as a witness to the unbeliever. **Acts 2:1** *When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance. 5 Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven. 6 And when this sound occurred, the crowd came together, and were bewildered because each one of them was hearing them speak in his own language. 7 They were amazed and astonished, saying, "Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 "And how is it that we each hear them in our own language to which we were born? 9 "Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya around Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretans and Arabs--we hear them in our own tongues speaking of the mighty deeds of God." 12 And they all continued in amazement and great perplexity, saying to one another, "What does this mean?"*
2. Speaking mysteries – your prayer language. **1 Cor 14: 2** *For one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God; for no one understands, but in his spirit he speaks mysteries.*
3. Tongues equal to Prophecy – this must be interpreted. This is a message for the church, to edify the Body of Christ. **1 Cor 14:5** *Now I wish that you all spoke in tongues, but even more that you would prophesy; and greater is one who prophesies than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may receive edifying. You must pray to the Holy Spirit to receive this gift.*

Interpretation: This is equal to Prophecy, must be prayed for, and you must have the gift of Tongues to operate in this. This is to edify the church.

Prophecy: This gift always has 3 elements: **Edification, exhortation & comfort.** It is **not** the office of the Prophet. **1 Cor 14:22** *So then tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but prophecy is for a sign, not to unbelievers but to those who believe.* You must pray for this Gift as well.

Faith: Not the fruit of Faith that all believers have growing within them. (*You have a “measure” of Faith from salvation, this is what grows. The fruit of faith grows from “faith to faith” – it is for living day to day. You need it just to exist. It helps a new Christian grow through the Word.*) The Gift of Faith is for a reason and a season. It comes in full force, all at once, then leaves. You cannot confess it or claim it. It is given by the Holy Spirit at a moment in time to effectuate the working of the Holy Spirit. It is for ministry, not for daily living.

Healings: Energizes the gift of Healing and activates it and the gift of Miracles. You must pray for this gift as well.

Working of Miracles: It is the Creative force of miracles, not healings. It is more than just for the physical body. It originates with creation itself. The release of God’s glory happens here! This is what brings miracles! When the Glory is present, the dead are raised! Pray for this Gift as well!

All of these gifts must be based in love! Jesus said, "A new commandment I give you; that ye love one another." That is a command from the Lord himself. We must be governed by the love of God.

These gifts have nothing to do with your natural ability, which today we would call “talents.” You may be able to sing, play an instrument, write poetry, or paint, but these are not the giftings of the Holy Spirit. They are just natural abilities that can be used in the service of Christ. When you find out what your Holy Spirit *Giftings* are, these are what actually *build up* the Body of Christ. Natural abilities may give you momentary pleasure, but employing Holy Spirit Giftings gives eternal rewards!

Whatever your giftings are from the Holy Spirit, there is a place in the local Body of Christ, where you attend church, for their expression. It is your responsibility to find out where to plug in.

Remember, these giftings are for service to *others*. Therefore, do not be afraid to take the lowest place. Jesus Himself said that if you want to be first (a leader of sorts) you must be a servant of all.

Let’s review the gifts and see what we can discover and implement today:

- Ministry Gifts are the calling of God on our lives and are discovered through Him divinely speaking into our lives.
- Spiritual Gifts are given to us through the active presence of the Holy Spirit , and we can pray for the Holy Spirit to work through us with these Gifts.
- Motivational or Practical giftings – are for the Body of Christ. We need to seek and discover these now and begin our service to one another!
 - A giftings test and profile is provide for you here.
 - Find your place and plug into service!

Next week we will learn the key ingredient to successful Christian service. It is the most comfortable way to live for Jesus, in complete love and *humility* in Christ!

**Next week we will study “*Humility – Yielding to God*” - God is opposed
To the Proud, but gives Grace to the Humble!**