

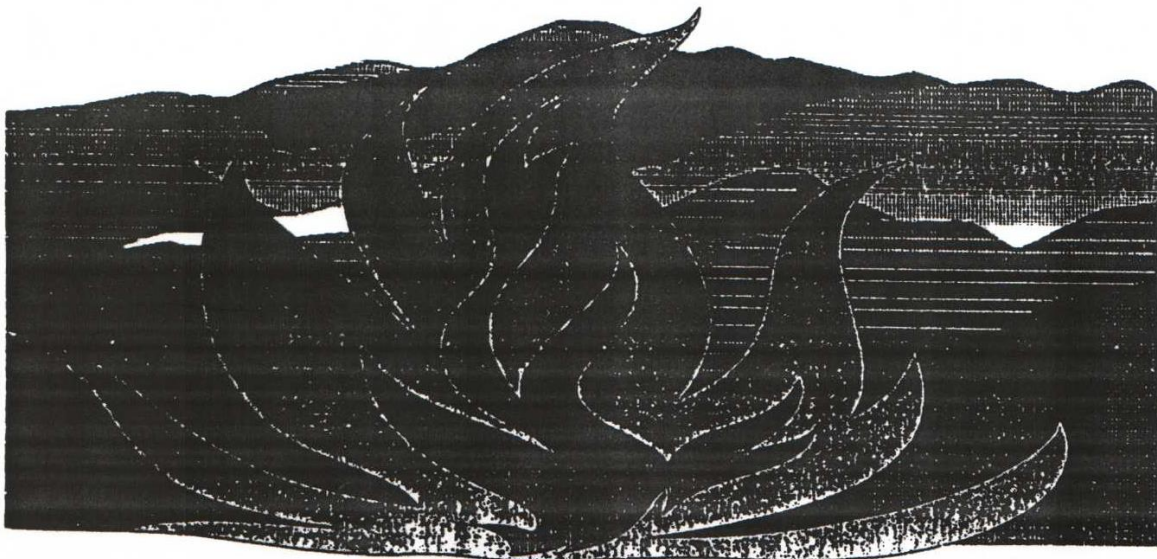


**The  
Spiritual  
Journey**

**Sessions 14 and 15**



# **Exploring The Spiritual Gifts**



## Purpose

Before the new disciple leaves the discipling process to be integrated into the total ministry of the church, it is imperative that he/she is enabled and equipped to understand and use his/her Spiritual Gift(s).

Ralph Neighbour states, "It is the privilege of God to bestow His gifts upon His Children. He decides, without any advice from the children, what gift(s) shall be given to each of them." In I Corinthians 12:7-11 and Romans 12:6, Paul states that the Holy Spirit gives each person a gift(s) just as the Holy Spirit pleases.

Although each of us has different gifts coming from the same Spirit, they cannot be used in their fullness until we possess the qualities of the Fruit of the Spirit. It is the Fruit of the Spirit that makes Christ live in each of us. When the Fruit of the Spirit is made resident in our lives, we walk, talk, work, and play daily in the Fruit of God's love. Love is the Fruit from which the other aspects (Galatians 5:23) are manifested in our daily lives. As the Holy Spirit fills our lives, the personal and character qualities grow and mature into ripe fruit. Thus, forming the basis for the effective discovery and development of the *spiritual gift(s)* in our lives.

*Spiritual gifts* are given for the edification of the Body of Christ. They are the tools by which the church is empowered to rediscover the dynamic force which turned the world upside down and inside out. This empowerment allows the church to experience the fullness of who God is.

To help us understand how the *spiritual gifts* operate in the Body of Christ, Paul, in I Corinthians 12, uses the human body. Though the human body is one, it has many members, each with a very unique function. It is the unity of the physical body that enables it to perform as a whole. The *spiritual gifts* serve the same purpose in the church - independent, yet uniquely dependent upon the diversity of each member to come together to form an effective, functioning body.

A proper understanding of the purpose and interrelatedness of the *spiritual gifts* provides for an effective, holistic function of the church body as it seeks to glorify God. As a part of the discipling process, discovering the *spiritual gifts* of members identifies human resources, and guide persons into appropriate areas of service which will result in the whole body working together in harmony.

## Spiritual Gift

A special attribute given by the Holy Spirit to every member of the Body of Christ according to God's grace for use within the context of the body.

### Natural Talent

An innate ability that both Christians and non-Christians can have. Persons are born with abilities that may or may not be used to build up the Body of Christ.

### Fruit of Spirit

Personal and character qualities that all Christians should possess. Fruit grows as a result of confessing and denying sin and self-centeredness, thus allowing the Holy Spirit to fill and control every aspect of our daily lives.

### Christian Roles

All Christians must be prepared to exercise their role and responsibility as Christians whether or not they possess a special gift. All Christians must do or act a certain way.

### Fruit of Spirit

- *Being (What A Christian is)*
- *Normal expected outcome of Christian growth, maturity, Christlikeness and fullness of Holy Spirit.*
- *Requires growth and development through the believer's walk with God and by yielding to the Holy Spirit.*
- *Prerequisite to effective exercise of spiritual gifts.*
- *Eternal*
- *God-oriented (internal)*

### Spiritual Gifts

- *Doing (What a Christian does)*
- *Worthless without Fruit*
- *Temporal*
- *Task-oriented (God + Self = Task)*

## Discovering and Developing Your Spiritual Gifts

- Step 1 Explore the possibilities.
- Step 2 Experiment with as many as you can.
- Step 3 Examine your feelings.
- Step 4 Evaluate your effectiveness.
- Step 5 Expect confirmation from the body.

### The Gifts

The *gift of prophecy* is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to receive and communicate an immediate message of God to His people through a divinely anointed utterance.

The *gift of pastoring* is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to assume a long-term personal responsibility for the spiritual welfare of a group of believers.

The *gift of teaching* is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to communicate information relevant to the health and ministry of the body and its members in such a way that others will learn.

The *gift of wisdom* is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to know the mind of the Holy Spirit in such a way as to receive insight into how given knowledge may best be applied to specific needs arising in the Body of Christ.

The *gift of knowledge* is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to discover, accumulate, analyze, and clarify information and ideas that are pertinent to the growth and well-being of the body.

The *gift of exhortation* is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to minister words of comfort, consolation, encouragement, and counsel to other members of the body in such a way that they feel helped and healed.

The *gift of discerning* of spirits is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to know with assurance whether certain behavior purported to be of God is in reality divine, human, or Satanic.

The *gift of giving* is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to contribute their material resources to the work of the Lord with liberality and cheerfulness.

The *gift of helping* is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to invest the talents they have in the life and ministry of other members of the body, thus enabling the person helped to increase the effectiveness of his or her spiritual gifts.

The *gift of mercy* is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to feel genuine empathy and compassion for individuals, both Christians and non-Christians, who suffer distressing physical, mental, or emotional problems and to translate that compassion into cheerfully done deeds that reflect Christ's love and alleviate the suffering.

The *gift of missionary* is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to minister whatever other spiritual gifts they have in a second culture.

The *gift of evangelist* is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to share the gospel with unbelievers in such a way that men and women become Jesus' disciples and responsible members of the Body of Christ.

The *gift of hospitality* is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to provide an open house and a warm welcome to those in need of food and lodging.

The *gift of faith* is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to discern with extraordinary confidence the will and purpose of God for His work.

The *gift of leadership* is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to set goals in accordance with God's purpose for the future and to communicate these goals to others in such a way that they voluntarily and harmoniously work together to accomplish those goals for the glory of God.

The *gift of administration* is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to understand clearly the immediate **and long-range goals of a particular unit of the Body of Christ and to devise and execute effective plans for the accomplishment of those goals.**

The *gift of miracles* is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to serve as intermediaries through whom it pleases God to perform powerful acts that are perceived by observers to have altered the ordinary course of nature.

The *gift of healing* is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to serve as human intermediaries through whom it pleases God to cure illness and restore health apart from the use of natural means.

The *gift of tongues* is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ (a) to speak to God in a language they have never learned and/or (b) to receive and communicate an immediate message of God to His people through divinely anointed utterance in a language they have never learned.

The *gift of interpretation* is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to make known in the vernacular the message of one who speaks in tongues.

The *gift of voluntary poverty* is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to renounce material comfort and luxury and adopt a personal lifestyle equivalent to those living at the poverty level in a given society in order to serve God more effectively.

The *gift of intercession* is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to pray for extended periods of time on a regular basis and seek frequent and specific answers to their prayers, to a degree much greater than that which is expected of the average Christian.

The *gift of service* is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to identify the unmet involves in a task related to God's work, and to make use of available resources to meet those needs and help accomplish the desired results.

The *gift of celibacy* is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to remain single and enjoy it; to be unmarried and not suffer undue sexual temptations.