



Spiritual Gifts – January 22, 2020
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Verses Covered This Week

Psalm 139:13 – 16

Jeremiah 1:4 – 5

1 Corinthians 12:11

Ephesians 4:11 – 13

1 Corinthians 12:7 - 10

Acts 11:27 – 30

1 Corinthians 14:39-40

1 Corinthians 14:22-25

Well, I have to say, I'm incredibly impressed at the crowd that we have tonight for the weather. But you're probably here because I've been praying for you. I really did. I've been walking these aisles in my mind all week as I prepared this. And then I saw the weather and I was like, "Oh, I don't know." I mean, the workout classes when it's like this, nobody comes. So you guys should be really proud of yourselves. I'm glad you're here. I know that God has a specific message for you.

Tonight we get to talk about spiritual gifts. And again, I am no expert on spiritual gifts. I'm not standing here because of that. This is all Chris' material. I've just read through it a few more times than some other people so they asked me to stand up here and run through it with you guys. But we're going to start just thinking about our spiritual gifts. Who doesn't really like a gift, right? And here it is, our Creator has specific gifts for you. So that's exciting to think about it in a different way. Your combination of spiritual gifts, your abilities, it's unique to you. Like you are precious in the Lord's sight, He created you exactly the way that He wants you. And He's gifted you in ways that are just your own unique recipe. Like you are the only you. And if we go to Psalm 139 it kind of reminds us how one of a kind we really are. This is such fun to get to read through these. I just love that we get to keep reusing this verse, Psalm 139. We put these classes together just kind of randomly at what Chris hadn't taught. And it's been really beautiful to see that these are kind of threaded together in their own way. So here's Psalm 139 again. We're going to start down in verse 13. I just want you to really listen to this truth. That was my prayer for you today.

¹³For You formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; wonderful are Your works, my soul knows it very well. ¹⁵My frame was not hidden from You, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth; ¹⁶Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in Your book were written every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

Soak it in ladies. I mean, God's character goes into the making of every single one of us. We should have as much respect for ourselves as He does. Jeremiah 1 kind of backs this truth up from Psalm 139. So if you want to go to Jeremiah 1, I'm going to cruise down to verse 4. All of this is so encouraging.

⁴Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, ⁵“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

Every woman, every man, every child is known and appointed by God. God's always thought of you as valuable. He's created you with a purpose. Let's flip over to 1 Corinthians. Now we're headed to 1 Corinthians 12:11 but we're also going to come back to this book. So if you're flipping with me manually, you may just want to kind of keep your finger there or drop your bookmark in. So we're going to 1 Corinthians 12:11. Let me get that up here for you.

¹¹All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as He wills.

So the Holy Spirit, we talked about this during the Trinity, sometimes has His own job. It is deciding which spiritual gifts we're going to get. Now we're responsible for honing these gifts that God's given us, but you can't take credit for the gift because God gave it to you. So here's what the Bible's saying really. God gives you certain things at birth. Just listen. He gives you some things at birth. He knits you in the womb. Now this is likely where you're getting your talents, your abilities, your disposition. He's going to use all of these towards the purpose that He has for you. Then you're going to receive gifts at your rebirth; at your baptism which will be for the church. Now you may have gifts that you use to serve the world, other gifts that you use to serve the church, they may be all one and the same. That's totally up to God's plan for you.

So let's read a little bit more about this. If you head on over to Ephesians 4:11. We're going to see how God wants to use our gifts for the church. So Ephesians 4:11.

¹¹And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds, and the teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of the ministry, for building up the body of Christ; ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

So each of your specific gifts God gave you to use to build up the church, to strengthen the church. Building up for His one purpose until we attain unity of the faith. This is our charge. To use our gifts to make disciples. Now it's a huge charge. You can't do it alone obviously. But God's calling us as members of one body. He's calling us together. Some of us are going to

do one task. Some of us are going to do other tasks. And we all serve under the direction of the Holy Spirit. So hear me. Your gifts were not given to you for your own personal enrichment. They are for the use of the common good of the body of Christ. So we're going to look back at 1 Corinthians. I told you we were headed back there. This time we're going to go to 1 Corinthians 12:7. This really reinforces the point that we're being Spirit led in our gifts and we need to be sure that we are being Spirit led in our gifts. So I'm at 1 Corinthians 12:7.

⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

So let's keep reading about these nine gifts that are listed. So I'm going down to 12:8 & 9.

⁸For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit; ⁹to another by the same Spirit, the gifts of healing by the Spirit,

OK. Here God starts specifically naming some of the gifts that the Holy Spirit has given out. We have wisdom, knowledge, faith, and healing. Now a lot of Christians will say, "We have wisdom, faith, knowledge." But as your spiritual gift, if this is your spiritual gift, you're going to kind of have an unusual measure of it. So you're going to have an unusual measure of faith. More than just the common believer. You're going to have an unusual measure of knowledge. So here's a little description of some of these. So if we just start with the spiritual gift of wisdom. You're like, "OK. What exactly does that mean?" Wisdom refers to insight and to doctrinal truth. Sort of like Paul showing all of us in his letters. Now knowledge refers to the ability to apply the doctrinal truth to life. OK. We're moving on to faith. Faith is the spiritual gift is trusting the guidance of the Holy Spirit. But again, it's just beyond the ordinary trust. It's an extra special gift of faith. And faith is kind of one of my gifts. If it's in there, I just believe it. You know, I'm like, "Well, God said it, it's going to work. Well, you know, I'm not jaded by the world and I just tell you that I just super ordinarily just trust." If I read it once, there are people like, "Well let's back it up." I don't need to back it up. It says it right here. I've got it. I believe it. I really believe it. Which means I'm not a very good researcher because I'm like, "It says it right here. This is enough for me." And you ask me for 12 other verses, I'm like, "Why do you need any more? It's right here." But other people are gifted differently because God needs them to gather that information in a different way. So that's like a supernatural trusting.

I had to kind of look up the gift of healing. Because I think that can kind of feel a little complicated. So my concordances say that this is the ability to restore health if you maybe have the gift of healing or hold off death temporarily. OK. But take note. So if you have the gift of healing, again, this doesn't mean you can trump God's plan for someone's life, right. All of these things are Spirit led. But it does mean that God maybe using you to bring healing to go according to the plan that He has for a person. So let's just keep reading because I think in order to recognize your personal spiritual gifts, the gift that God gave you, it really helps to go through the names of the spiritual gifts that He's using in the Bible and kind of understand them. So we're going to go on down to verse 10. We've going through a group of these.

¹⁰to another is given the gift of working miracles to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, and to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues.

So here we have the gift of people who are given the gift of working miracles. Again, so I worked through this. What does this really look or feel like to be given the gift of miracles. It feels like a really Old Testament idea, right. And it is in some ways. It may refer to exorcising demons. It may refer to physical disabilities or even causing death. I have all the Bible verses if you need me to back that up later. We're going on to prophecy which is declaring the message of God for the people or for a person. Prophetics can be pastors, but they definitely don't have to be. So I have a friend who was given the gift of prophecy after she was baptized. And since she, you know God really revealed that to her, I've been fascinated by it because it just seems like prophesy isn't a gift that you hear of very often. And you don't usually have someone walk up to you and tell you that they have the gift of prophecy. You're like expecting someone to say, "I have the gift of teaching." Or something a little easier to wrap your head around. So I just asked her to kind of talk me through it and for her, the gift of prophecy looks a little bit like, she's usually given this gift to use one on one. Now a pastor or someone can have the gift of prophecy, he may be sharing a message to the church as we'll see later on in the Bible. In her specific case, she would use it in women's ministry, at a women's event, and maybe just praying and often God would give her an image or a word, something that she knows is not of herself. So she was telling me about a story one time. She's just praying with the women, and she can't make herself prophesize, and that means she really has to lean into the Spirit about this. She just had a vision, she was talking to this woman and she just sees this old black and white slide, like the kind you see on the playground. And she was kind of unsure what to say or do about this picture. But she finally just was like, it wouldn't go away, so she just shared with her that the Lord had given her this picture. And the woman knew immediately. She had an event in her life that was related to this old playground slide and it was something that needed to be prayed through. So they worked through that together like right there on the spot. So her gift of prophesy is sometimes just intimate, very one on one, very 100% Spirit led. And I think that we need to be very cautious of people who say that they have the gift of prophecy.

So, but again, sometimes in the Bible we'll see this as a big gift. But I wanted to break it down for you just on a personal level so that you can see your gift isn't always a message to the masses. Sometimes your gift is just a message to one. So that's the gift of prophecy. You just have to constantly be in prayer as to how God would have you use your gift as you hone in on it and know what it is.

OK. So let's move on to distinguishing between the Spirits. All this phraseology, I mean, you read it and you're like, "I don't think I have any of these." But let's go on. This is the ability of someone to really be able to discern if someone is speaking the word of God. You just are innate with it. You're like that is not the truth; that is truth. So that's called distinguishing between the Spirits. There's really no spirits involved there. It's just an ability to discern. And it's specifically related to the truth in the Bible.

So the next two we have down here are tongues and we're going down to, I mean they're just a little bit rarer, the gift of interpretation. So tongues is the ability to speak unlearned language. So Chris really feels like this, the gift of tongues, is kind of the gift of foreign languages. Which would be like a language you don't know that God gives you to speak. The interpretation gift, which is the ability to translate the unlearned language. So you just have not been probably trained in this, but you know what they're saying. So some of these gifts really were more

prevalent in the early years when God was building the church. So if you're sitting there thinking, "I don't really if I see my gift up there. I don't really recall speaking in a language I have not learned." Maybe in your dream you are speaking and you can understand it. But that's OK. Some of these gifts, especially the way that they're described through these verses, it's important to recognize that God has used them at different times in the church for different stages of the church. So don't worry if you don't see your own gift up there.

As a matter of fact, some people do believe that this list of nine gifts is complete. You get one of them. But Chris really doesn't feel that way. He does not feel like that is a complete list. So you can all take a deep breath and go, "Thank goodness. Because I have not been prophesying lately." Because it has to do with what we were reading back there in Ephesians 4. It says in Ephesians 4

[The apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds, the teachers](#)

There's a whole new list of gifts there. Let's look up some of the gifts that are used in the Bible. We're going to head over to Acts 11. Let me get that one up on the screen for you. Acts 11:27. I think the real important part here is to realize that, yes, we have gifts and talents, but definitely at the time we commit ourselves to Christ, He is going to give you another gift to use for the church, or hone a gift that He gave you prior to use for His church. So we're at Acts 11:27 – 30.

[²⁷Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. ²⁸One of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine over the world. This all took place in the days of Claudius. ²⁹So the disciples determined everyone according to his ability send relief to the brothers living in Judea. ³⁰And they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.](#)

So we have Agabus here. He is showing the gift of prophecy. He announces a series of famines that struck various parts of the Roman empire during the rule of Emperor Claudius. Now we don't see a lot of the gifts being used by the others. But they say, there's very clear recognition here of the fact that we are uniquely gifted by God and God wants us to use the gift to further the common good. Because look back at what it says in verse 29.

[²⁹So the disciples determined everyone according to their abilities send relief to the brothers living in Judea.](#)

So the people at Antioch were most likely sharing tangible gifts at this time like food, spices, money. That would be our first thought of what these gifts are. But there's really no list. It's just saying everybody had a different ability to send relief to these brothers. And they did that. Now there are some guidelines for the church about people using their spiritual gifts, how to use the spiritual gifts in the church. So we're going to turn together over to 1 Corinthians 14. I'm going to go down to verse 39. So we're at 1 Corinthians 14:39.

[³⁹So, my brothers, earnestly desire to prophesy, do not forbid speaking in tongues. ⁴⁰But all things should be done decently and in order.](#)

So Chris really feels like this verse here in Corinthians is a directive to the church that if they forbid people speaking in tongues or using the gift of prophesy, that they have walked away from the Scripture. So although you don't see it every Sunday or anything like that here, it's a gift that our church recognizes and that's why he feels like it's important not to ban it. But that being said, these gifts have to be used with great care, only when Spirit led. 1 Corinthians 14:22 talks about kind of understanding your gifts and knowing when to use them. These letters were written for the churches in Corinth because they were quite possibly a little overzealous in using their gifts. And they're just going pretty extreme in their services where they're just all speaking in tongues, everybody's just prophesying, and it's kind of like chaotic. So that's why Paul starts writing these letters at this point recognizing yes, people have been given gifts, but you kind of have to do it in an orderly fashion. Use them only when Spirit led. Not trying to put this into your every week service. So I'm down at 1 Corinthians 14:22. Here they are talking about, really these verses are specifically talking about the tongues and the prophesies.

²²Thus the tongues are a sign, not for believers but for unbelievers; while prophesy is a sign, not for unbelievers but for believers.

OK, but if you read on, then this letter kind of contradicts itself and it gets a little confusing, but I'm going go on down in verse 23. So first he's saying, tongues are a sign not for believers, but it's for unbelievers. Then down here in verse 23:

²³If therefore the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your mind?

I do like that God puts humor in here sometimes. OK. That's not a new phrase is it? But again, verse 24.

²⁴But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all; ²⁵the secrets of his heart are disclosed; and so falling on his face he will worship God and declare that God is really among you.

So first it seems like Paul is saying tongues are a sign for unbelievers. And then he follows up by saying unbelievers would think the church is out of their mind if they spoke in tongues. So what does he really want here? But the key here is that the whole church is coming together and speaking in tongues. So this was him trying to reign in the church and telling them, "You just can't go around doing this all the time everywhere. I really needs to be Spirit led." So if everybody was speaking in tongues, the unbeliever, the visitor, they're not going to have any idea what they were saying. So back then, basically, what he was saying was, be sure someone is there to translate if someone is speaking in tongues so that non-believers will be able to understand it.

So I'll be honest. I'm still a little unsure what they're saying about prophecy here because I do feel like it's a little contradictory. But I just went through all the concordances and studied and really everyone just kept saying that these verses are used to bring order to the church. So I did not find an explanation for us about how it seems like he's contradicting in prophecy here. And if someone, when we get to questions, wants to help clarify that for us, I'd love for you to. But I even went back through all the notes of the years I taught this and I just couldn't figure it out.

But I think sometimes it's important to not get too far off on a rabbit trail. The goal of these verses is to use your gifts Spirit led.

So the big question is, how do you know what your gift is. So there's all these like gift finder books, or online tests. And I just looked really quick on the computer before I came and there was one that was like, "Take Your Spiritual Gift Test." And it kind of put me in administration which I'm not sure that was a very good test. But there's a lot out there. I don't think it's a ministry understand. I think once you start living in your church and having the heartbeat of serving as you feel best led, but really need to lean into Jesus, your kind of following your area of giftedness, right. What do you enjoy doing at the church? That maybe just challenges you a little bit. Maybe it's just something, you know you're kind of good at, but you can't be just great at it. I just walk into this, it's no problem at all. This is great. That's probably not your gift because really wants us to lean into Him for our gifts and really need Him. And that's the beginning of really honing and growing into your giftedness. Maybe you already know your gift. And I would just challenge you today to think about, "Are you using it for God's kingdom?" That's His whole goal with all these gifts. If we go back to the very beginning, He's saying, "The goal of these gifts that I've given you, these presents that are yours, uniquely yours, and you need to use them here. Using them here to bring people to Christ. That's the goal of your special gifts." And I just was thinking through this, it's hard to find the name of your gift sometimes. When I was trying to think about mine just to be honest and share, I don't know. I don't know if I have a specific word for it. But it allows me to be up here, right. And it allows me to do the Central Focus. And it really started when I was in college. He just started opening these doors for me to be in broadcast journalism. And I just walked through them. And after anchoring the news for a while, God told me, "It's time to not be a news anchor anymore." He really told me what I thought was where He was taking me wasn't it at all. And He asked me to stay at home with my kids. And I quit immediately. But the funny thing about that was I kind of thought that was like a job. And I don't know, it was probably 8 years later, I walked out into the FLC. And you know we used to get the little newspaper that told you what was going on before the Central Focus. And I opened this little newspaper and it said, "On-Air Talent Needed." And I said, "That's for me." I knew it. God was like, "Ok. I'm not done with you yet." And He really, I just, I went right to Him. I just remembered praying to Him, "God are You really trying to do something here?" And He just told me with a clearest conviction, He said, "What I put in you, I'm going to use for your lifetime for My glory." And you think, "What are you going to do with an old news anchor?" Well look what He does, right. It's all for Him. And I never cease to be amazed. Because I know how I feel going in to record on Wednesdays. It's always like a little extra battle from Satan, some kind of a surprise, so you don't quite feel your best. And when I see it on Sundays, I'm like, "That's amazing. I didn't feel that way. I didn't feel that way going in there." And that's when you kind of realize, I – God's using the body of Christ. Because they are so kind in editing. They are so kind to me. And He really brings together all these giftedness. People can get the music matched underneath my voice right, the colors correct, and a really soft focus around your eyes. They're just so sweet. But it really is the body of Christ doing that. And so I've just been able to stand back and say, "This gift, when God's using your gift that He put in you, the finished project you recognize is better than you could ever do on your own." Because He's bringing in all these other people in the church that He gifted alongside you. And it's fun. And I just want you to know I prayed for you today before we got here that you'd have some inkling maybe where God has gifted you. And if you don't, we have lots of people here to talk to about that.