

Wednesday Bible Study

01/01/2025

“Spiritual Gifts and Your Ministry In The Church”

1. Spiritual Gifts- *1 Corinthians 12:28* and *Ephesians 4:11*

- A) We are all part of the body of Christ (the universal church) and individually members of that body. *1 Corinthians 12:14-20*
- B) God has sovereignly given each believer at least one spiritual gift. *1 Corinthians 12:28*
- C) No one believer has ALL the gifts. *Ephesians 4:11*
- D) No one believer has NONE of the gifts. *1 Corinthians 12:4-7*
- E) No one GIFT is given to ALL believers. *1 Corinthians 12:29-30*

2. The Hierarchy of the Gifts- *1 Corinthians 12:28*

- A) The first 3 gifts are listed in order of desirability, deemed so because they were either special gifts and no longer given by the Holy Spirit in this dispensation, or because they edify the whole body of the church.

The last 5 gifts are considered lesser gifts only because the Apostles, Prophets, Teachers, Preachers and Evangelists were used during the early church period to spread the Gospel and establish the church.

In the Ephesians list Evangelists and Shepherds are listed. Evangelists are gifted in using everyday experiences to segway into sharing the Evangelion. *Acts 8:26-39* and *Acts 17:22-23*. Shepherds are the Pastors of local churches, also called Elders, Bishops and Overseers.

- 1) Apostles: There have been 12 and that is all there ever will be. *Revelation 21:14*
- 2) Prophets: Still given today, though there is no prophesy given beyond what the Holy Spirit has already been delivered through the Hebrew prophets and the Lord's Apostles and other writers of the Scriptures. *Jude 3* In our time, Prophets are FORTH-TELLING, in an understandable way, those eschatological truths already laid out in canonized Scripture, as opposed to FORE-TELLING as did the prophets of old.
- 3) Teaching, often given with Preaching, though not always.

3. Your Ministry- *1 Peter 4:10* Local church leadership are given their spiritual gifts in order to “equip the saints” (THAT’S YOU AND ME) to do the work of the ministry! We are not supposed to sit in church with our mouths open, like baby birds waiting to be fed, then go home and resume our non-ministry lives. When we leave the church building WE ARE ENTERING THE MISSION FIELD!
4. Stewardship of Spiritual Gifts- We are responsible. *Deuteronomy 8:18* (God provides your wealth allowing you to help others); *1 Corinthians 3:12-15* (Do as God leads and you will receive rewards; neglect to obey and you will lose rewards); *2 Corinthians 9:6* (Love trumps all except God)
5. Final Thoughts-
 - A) Spiritual gifts are given to help believers perform their function in the local body of Christ, mostly for the benefit of others. *1 Peter 4:10*
 - B) Spiritual Gifts DO NOT = Spirituality! Having received a “higher” spiritual Gift DOES NOT necessarily mean that you are more spiritually mature. *John 3:10*
 - C) Spiritual Gift should not be used as an excuse to NOT do something that needs to be done simply because it isn’t “your gift”. *Colossians 3:23-24*
 - D) The body of Christ NEEDS you and your gift to be exercised so the body will grow and function properly. *Ephesians 4:12-16*

