

# Using Our Spiritual Gifts Together

Message 03 of the series: "Gifted"

## A. The Holy Spirit helps us carry out our mission.

"I will ask the Father to give you another Helper, to be with you always. He is the Spirit of truth... he lives with you and will be in you. I'm not going to forsake you like orphans..." John 14:16-18 (ISV)

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere... to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8 (NLT)

## B. The Holy Spirit gives every Christian at least one spiritual gift so we can help each other.

"A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other." 1 Corinthians 12:7 (NLT)

Spiritual Gifts = special abilities the Holy Spirit gives believers to build up the Church.

### 1. No one has all of the spiritual gifts.

"Are we all apostles? Are we all prophets? Are we all teachers? Do we all have the power to do miracles? Do we all have the gift of healing? Do we all have the ability to speak in unknown languages? Do we all have the ability to interpret unknown languages? Of course not! So you should earnestly desire the most helpful gifts." 1 Corinthians 12:29-31a (NLT)

### 2. The Holy Spirit determines which gift(s) we each get.

"It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have." 1 Corinthians 12:11 (NLT)

"...if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him." Luke 11:13 (NLT)

## C. The greatest gift we can ever receive from God is love.

"But now let me show you a way of life that is best of all. If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing." 1 Corinthians 12:31b-13:1-3 (NLT)

Love = "agape" (ancient Greek) = choosing to delight in the person who is the object of our love unconditionally.

### 1. Love enables us to use our spiritual gifts together as the body of Christ.

"Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance." 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (NLT)

"...our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it. How strange a body would be if it had only one part! Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. 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.' In fact, some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary. And the parts we regard as less honorable are those we clothe with the greatest care... This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad. All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it." 1 Corinthians 12:18-27 (NLT)

**Life Application:** We must never be prideful about the spiritual gifts we've received. "Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ. If you think you are too important to help someone, you are only fooling yourself. You are not that important." Galatians 6:2-3 (NLT)

**Life Application:** We must never compare ourselves to others. "Pay careful attention to your own work, for then you will get the satisfaction of a job well done, and you won't need to compare yourself to anyone else." Galatians 6:4-5 (NLT)

**Life Application:** We must choose to love, forgive, and start again if we are going to use our spiritual gifts together.

2. Love enables us to use our gifts together effectively.

“...When you meet together, one will sing, another will teach, another will tell some special revelation God has given, one will speak in tongues, and another will interpret what is said. But everything that is done must strengthen all of you. No more than two or three should speak in tongues. They must speak one at a time, and someone must interpret what they say. But if no one is present who can interpret, they must be silent in your church meeting and speak in tongues to God privately. Let two or three people prophesy, and let the others evaluate what is said. But if someone is prophesying and another person receives a revelation from the Lord, the one who is speaking must stop. In this way, all who prophesy will have a turn to speak, one after the other, so that everyone will learn and be encouraged. Remember that people who prophesy are in control of their spirit and can take turns. For God is not a God of disorder but of peace, as in all the meetings of God’s holy people.” 1 Corinthians 14:26-33 (NLT)

**Life Application:** Love is the most convincing argument for following Jesus we have. “Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.” John 13:35 (NLT)

“Don’t just pretend to love others. Really love them... ‘If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads.’ Don’t let evil conquer you but conquer evil by doing good.” Romans 12:9, 20-21 (NLT) (Prov. 25:21-22)

John Schmidt • 06-06-21 • [john@centeringlives.com](mailto:john@centeringlives.com)

**Connect Group Questions:**

Read 1 Corinthians 12:18-31,13, & 14:1-33, then discuss the following questions:

1. Why doesn’t the Holy Spirit just give us every spiritual gift? Wouldn’t that be more efficient?
2. Why do you think Paul says love is better than any spiritual gift we can receive from God? (see also John 13:35, Romans 12:9 & 20-21)
3. Paul says the church operates much like a human body. Following his analogy, what part of the body do you see yourself representing (hands that serve, feet that carry the Good News, ears that hear the cry of the needy, etc.)?
4. How can you use the spiritual gift(s) God has given you to serve others at Centerpoint? How can you use them to show others outside our church that Jesus loves them?
5. Share your opinion on the following life applications:
  - We must never be prideful about the spiritual gifts we’ve received. (Galatians 6:2-3)
  - We must never compare ourselves to others. (Galatians 6:4-5)
  - We must choose to love, forgive, and start again if we are going to use our spiritual gifts together. (1 Corinthians 13:4-8)
6. Why do you think orderly worship mattered so much to Paul? (1 Corinthians 14:26-33)
7. Discuss the following quotations:

“Pride takes many forms, but spiritual pride is the most grievous. To become proud of spiritual gifts or leadership position is to forget that all we have is from God, all the position we occupy is God’s appointment.” J. Oswald Sanders

“If and when a horror turns up you will then be given Grace to help you. I don’t think one is usually given it in advance. ‘Give us our daily bread’ (not an annuity for life) applies to spiritual gifts too; the little daily support for the daily trial. Life has to be taken day by day and hour by hour.” C.S. Lewis

“Nobody cares how much you know until they know how much you care.” Teddy Roosevelt

“A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.” 1 Corinthians 12:7 (NLT)  
(See 1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12:6-8, Ephesians 4:11-13, 1 Peter 4:9-11)

- Wisdom = the ability to understand God's perspective and give good counsel or advice.
- Knowledge = the ability to know things that cannot be known by ordinary means.
- Prophecy = the ability to clearly communicate and persuasively declare God's will regarding a situation, issue, person, group or the future.
- Discernment = the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit.
- Healing = the ability to pray in faith for people who need physical emotional, or spiritual healing.
- Faith = the ability to trust God to accomplish His purposes regardless of circumstances.
- Miracles = the ability to do things that cannot be accomplished by ordinary means.
- Tongues = the ability to speak in unknown languages.
- Interpretation of Tongues = the ability to interpret what a person speaking in tongues is saying.
- Serving/Helping = The ability to support others by meeting practical needs and assisting them without the need for recognition.
- Encouraging = the ability to build others up by giving them support, confidence or hope.
- Giving = the ability to accumulate and generously distribute money and resources to God's work and God's people with wisdom and cheerfulness.
- Hospitality = the ability to make others feel welcome, comfortable, accepted and loved.
- Mercy = the ability to feel genuine empathy and compassion for those who are hurting/suffering.
- Leadership/Administration = governing; the ability to organize and manage people, resources and time to accomplish the vision that God has for a particular church or ministry.
- Apostleship = missions; the desire and ability to start new ministries/churches in new places and oversee their development.
- Pastoring = shepherding; the ability to care for the well-being of a group of believers, to help them mature spiritually and equip them for ministry.
- Evangelism = the ability to communicate the Good News about Jesus to unbelievers with boldness and effectiveness.
- Teaching/speaking = the ability to communicate God's Word effectively to others in such a way that they are encouraged to obey and grow.