GOD GAVE GIFTS
Part 1: Your Giftedness Matters

INTRO: Who leaves a gift unopened? Why do that? Begin new 6-7 week series today on "GOD GAVE GIFTS." A natural follow-up to Pastor's series on Dream Again, Workshops, and our most recent series in the unique parables of Luke. Using the resources entrusted to us being one of the themes. We live between His comings. Until He returns we are to be found faithful serving Him by serving others. Identifying and using our spiritual gifts is one of the ways we do that.

In 1 Cor. 12:1 Paul tells us to not be ignorant of our spiritual gifts. Many are: about 28% say they don't have any; about 70% don't know theirs. When asked many name natural abilities not spiritual gifts. There are 4 passages that speak about the gifts (about 50 verses in all). There's one common truth in all four passages: *Spiritual gifts are given to every believer—no exceptions!* (More basic truths next lesson on the gifts).

ILLUS: Animal story parable . . . God created each animal with a unique design to do something (maybe 2-3) extremely well in order to accomplish a specific purpose.

Same principle is true in objects like scissors, pens, hammers, etc.—made for a purpose. Why would humans be any different? We are created and designed by God to do only a few things really well. Knowing and developing these few things helps clarify our calling and individual purpose in this life. Look at Psalm 139:13-16 and Eph. 2:8-10.

What has God uniquely gifted and designed you to do? Who are you helping and what activites make you feel strong? What are you doing, who are you helping when you are at your best and enjoying it the most? What do you look forward to doing, you are in-the-zone when you get to do it, and you receive joy and fulfillment when you've done it—and others are blessed? This series is intended to help you discover those few things you are really good at.

3 POWERFUL STATEMENTS:

1. The *purpose* of life is to *discover* your gifts. My life purpose is to SERVE OTHERS by igniting their growth using my God-given gifts of teaching, leading, and encouraging and pursuing it with core values of truth, integrity, excellence and responsibility, all to the glory of God.
2. The *work* of life is to *develop* your gifts. Once you identify your giftedness, the rest of your life is about growing and developing them through knowledge, experience, and practice.
3. The *meaning* of life is to *give your gifts away to serve others* and honor God.

Again, only be really good at a few things. If you try to be good at too many things you'll never be great at anything. Growth and success are less about improving or fixing our weaknesses, but developing what we're already naturally good at. Listen, your (my) giftedness matters.

Mr. Rogers quote . . .

I ask again, "What are you doing, who are you helping when you are at your best and enjoying it the most?" This series can help you answer this all-important question. Get the book. It's free.

ASSIGNMENT:

Go to JimmyKnott.com "Assessments" and take the assessment on spiritual gifts. (Print results). We don't have to be special for God to use us, but we do have to say "yes".

Ask 5-7 people who know you well, "What would you say I'm really good at?"