GOD GAVE GIFTS
(Part 2) "Get a Grasp on the Gifts"

INTRO: Question: What are you doing, who are you helping when you are at your best and enjoying it the most? God's Word tells us we are not to be *ignorant* about *spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 12:1)*. Stats. . .They are critical to the spiritual life of every Christian and the spiritual health of every church. MacArthur: "No local congregation will be what it could be, what Jesus prayed it should be, what the Holy Spirit gifted and empowered it to be until it undstands spiritual gifts." *Four* New Testament passages address this subject (1 Corinthians 12:1-11; Romans 12:1-8; Ephesians 4:7-16; 1 Peter 4:10-11):

I. DEFINITION: "*What* are spiritual gifts?"

A. They are **NOT** the same as:

1. The *gift* of the person of the Holy Spirit – person vs. ability.
2. The *fruit* of the Holy Spirit – about character.
3. *Natural* talents or abilities – Everyone has (art, music, sports, etc.) Gifts are super-natural.
4. A *ministry* - Where we use our gifts to serve

B. Spiritual gifts are *sovereignly-given abilities graciously bestowed upon every believer at salvation to enable her/him to serve others with ease, effectiveness and excitement within the church, the Body of Christ.*

II. SOURCE: "*Who* gives the gifts?"

Romans 12:3 says they come from the *Father*.

Ephesians 4:7 says they come from the *Son*.

1 Corinthians 12:1 says they come from the *Holy Spirit*.

Note: The gifts are assigned by God and are the product of His grace. We cannot earn or deserve them. They are the result of the finished work of Christ (Eph. 4:7-8).

III. RECIPIENTS: "*Who* gets them?" (Romans 12:6; 1 Corinthians 12:7, 11; Ephesians 4:7; 1 Peter 4:10)

A. Gifts are given *only* to believers.

B. They probably come at the time of *salvation* when we receive the person of the Holy Spirit.

C. Gifts are given to *every* Christian.

D. Gifts are *irrevocably* given (Romans 11:29).

IV. PURPOSES: "*What* are they to do?"

A. They are for the *common good* of the body (1 Corinthians 12:7)

B. They should *build up* the body (Ephesians 4:12). The gifts function like the human body. We function as the Body of Christ. Principles of Body Life (1 Cor. 12:12-27). . .

C. They should be used to *serve others* (1 Peter 4:10).

V. DIVISIONS: "How can they be divided?"

A. There are differing kinds of gifts (1 Corinthians 12:4, 12, 14; 1 Peter 4:10). Colors on a palate.

B. There are *speaking* gifts and *serving* gifts (1 Peter 4:11). Speaking gifts (5): Prophecy, Teaching, Knowledge, Wisdom, and Exhortation. Serving Gifts (6): Leadership, Helps, Mercy, Giving, Faith, and Discernment.

VI. DISCOVERY: "*How can I know my giftedness*?" Look back at definition: "with ease (to me), effectiveness (helping others) and excitement (enjoyable to use)."

A. Complete Assessment at JimmyKnott.com.

B. Feedback from others on what you do consistently well.

C. Experiment – get serving others

CONC: As stewards we are *accountable* to God for knowing and using our gifts (1 Peter 4:10; Matthew 25:14ff; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2). We should never *neglect* them (1 Timothy 4:14). Instead, we should *stir them up* (2 Timothy 1:6). Next? Two lessons on both the Speaking and Serving gifts.