

GOD GAVE GIFTS (Part 7) "UNWRAPPING MY GIFTS"

INTRO: Final teaching in series "God Gave Gifts." Hope been useful. Paul challenges us to not be uninformed 1 Cor. 12:1. We've spent seven lessons trying to be more informed. Our QUESTION has been, "What are you doing, who are you helping when you are at your best and enjoying it the most? Answer lies partly in your giftedness. SPIRITUAL GIFTS are *sovereignly-given abilities graciously bestowed upon every believer at salvation to enable her/him to serve others with ease, excitement and effectiveness within the church, the Body of Christ.*

ILL: Venn diagram . . .

The gifts are DIVIDED into speaking and serving gifts. Our gifts are critical to healthy body life of the 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 understands spiritual gifts." We examined eleven continuing edifying gifts. Let's brainstorm 1-2 words that describe each . . .

1 Pet. 4:10 challenges us to do something with our gifts.

I. IMPORTANCE OF OUR GIFTS (Review)

- A. Every believer is entrusted with spiritual gifts from God at salvation. In all four passages on gifts.
- B. Our gifts are to be used to *serve* others.
- C. Knowing your giftedness helps answer your "WHY?" My WHY is to **SERVE OTHERS** by *igniting their growth* using my God-given abilities of teaching, leading, and exhorting and pursuing it with core values of truth, integrity, excellence, and responsibility, all to the glory of God.
- D. We are *accountable* to God for knowing, developing, and using our giftedness.

II. DISCOVERY OF OUR GIFTS

- A. DEDICATION of life and gifts to God (Rom. 12:1-8). The prerequisite for service of our gifts is surrender to Lordship of Christ. Surrender precedes service.
- B. REALIZATION you are definitely gifted. No exceptions. Each believer is gifted.
- C. EXAMINATION through:
 1. Assessments (more objective)
 2. Feedback (more subjective) answers: "What am I really good at?" Confirmation of others is valuable insight.
- D. SELF-REFLECTION (Questions)
 1. What do you do that comes easy and almost effortless to you but seems difficult and complex to others? Others compliment you.
 2. What abilities do you keep using in different settings (ex: organizing an event, helping others, etc.)
 3. What tasks do you look forward to doing?
 4. What tasks energize you as you do them?
 5. What are you doing and enjoying when you lose track of time.

Exercise: Passion and Fulfillment questions on my website.

- E. SUPPLICATION of God in prayer. Ask Him to reveal your giftedness, using assessments, feedback, self-reflection, etc.
- F. EXPERIMENTATION of using your giftedness. Try serving. Get going.

CONC: Our gifts matter. If for no other reason God has entrusted them to us to serve others and enjoy fulfillment.