

Spiritual Gifts Activation Seminar

Lesson One: Why Spiritual Gifts?

How the activation of Spiritual Gifts can transform us, our churches and communities

- 1. Definition of a Spiritual Gift:** A supernatural ability given by the Holy Spirit to every member of the Body of Christ according to God's grace to build up believers and to make disciples of Christ.
 - A spiritual gift is not the same as a natural talent or learned skill, but all should be used to glorify God. A spiritual gift is uniquely a manifestation of the Holy Spirit.
 - Unbelievers do not have spiritual gifts but every believer has at least one. *"But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all"* (1 Cor. 12:7 NKJ)
 - The word, gift, comes from the same Greek word as grace. A spiritual gift is a portion of grace given to a believer to build up others. We could call them "gracelets".
 - God has given every believer a different "gift mix" (combination of spiritual gifts) which defines each believer as a unique member of Christ's body. *"It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have"* (1 Cor. 12:11 NLT).
- 2. Spiritual Gifts release the tangible presence of God into the earth realm.**
 - God's authority is revealed as we exercise our gifts. *"I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations"* (Matt. 28:18-19 NLT). When Jesus sent out the twelve he said, *"Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons..."* (Matt. 10:8). Christ's authority is seen in the exercise of spiritual gifts.
 - When the gift of prophesy is exercised: *"As they listen, their secret thoughts will be exposed, and they will fall to their knees and worship God, declaring, "God is truly here among you."* (1 Cor. 14:25).
 - The exercise of spiritual gifts are key to spreading the good news.
- 3. Discovering your spiritual gifts is discovering your destiny.**
 - It's possible to have spiritual gifts and not know it. *"Now, dear brothers and sisters, regarding your question about the special abilities the Spirit gives us. I don't want you to misunderstand this"* (1 Cor. 12:1).
 - The process of getting equipped with spiritual gifts does not automatically happen. Such happens in ministry sessions like this. *"And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ"* (Eph. 4:11-12).
 - Gift impartation: While believers may need to "discover" gifts lying dormant inside them; on occasion new gifts may also be "imparted" to them according to God's will. *"For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established"* (Rom.1:11).
 - Gideon discovered his spiritual gift and calling through an angelic visitation. His destiny was realized, His life was radically transformed, and Israel was saved (Judges 6).
- 4. Spiritual Gifts and the Fruit of the Spirit.**
 - The effectiveness of Spiritual gifts is reliant on an environment of love and the fruit of the Spirit (1 Cor. 11). The weight of a spiritual gift ministry must rest on a strong framework of Godly character.
 - Spiritual gifts can be activated in a very short period of time while Christian character is developed over a longer period of time as the believer develops a relationship of intimacy with the Lord.
 - Nevertheless brand new believers should learn to immediately exercise some spiritual gifts.

5. An Overview of Twenty-four Supernatural New Testament Spiritual Gifts.

- **The Nine Power Gifts (1 Cor. 12:8-10)** – Sometimes called the charismatic gifts, the supernatural nature of these gifts is very apparent.
 - word of wisdom
 - word of knowledge
 - faith
 - gifts of healing
 - working of miracles
 - prophesy
 - discerning of spirits
 - speaking in tongues
 - interpretation of tongues
- **The Ten Motivational Gifts (Rom. 12:6-8, 1 Cor. 7:7, Acts 7:59-60 1 Cor. 12:28 Acts 12:12)** The supernatural nature of these gifts are more apparent in the motivation to do the actual works than in the works themselves.
 - service
 - exhortation
 - giving
 - leadership
 - mercy
 - hospitality
 - helps
 - celibacy
 - martyrdom
 - administration
- **The Five Leadership Gifts (Eph. 4:11).** These are also sometimes considered church offices. Each has been given authority from the Lord to exercise unique leadership in the body of Christ.
 - Apostle
 - Prophet
 - Evangelist
 - Pastor
 - Teacher