

Spiritual Gifts Activation Seminar

Lesson Two: Gifts of Encouragement, Healing and Word of Knowledge

Review

- 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.
- Discovering your spiritual gifts is discovering your identity and destiny.
- Your purpose and fruitfulness in life is tied into exercising your spiritual gifts
- The harvest cannot be brought in without spiritual gifts

The Gift of Exhortation

- **Definition:** The special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to minister words of comfort, consolation, encouragement, and counsel to other members of the body in such a way that they feel helped and healed.
- *"If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly "* (Rom.12:8)
- **Barnabas (Son of Encouragement)**
 - He took newly converted Saul in when the Jews at Jerusalem were afraid of Him (Acts 9:27)
 - When the Christians at Jerusalem were scattered because of persecution Barnabas was sent out to encourage the new church plants (Acts 11:22)
 - Barnabas went to Tarsus, found Saul and brought him back to Antioch. Later he accompanied Paul on the first missionary journey.
 - Barnabas saw potential in Saul that no one else saw and took initiative to bring it out.

Gifts of Healing

- **Definition:** The special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to serve as human intermediaries through whom it pleases God to cure illness and restore health apart from the use of natural means.
- Of the nine gifts mentioned in 1 Cor.12 this is the only one mentioned in the plural.
 - Some have more faith to heal certain illnesses than others.
 - Gifts of healing operate in several dimensions
 - Physical – Healing diseases and injuries
 - Deliverance – Driving out oppressive spirits
 - Emotional – Healing wounded hearts
- Though Jesus operated in all the gifts of the Spirit, more is mentioned in the gospels about His healing ministry than any other aspect of His ministry.
 - The healings and miracles attested to the fact that He was the Messiah and Savior
 - Jesus' healing ministry highlights the importance of us operating in this gift.

- Gifts of healing demonstrates the authority and power of the gospel and is key to bringing in the harvest
- Healing and Evangelism: *So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins.* Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, ¹¹ *“Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!”* (Mark 2:10-11)

The Gift of Word of Knowledge

- **Definition:** The special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to know information apart from natural means which in turn becomes helpful in healing or encouraging another.
- This prophetic gift often works alongside the gifts of healing.
- Jesus operated in words of knowledge:
 - Jesus said [to the woman at the well], “You’re right! You don’t have a husband— for you have had five husbands, and you aren’t even married to the man you’re living with now. You certainly spoke the truth!” (Luke 4:17-18)
- The gift of word of knowledge identifies those whom the Lord wants to heal which in turn brings greater fruitfulness for those operating in the gift of healing.

Assignment:

Look for an opportunity to exercise the gifts of word of knowledge and healing this week. Put into practice what we learned by praying for at least one sick person this week.