

Spiritual Gifts Activation Seminar

Session Six: The Gifts of Leadership and Discerning of Spirits

Gifts and Fruit of the Spirit.

- ⊕ “But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control” (Gal. 5:22-23).
- ⊕ Gifts exercised without the fruit can cause the gift ministry to accomplish little or nothing. Bad character and lack of love disqualifies the minister.
- ⊕ Fruit without the gifts is laborious, boring and brings small returns. Disciple-making requires power and authority.
- ⊕ The Holy Spirit provides both fruit and gifts for multiplication and success in His Kingdom.

Gift Ministry Flowing Out of a Heart of Love

- ⊕ Your only desire is that others are helped.
- ⊕ You have no desire to build your reputation.
- ⊕ You do not need to settle a score.
- ⊕ Your obedience to the Holy Spirit is more important to you than whether or not your ministry is accepted by significant others.
- ⊕ You have the grace to quickly forgive others who fail to acknowledge your gifts, or wrongly criticize and/or condemn you.

The Gift of Leadership

- ⊕ The gift of leadership is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to set goals in accordance with God’s purpose for the future and to communicate these goals to others in such a way that they voluntarily and harmoniously work together to accomplish these goals for the glory of God. The Gift of Leadership is more than natural leadership skill.

Characteristics of the Gift of Leadership

1. Influence

- ⊕ Leaders by definition have the ability to influence others. To some degree everyone has at least some minimal influence on others; but effective, gifted leaders may powerfully impact thousands for good or for evil.
- ⊕ Those exercising the Spiritual gift of leadership supernaturally influence others to become more like Jesus and motivate them to advance the kingdom of God on earth.

2. Vision and Wisdom

- ⊕ The one exercising the gift of leadership carries Godly vision and wisdom.
- ⊕ “These patriarchs were jealous of their brother Joseph, and they sold him to be a slave in Egypt. But God was with him ¹⁰ and rescued him from all his troubles. And God gave him favor before Pharaoh, king of Egypt. God also gave Joseph unusual wisdom, so that Pharaoh appointed him governor over all of Egypt and put him in charge of the palace (Acts 7:10)

3. Confident In Their Calling

- ⊕ The one exercising the gift of leadership knows what God has called them to do and is obedient and confident in his/her calling.
- ⊕ So the apostles and elders met together to resolve this issue. ⁷ At the meeting, after a long discussion, Peter stood and addressed them as follows: “Brothers, you all know that God chose me from among you some time ago to preach to the Gentiles so that they could hear the Good News and believe... (Acts 15:6-7)

4. Godly Character

- ⊕ The one exercising the gift of leadership earns respect by their godly character.
- ⊕ Now when the time was almost come for Jesus to be received up [to heaven], He steadfastly *and* determinedly set His face to go to Jerusalem (Luke 9:51)
- ⊕ In this case it was Jesus’ willingness to make great sacrifices that set Him apart.

5. They Make Disciples of Christ

- ⊕ The fulfillment of the Great Commission is accomplished by those exercising the gift of leadership.
 - ⊕ Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matt. 28:18-20)

The Gift of Discerning of spirits

- ⊕ The gift of discerning of spirits is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to know with assurance whether certain behavior purported to be of God is in reality divine, human, or satanic.

Biblical Examples of the Gift of Discerning of spirits

1. Peter Discerns Ananias and Sapphira's Offering

- ⊕ Then Peter said, “Ananias, why have you let Satan fill your heart? You lied to the Holy Spirit, and you kept some of the money for yourself. The property was yours to sell or not sell, as you wished. And after selling it, the money was also yours to give away. How could you do a thing like this? You weren't lying to us but to God!” (Acts 5:3-4)

2. Paul Discerns the Fortune-teller

- ⊕ She was a fortune-teller who earned a lot of money for her masters. ¹⁷ She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, “These men are servants of the Most High God, and they have come to tell you how to be saved.” This went on day after day until Paul got so exasperated that he turned and said to the demon within her, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And instantly it left her (Acts 16:16-18)

3. John Warns Us To Test Prophets

- ⊕ Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world... But if someone claims to be a prophet and does not acknowledge the truth about Jesus, that person is not from God. Such a person has the spirit of the Antichrist, which you heard is coming into the world and indeed is already here. (1 John 4:1,3)

4. Jesus Discerns the Generous Widow

- ⊕ Jesus sat down near the collection box in the Temple and watched as the crowds dropped in their money. Many rich people put in large amounts. ⁴² Then a poor widow came and dropped in two small coins. Jesus called his disciples to him and said, “I tell you the truth, this poor widow has given more than all the others who are making contributions. ⁴⁴ For they gave a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she had to live on.” (Mark 12:41-44)

Assignment:

- ⊕ Reflect upon who sees your Christian witness. Are you influencing them? Is there a gift of leadership operating in you? Ask the Lord to for a greater anointing to make disciples of Christ.
- ⊕ Do you see opportunities where you can take a “risky initiative” to lead and influence others to become better followers of Christ?
 - ⊕ Initiate a prayer time at work
 - ⊕ Start a Bible Study gathering in your home, etc.
- ⊕ Reflect on times when you had accurate and inaccurate discernment about those who claimed to represent Jesus? Consider how you got it right. Evaluate the wrong discernment. How did you get it wrong? Make adjustments.