

Are you gifted? What comes to mind when you think about that question? There is quite a bit of debate in the sports world about how gifted an athlete is at birth. Is it innate in the individual? If so, we could breed individuals for superior performance. Or is it developed? Simply train harder and you can overcome any shortfalls. The answer is: both! And so it is the same with spiritual gifts. God provides the gifts, but it's up to us to exercise the "muscle" to completely develop and share the gift!

What gifts has God blessed you with and how diligent are you in exercising them?

Getting To Know You

1. What is your favorite of the five senses, and why?

2. As children we loved to receive gifts. [Ok, maybe we love gifts now, too!] News Flash: We are God's children. Name some of the greatest gifts He has given you.

Into the Bible

1. In 1 Cor. 12:20, how do you understand the fact that "there are many parts, but one body?" How do we cause division in the body of Christ when we prize any one member over others?

"But now there are many members, but one body." 1 Cor. 12:20

2. Why did God give spiritual gifts to the Church? What was their purpose? What was the result?

3. In Ephesians 4:1, how did Paul exercise his gifts as part of the body, even while in prison? Can we be separated from the body of Christ and still perform works of service for the body of Christ? Why or why not? How?

"Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called" Eph. 4:1

Gifts from God [Part 1]

*“Now about spiritual gifts, brothers,
I do not want you to be ignorant.” [1 Corinthians 12:1]*

In 1 Corinthians 12, a list of gifts is provided. In that list, what gift or gifts do you think God has given to you? How have you used it? What do you think will happen if you don't exercise the gift that God has given you?

Taking It Home

1. Try exercising just one spiritual gift. Like anything else in life it requires practice. Try practicing that gift on your own family.

2. As you pray and love others, where and how will you exercise your spiritual gift in your marriage, your family, your neighborhood, and the world around?

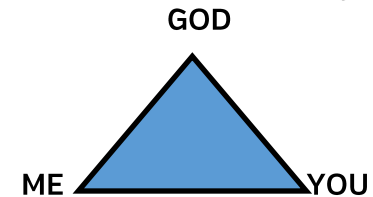
Spiritual Gifts are discussed in four main Bible passages:

- Romans 12:3-16
- 1 Corinthians 12:1-31
- Ephesians 4:1-16
- 1 Peter 4:7-11

I. The Paradox: U_____ and D_____.

“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.” [1 Corinthians 12:4-7]

The Relationship Triangle



II. The Picture: The H_____ B_____

“The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body-- whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free--and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.” [1 Corinthians 12:12-13]

- The Body is O_____, but has many different P_____
- G_____ arranges the parts where He wants them.
- Although different all the parts are H_____ and N_____ to make the whole body.
- There should be no DIVISION in the body.

INDIVIDUALLY U_____, TOGETHER, C_____