SPIRITUAL GIFTS – Empowered to Serve

15 January 2017 – WEEK #1

“Introduction to Gifts”
Imagine ...
“Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant.”

- 1 Corinthians 12:1
“Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts ...”

- 1 Corinthians 14:1
The Ministry of ALL believers

Most would affirm at least in theory, that laypeople should be empowered to discover their spiritual gifts and through them participate in the authentic ministry of the church.
Rare is the Church today that advocates that the professional pastor or staff should do all the ministry of the church.
What is a Spiritual Gift?
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Spiritual Gifts are those special abilities given to all Christians to build up the fellowship and ministry of the church.
A spiritual gift is a special attribute given by the Holy Spirit to every member of the Body of Christ, according to God’s grace, for use within the context of the Body.
“It was he who gave [gifts] ... so that the body of Christ may be built up until we reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”

_Ephesians 4:11-13_
Spiritual Gifts are like birthday gifts
We don’t ask for them

We usually long for them with great anticipation

We don’t always know what’s going to be inside the package until we open it

The gift joyfully celebrates our lives & is given by someone who cares about us
Who gives out Spiritual Gifts?

Can I choose my gift?
“All these are the work of the one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.”

1 Corinthians 12:11
Who needs to know about Spiritual Gifts?
You need to know about spiritual gifts if:

1. You are a Christian believer

2. You believe that Jesus is your Lord and you want to love him, please him and follow him in the best way possible

3. You want your church to be a healthy, attractive, growing group of people showing forth God’s love in your community
“I am convinced that ignorance of spiritual gifts may be a chief cause of retarded church growth today.”

(Peter Wagner, Christian Author)
“It also may be at the root of much of the discouragement, insecurity, frustration and guilt that plague many Christians and curtail their total effectiveness for God.”

(Peter Wagner)
Basic Questions

Are you really the person God wants you to be?

Are you fulfilling all of God’s destiny for your life?
“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God … that the man (or woman) of God may be … thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

2 Timothy 3:16-17
Who has a Spiritual Gift?

Does everybody have a spiritual gift?

No. Unbelievers, for example, do not.
Who has a spiritual gift?

Every Christian person who is committed to Jesus and truly a member of His Body has at least one gift, or quite possibly more.

Every Christian has received a gift (1 Peter 4:10), and ...

It is ‘given to each one for the profit of all’ (1 Corinthians 12:7)
“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.”  

1 Peter 4:10

“Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.”  

1 Corinthians 12:7
Why do we have Spiritual Gifts?
YOUR spiritual gifts can help your church grow!
Your PURPOSE in the Body (of Christ) is determined by your spiritual gift or combination of gifts.
“It was he who gave [gifts] … so that the body of Christ may be built up until we reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”

Ephesians 4:11-13
Some other stuff about Spiritual Gifts
Many Christians are multi-gifted (gift-mix)

Women are equally gifted!
(Paul – Spirit has distributed the gifts to ‘each one for the profit of all’

Every one of us attend the ‘gifted children’ school/class. God ‘gifts’ us all.

The process – Discover, Develop, Use
A Christian’s calling & his/her spiritual gift are closely associated

God does not give a gift that he does not ‘call’ the recipient to use.

God does not ‘call’ someone to do something for Him without equipping that person with the necessary gift/s to do it.

God has not entrusted any human being to give spiritual gifts.
“No one works real hard and is then rewarded with a ‘gift’. They are gifts of grace and, as such, they emerge from God with no reference to the degree of merit or sanctification that the recipient may have attained. The fact that they are given to brand-new Christians before they have had time to mature spiritually confirms this.”
Examples of Spiritual Gifts

28 Spiritual Gifts?
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Spiritual Gifts Series – Week 1
Empowered to Serve

Voluntary Poverty
Celibacy
Intercession
Deliverance

Apostle
Leading Worship
Martyrdom
Some reasons why we don’t use our Spiritual Gift
Reasons why we don’t use our gift/s:

Fear
Scared that we might hurt someone

Ignorance – we don’t know what it is

We don’t like/want our gift

We may not want to be held accountable
Benefits of Spiritual Gifts
Benefits of using our gift/s:

The individual grows

The whole Body of Christ grows (Eph 4:13)

God is glorified (1 Peter 4:10–11)

We develop healthy self esteem

We find our place in Church with more ease
What should our attitude be when we use our Spiritual Gifts?
Spiritual Gifts Series – Week 1
Empowered to Serve

Attitude when using our gift/s:

Look at Romans 12:1–16

Humility (v3)

Not proud (v16)

Each gift is valuable (v5)

It’s OK to have different gifts (don’t be slack)
Let's pray
Prayer

God, Thank you for giving me a gift to use in your Church. Allow me to discover it more each day and to develop it, and to bring it to maturity as I serve you and others around me.
SPIRITUAL GIFTS – Empowered to Serve

NEXT WEEK – 22 Jan 2017
“The 28 Gifts”