

“ADJ - Purpose, Passion, and Gifts Part 2” (11-13-22)

Series Focus: Living on purpose by discovering our gifts and glorifying God with our lives!

Today: For the next 3 weeks we’ll be exploring “**The Gifts of the Spirit.**” We’ll focus on 3 primary passages:

- Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12-14, Ephesians 4. (Also, look at the life of Jesus & the Church in Acts)

1) Motivated by Love

1 Corinthians 12:1 (ESV)

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed.

Notes: Uninformed means – **Unknown** or Ignorant. Also, to **not Understand**, or to **Ignore**.

- **The Gifts are for today**

- Jesus, Disciples, early church, letters to the churches, historical & current witness
- People argue that the gifts aren’t for today, but no one argues that the fruit isn’t for today
- God doesn’t change (that’s a primary characteristic) - His Spirit produces fruit & gives gifts!

John Piper

“When you read the New Testament honestly, you can’t help but get the impression of a big difference from a lot of contemporary Christian experience. For them the Holy Spirit was a fact of *experience*. For many Christians today it is a fact of *doctrine*.”

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 (ESV)

(4) Now there are **varieties** of gifts, but the **same Spirit**; (5) and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; (6) and there are varieties of activities, but it is the **same God who empowers** them all in everyone. (7) To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

Notes: Unity in Variety, & all are from God, for the common good. We are empowered by God as He wills.

- **How do we use the Gifts**

- In combination with the fruit – We grow in godly character (**Galatians 5:22-23**)
- **Love** is central . . . **literally!** 1 Corinthians 13 is purposely placed.
- This means that the gifts are motivated by love for others
- The gifts flow out of an abiding life. I receive the gifts from the one I am walking with!

1 Corinthians 12:11 (ESV)

All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one **individually as he wills**.

Note: Important Point about “**having**” gifts of the Spirit - It’s about distribution as He wills.

- Gifts that are area of strength
- Gifts in the moment (as needed)
- Gifts for roles or positions you hold

2) Living with Purpose

Romans 12:3 (ESV)

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

Note: The Gifts are acts of God's Grace – So don't make it about you. Be humble before God & others. Trust Him (that's faith) and what He gives, not what you can accomplish!

***Remember** - Gifts are activated by faith in God not in my ability to be gifted!

Benefit: Living like this combats – **pride**, **pressure**, & looking for your **identity in position or power**

Romans 12:4-6a (ESV)

(4) For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, (5) so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. (6) Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them

Note: We are different, but connected. We need each other, we directly effect each other. Our gifts differ – please use yours!!!

Benefit: Living like this combats – feeling **worthless** (nothing to offer), **complacent**, or **apathetic**

3) Doing the Work

Ephesians 4:11-12 (ESV)

(11) And he gave the **apostles**, the **prophets**, the **evangelists**, the **shepherds** and **teachers**, (12) to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ

Notes: These 5 roles are for equipping (complete, furnishing, to make fully ready) **the saints for:**

- **Work of the ministry:** deeds of service (same greek word for: deacons)
- **Building up the Body:** building, edifying, growth, (architecture or structure) of Jesus' body

We all have an important role to fulfill - what might God be calling me to do now?

What might He be preparing me for in the future?

***Important Note:** Church is not for spectators - it's for participation by all!

Even when we are in a more "passive" role (like listening to this teaching), we should be practicing "active" listening for the purpose of learning & applying!

Conclusion: God gives us spiritual gifts so that motivated by love, we can live with purpose, and do the work he has called us to!

Personal Study & Reflection

- **Romans 12** - the gifts & the importance of unity
- **1 Corinthians 12-14** - the gifts operating in love in the midst of corporate worship
- **Ephesians 4** - the gifts of leadership to equip the church for service
- **Next 2 Sundays** - Q&A time built into the service (Dave Buehring is joining us next week!)

Listen to **Abide Series** Parts 14-16 for definitions on each gift listed (Find it on sermons page of our website)

The Primary Passages Listing the Spiritual Gifts

Romans 12:6-8 (ESV)

(6) Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if **prophecy**, in proportion to our faith; (7) if **service**, in our serving; the one who **teaches**, in his teaching; (8) the one who **exhorts**, in his exhortation; the one who **contributes**, in generosity; the one who **leads**, with zeal; the one who does acts of **mercy**, with cheerfulness.

1 Corinthians 12:8-10 (ESV)

(8) For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of **wisdom**, and to another the utterance of **knowledge** according to the same Spirit, (9) to another **faith** by the same Spirit, to another gifts of **healing** by the one Spirit, (10) to another the working of **miracles**, to another **prophecy**, to another the ability to **distinguish between spirits**, to another **various kinds of tongues**, to another the **interpretation of tongues**.

1 Corinthians 12:28 (ESV)

(28) And God has appointed in the church first **apostles**, second **prophets**, third **teachers**, then **miracles**, then gifts of **healing**, **helping**, **administrating**, and various kinds of **tongues**.

Ephesians 4:11-12 (ESV)

(11) And he gave the **apostles**, the **prophets**, the **evangelists**, the **shepherds** and **teachers**, (12) to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ