

What Every Christian Ought to Know - Adrian Rogers

How to Discover His Spiritual Gift - Chapter 10

In Romans 12:6-8, Paul says, “6 *We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; 7 if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8 if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.*” God has given each believer a gift or gifts to use to help you accomplish His will for your life.

When we studied 1 Corinthians 12, we completed a survey to help us determine what spiritual gifts God has given us. These surveys are helpful but they are not always accurate. We can add our own biases as we answer the questions. But the surveys can give us a start in understanding what our spiritual gifts are.

Rogers says that Christians can be divided into clergy (those in full-time ministry) and the laity (those in the pews). He says “A little girl was asked to define and describe the difference between clergy and laity. She said that the clergy are paid to be good and the laity are good for nothing.” This isn’t true because God can use everyone to accomplish His will.

We are all aware that there is more to Christian life than coming to Church, sitting in the pews, singing a couple of hymns, listening to a sermon and then going home. Staying for Sunday School is a good addition but there are so many ways to serve God in your home church.

Adrian Rogers makes a plea for us to use our spiritual gifts. “If you are tired of just drawing a breath and drawing a salary, if you are not content to sit around and endure until you die, then here is great news. God has called you to serve Him, and God has equipped you to serve Him. God has given you a spiritual gift. You’re to take that gift, discover it, develop it and deploy it for Jesus.”

In 1 Corinthians 12:1, Paul starts to describe the Gifts. He says, “*I don’t want you to be ignorant concerning gifts.*” Many Christians do not have a clue of what their spiritual gifts are or how to use them to serve God.

God has given you natural talents. Spiritual gifts may be connected in some way to your natural talents but not necessarily. Singing and playing a musical instrument are God-given natural talents but they are not spiritual gifts. Spiritual gifts are gifts from God but they are not learned.

When something comes from God it is not to be distorted. 1 Corinthians 12:2–3 tells us that if the Holy Spirit is speaking through you, then you will never call Jesus accursed and no one calls Jesus their Lord except by the Holy Spirit.

Satan wants to give the Holy Spirit a bad name. Satan has created nothing but has distorted God's creation. Satan has no raw materials, God has created everything. His goal is to distort or pervert the things of God.

When God created everything "*God saw that it was good.*" Satan worked to make everything that God created sinful and distorted. This same thing applies to spiritual gifts. Satan will try to distort your spiritual gifts. Look how some evangelical type churches use speaking in tongues or roll around on the floor saying if you don't behave like them then you are not truly saved. That is a distortion of spiritual gifts by Satan.

Remember what Paul taught in 1 Corinthians 14:33 and 40: "33 *For God is not a God of disorder but of peace, as in all the meetings of God's holy people.*" 40 "*But all things must be done properly and in an orderly manner.*" God is a God of order.

"Anytime you find worship that draws away from the Lord Jesus Christ, even worship that seems to magnify the Holy Spirit rather than the lordship of Jesus, that worship is contrary to the Bible." (Rogers)

It sounds strange because we know that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit make up the Trinity, so why should it matter which one gets glorified? Colossians 1:18 tells us that "*He (Jesus) is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.*" Your spiritual gift should be used to glorify Jesus.

Jesus told His disciples, John 16:”*13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. 14 He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you.*” The Holy Spirit came to glorify Jesus and to guide us to do the same.

We are to magnify the name of Jesus. The praise hymn, “We Will Glorify the King of Kings”, says it well. “We will glorify the King of kings, We will glorify the Lamb. We will glorify the Lord of lords, Who is the great I Am.”

1 Corinthians 12:4-6 speaks about the diversity or different kinds of Spiritual Gifts. In order for us to accomplish God’s will He gives us gifts. These gifts speak of God’s provision. What we do with these gifts or the ministries we serve in speak, of God’s purpose? Our activities speak of God’s power. Your gift requires the power of God to operate.

Just as our bodies are made up of many parts all performing their functions in unity, a church is made up of many people with different gifts in unity to make the church do God’s will. Not everyone can be a pastor or trustee or deacon or educator. They must work together using their spiritual gift in order to work well.

In 1 Corinthians 12:16-25, Paul speaks of the church as a body. Our bodies are made up of eyes, ears, legs, arms, brain, heart, . . . The body requires all of these parts to function as they were designed. God puts people with diverse spiritual gifts into a church so that the church can do His will.

Rogers uses the example of a choir. A choir is made up of people singing together but not necessarily in unison. They are singing in unity with each contributing to the song their own voice, basses, tenors, altos and sopranos. You wouldn’t want the basses singing soprano or the sopranos singing bass.

A church must have unity or no work gets done. If there is no harmony inside the church, it is difficult to praise God with one voice. Somehow those outside the church can sense how well things are going in the church family.

In our study of Paul's letters to the Corinthians, it was easy to see that the Corinthian church had no unity. Most of Paul's letter was spent getting them on the right track and praising God in harmony.

Design of the Gifts

1 Corinthians 12:7 says, "A *spiritual gift* is given to each of us so we can help each other." Instead of '*spiritual gift*' many translations say '*manifestation of the Spirit*'.

Rogers says, "Your spiritual gift is not for your *enjoyment*; your spiritual gift is for your *employment*. Your spiritual gift is a tool, not a *toy*. It is to bless the church body."

Your spiritual gift is given to you to serve God in order to do His will for your life. It is not to be hidden away, never to be used or seen. You have been put in your church to serve God and your spiritual gift helps you serve God according to His plan. God wants us to bless the church which will spill out blessing the community and the world. It is similar to this little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

Distribution of the Gifts.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:8-11. The spiritual gifts are distributed by the Holy Spirit. He chooses the gift for you. Your spiritual gift was given to you when you accepted Jesus as your savior.

Some of the gifts are listed in these verses and Romans 12:6-8. All of these gifts are used for God's glory and not our own. Paul was quick to point out that no gift is more important than the others. Egos have no place when it comes to spiritual gifts, it is all about serving and glorifying God.

Rogers breaks the gifts into 3 types

Teaching / Leadership Gifts – practical, needed and most common

Service Gifts – Jesus' life was marked by service. A true servant leader.

Sign Gifts – Given to authenticate the work of apostles and prophets.

Teaching / Leadership Gifts

Leadership (Romans 12:8) – Coordinate and help see the big picture.

Prophecy (1 Cor. 12:10 and Rom. 12:6) – Speaking the Word of God to edify or build up and exhort or fire up and to comfort or shore up.

Teaching (Romans 12:7) – Clarify truth

Exhortation (Romans 12:8) – To stimulate and encourage in faith (i.e. Counseling, music, witnessing)

Wisdom (1 Cor. 12:8) – Seeing life from God's point of view.

Discerning of Spirits (1 Cor. 12:10) – To discern spiritual wickedness and demons. Terry calls it her "creep-o-meter".

Service Gifts

Ministry (Romans 12:7) – Service. These are the workers of the church.

Giving (Romans 12:8) – Accumulated and disperse assets

Faith (1 Cor. 12:9) – We all have faith but this is Superabundant faith. These people can take away the fog.

Mercy (Romans 12:8) – Identify and comfort those in distress.

Sign Gifts –

Knowledge (1 Cor. 12:8) – Know things by divine intuition.

Healings (1 Cor. 12:8) – Do not see today.

Miracles (1 Cor. 12:9) – Do not see today.

Tongues (1 Cor. 12:10) – Speaking in known languages, not learned.

Interpretation of tongues (1 Cor. 12:10) – Works together with Tongues so that all are edified. In 1 Corinthians 14:28, Paul says, "*If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and God.*"

Discovery of Gifts

In our study of 1 Corinthians, we did a Spiritual Gifts survey. It is important to understand what your Spiritual Gift(s) is so that you can use your gift to serve God in this church and so you can develop it further.

Romans 12:1 says, *“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.”* This means that our bodies are not our own. We are to present them to God for His will and not our own. This is a command but it is also voluntary.

Romans 12:2–3 says, *“2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”* Using your spiritual gifts to do God’s will is a matter of stewardship. God has given you your spiritual gift to serve Him.

We should have the mind of Paul, who said in 1 Corinthians 15:10, *“But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me.”* It is not about us but about sending the name of Jesus out into the world.

Rogers says “Don’t insult God by saying you don’t have a grace gift. True humility is not denying God’s gift. To deny your grace gift is not humility but unbelief and rebellion. To fail to use your grace gift is a tragic waste. It is poor stewardship of the gift entrusted to you.