

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: Unwrapping Your Spiritual Gifts

SERMON REFERENCE: 1 Corinthians 12

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) To have real joy and fulfillment in our Christian lives, we need discover, develop and put to work our spiritual gift.
- b) 1 Corinthians 12:1
 - i) If you have been born again, then you have a spiritual gift.
 - (1) You are a gifted child.
- c) Some Christians are afraid of spiritual gifts.
 - i) Fear is rooted in ignorance.
 - (1) Most prejudice is rooted in ignorance.
 - ii) We are so afraid of wildfire that we end up with no fire.
- d) Today's message will share three specific things about spiritual gifts.

2) THE DESCRIPTION OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS (1 CORINTHIANS 12:1)

- a) These are spiritual gifts.
 - i) 1 Corinthians 12:1
 - (1) This passage is not talking about a gift of money, beauty, health or fame.
 - ii) The problem is that many of us are not interested in spiritual things.
- b) These are supernatural gifts.
 - i) 1 Corinthians 12:4
 - (1) The word for "gifts" in this verse is the Greek word "charismata."
 - (a) "Charis" is the word for "grace."
 - (b) "Charismata" is also the word from which we get our word "charismatic."
 - (2) A "charismata" is a grace gift.
 - (a) Grace is that which is completely and totally unearned; it is the sovereign work of God, the saving work of God and the supernatural work of God.
 - ii) A grace gift is different from talent.
 - (1) A grace gift is not something that is earned.
 - (a) When you have a spiritual gift, there is no room for pride.
- c) These are service gifts.
 - i) 1 Corinthians 12:7
 - (1) "To profit withal" means to profit the others, to profit the whole body.
 - ii) To have a spiritual gift is not a means to an end.
 - (1) It is not for our selfishness.
 - (2) It is not to make us feel good.
 - (3) It is not to prove something to us.
 - iii) These gifts are not for evidence; they are equipment.
 - iv) These gifts are not for our enjoyment but for our employment.
 - (1) God has given us a gift to profit withal.
- d) These gifts are sovereign gifts.
 - i) 1 Corinthians 12:11
 - ii) We don't decide what gift we will have.

- (1) The Holy Spirit of God chooses our gift.
- (2) Our joy and responsibility is to discover the gift that God has given us.
- iii) 1 Corinthians 12:31
 - (1) This verse does not mean that we to pray for a specific gift.
 - (2) The Apostle Paul is saying in this passage that those in the Corinthian church were seeking (coveting) what they thought were the best gifts, such as tongues and miracles.
 - (a) This is not an imperative when Paul says, “You covet the best gifts.”
 - (i) This is indicative.
 - (ii) Paul is in essence saying, “This is what you’re doing.”
- iv) A spiritual gift is a sovereignly bestowed gift.
 - (1) We are not to covet or desire someone else’s gift.
 - (2) We should thank God for the gift He has given us.
- e) These gifts are salvation gifts.
 - i) 1 Corinthians 12:12-13
 - (1) If you have been saved, then you have received the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
 - (a) For by one Spirit, we have all (not some of us, but all of us) been baptized into one body.
 - (2) When we are saved, we are put into the body of Christ with a function.
 - (a) Our spiritual gift enables us to function as God puts us in the body.
 - ii) When we are born again and the Holy Spirit comes into us, He does not come empty handed.
 - (1) When we are saved and the Holy Spirit places us in the body of Christ, He places us in the body to do a particular thing.
 - (a) Every Christian has a ministry.
 - iii) God has equipped us with a sovereign, supernatural gift.
 - (1) You may not have discovered your gift yet.
 - (a) Just as a little baby born into the natural world discovers his hands, and later on that baby may become an artist or a musician as he learns how to use those hands.
 - (i) The hands came at birth.
 - (2) We have to discover our gift, develop that gift and then deploy that gift.
 - (a) We have to put our hands to work.
- f) These gifts are support gifts.
 - i) 1 Corinthians 12:17-21
 - (1) God has given us different gifts so that He might make us one.
 - ii) Each of us have different gifts, and together, we must depend upon one another.
 - (1) This is what makes the church the church.
 - iii) It would not make sense to try to exercise our gift apart from our relationship to the body.
 - (1) For instance, the hand is significant only as it is a part of the body.

- (2) Our spiritual gift is here to support the rest of the body in order to profit the whole body.
 - (a) We're not to be a Lone Ranger Christian.
 - (b) 1 Corinthians 12:26
 - iv) It is sheer pride to say that we don't need the church.
 - (1) You need the church, and the church needs you.
- 3) THE DIVERSITY OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS (1 CORINTHIANS 12:8-10, ROMANS 12:4-8)
- a) The word of wisdom:
 - i) 1 Corinthians 12:8
 - ii) Wisdom is not common sense.
 - (1) A person can be unsaved and have common sense.
 - iii) Wisdom is uncommon sense.
 - iv) Those who have the gift of wisdom make wonderful counselors.
 - b) A word of knowledge:
 - i) 1 Corinthians 12:8
 - ii) The gift of knowledge doesn't mean that you know everything.
 - iii) The charismatic gift of knowledge is the ability to know things that you could not know apart from the anointing, the guidance and the giftedness of the Holy Spirit of God.
 - (1) The devil's counterfeit of this is clairvoyance.
 - iv) Acts 5:1-10
 - (1) Simon Peter knew that Ananias and Saphira were telling a lie.
 - (a) Simon Peter wasn't there when Ananias made the transaction.
 - (b) Simon Peter had a word of knowledge.
 - c) The gift of faith:
 - i) 1 Corinthians 12:9
 - ii) All Christians have faith in the general sense, but this is a very specific sense.
 - iii) 1 Corinthians 13:2
 - (1) This is mountain-moving faith.
 - iv) George Muller of Bristol is an example of someone who had the gift of faith.
 - d) The gift of healing:
 - i) 1 Corinthians 12:9
 - (1) The Greek word is "healings" plural because there are all kinds of healing.
 - (a) There are physical healings, mental healings and spiritual healings.
 - ii) There are some to whom God has given the ability to heal.
 - (1) This does not mean that if you are a doctor that you have the gift of healing.
 - (a) You can be unsaved and be a doctor.
 - (b) You can be saved and have the gift of healing and not be a doctor.

- iii) There is a supernatural, charismatic gift of healing, but God also uses medicine.
 - (1) Matthew 9:12
 - (a) The sick need a physician.
- e) The gift of miracles:
 - i) 1 Corinthians 12:10
 - ii) We can believe in miracles because we believe the Bible, and there is a God.
 - (1) To say that there cannot be miracles is to limit God and to say that God is the prisoner of the world He has created.
 - iii) Miracles, though, are not very effective in converting the unsaved.
 - (1) The Lord Jesus had to sometimes step over the miracle mongers in order to do His ministry.
 - iv) As we study the Bible, we find that miracles came mostly in clusters.
 - (1) There were miracles surrounding creation.
 - (2) There were miracles surrounding Elisha and Elijah.
 - (3) There were miracles surrounding the ministry of Jesus.
 - (4) There were miracles surrounding the ministry of the apostles.
 - (5) There are miracles prophesied for the last days.
 - v) A person who is Spirit-filled will not necessarily do miracles.
 - (1) John the Baptist was filled with the Spirit from his mother's womb.
 - (a) Luke 1:15
 - (2) But John did no miracles.
 - (a) John 10:41-42
 - (b) The ministry of John was that he pointed people to Jesus Christ.
- f) The gift of prophecy:
 - i) 1 Corinthians 12:10
 - ii) Prophecy is not primarily foretelling but forthtelling; although, the prophets did sometimes foretell.
 - iii) There is the office of the prophet, like Isaiah and Jeremiah, and then there's the ministry of prophecy.
 - iv) 1 Corinthians 14:3
 - (1) The three-fold ministry of prophecy:
 - (a) Edification – to build up.
 - (b) Exhortation – to fire up.
 - (c) Comfort – to shore up.
 - (2) In 1 Corinthians 14, the Apostle Paul spends almost the entire chapter showing the superiority of prophecy over tongues.
- g) The discerning of spirits:
 - i) 1 Corinthians 12:10
 - ii) We live in a world filled with wicked, malevolent, demon spirits.
 - (1) Demons exist, and they are lying spirits.
 - (2) Satan has transformed himself as an angel of light.
 - (a) 2 Corinthians 11:14

- iii) This is a greatly needed gift in our churches today.
 - (1) Those with this gift can discern if it's a devil parading in an angel's garb or a wolf in sheep's clothing.
- h) The gift of tongues:
 - i) 1 Corinthians 12:10
 - (1) The word for "tongue" here means "tongue" or "language."
 - ii) The gift of tongues is a supernatural gift to praise God in a foreign language that you have never learned.
 - (1) Acts 2:1-11
 - (a) They were praising God, not in an unknown tongue, but in a known tongue.
 - iii) 1 Corinthians 14:22
 - (1) Tongues are not a sign for believers but for unbelievers.
 - iv) 1 Corinthians 14:18
 - (1) The Apostle Paul spoke with tongues on the mission field.
- i) The gift of interpretation of tongues:
 - i) 1 Corinthians 12:10
 - (1) The word "interpretation" means "the translation."
 - ii) This is the supernatural interpretation of a language.
 - (1) If someone is speaking in tongues, then there must be someone present with the gift of interpretation so that no one present will be left in the dark as to what is being spoken.
 - iii) God can still use the gift of tongues and interpretation of tongues today.
 - (1) If He does, though, He will never contradict His Word.
- j) Romans 12:4-8
 - i) This passage mentions support gifts.
 - ii) The gift of ministry:
 - (1) Romans 12:7
 - (2) Ministry is acts of service.
 - (a) This is general church work, such as those who work in activities programs, those who usher, those who work in the nursery, etc.
 - (b) Everything that we do ought to be done in the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - iii) The gift of teaching:
 - (1) Romans 12:7
 - (2) This might be a Sunday school teacher, a missionary teacher, or you may be teaching your children at home.
 - iv) The gift of exhortation:
 - (1) Romans 12:8
 - (2) The gift of exhortation encourages and fires you up.
 - v) The gift of giving:
 - (1) Romans 12:8
 - (2) All of us are to give, but there is also a special gift of giving.

- (3) The gift of giving is the ability to make money and to give money wisely and sacrificially.
 - vi) The gift of ruling:
 - (1) Romans 12:8
 - (2) This is the gift to administrate.
 - (3) Those on church staffs and in leadership often have this gift.
 - (a) Administration and leadership.
 - vii) The gift of mercy:
 - (1) Romans 12:8
 - (2) Mercy is showing the love of Jesus Christ.
 - (3) This gift is expressed in a church's hospital visitations, benevolence committees, in counseling, etc.
- 4) THE DISCOVERY OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS (ROMANS 12:1-6)
- a) The principle of Lordship:
 - i) Romans 12:1-2
 - ii) If you want to find the will of God for your service, then just present yourself to God.
 - iii) Your gift must have the power to operate it.
 - (1) God gives you your gift when you get saved, but the gift begins to operate when you get the power to operate it.
 - (a) That power comes when you present yourself to the Lord Jesus.
 - b) The principle of stewardship:
 - i) Romans 12:3-4
 - (1) Three times in verse three, the word "think" is used.
 - ii) We are to be a steward of the gift God gives us.
 - (1) We are not to sit, soak and sour.
 - iii) In Romans 12:2, we are to renew our mind.
 - (1) We are to think with our renewed mind.
 - (a) We are not to think more highly than we ought to think.
 - (i) But we insult God if we think that we don't have a gift.
 - (b) We are to think soberly.
 - (c) What is it that we like to do?
 - c) The principle of fellowship:
 - i) Romans 12:4-6
 - (1) In the body of Christ, we belong to each other.
 - ii) In order to discover our gift, we must get in the body of Christ and go to work.
 - iii) When God gives us a gift, He will confirm that gift to somebody else; and that gift will come out as we get in the church and go to work.
 - (1) When we go to work, we'll find that our brothers and sisters in Christ will ask us to help in specific ways, such as singing or counseling or asking our help in determining what a particular Scripture means, etc.
 - (a) Our gift will come to the surface.

5) CONCLUSION

- a) When we discover our grace gift and we put it to work, then the joy of the Lord will begin to flow in our lives.
 - i) What an impact it would make in our churches if every Christian discovered and developed their spiritual gift.
- b) Before you can receive a spiritual gift, you must first be saved.
- c) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- d) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16