


HOW TO DISCOVER AND USE YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT



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DISCOVERING AND USING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT

Session Three

Romans 12:4-8

I. Further Insights About Each Gift

A. Prophecy

Characteristics

- Needs to express message verbally.
- Dependence on scriptural truth to validate authority.
- Concern for the reputation of God.

Misunderstandings

- Frankness often seen as harshness.
- Interests in results may be seen as using gimmicks.
- Emphasis on decisions may appear to neglect spiritual growth.
- Strong convictions may hinder intimate personal relationships.
- Strong desire to convey truth may be seen as having little interest in opinions of others.

B. Serving

Characteristics

- Ability to see the likes and dislikes of other people .
- Physical energy: to fulfill others needs with disregard for personal weariness.
- Involvement in a variety of activities and difficulty in saying “no”.
- Enjoys short range goals rather than long range goals.

Misunderstandings

- Avoidance of red tape.
- May exclude others from jobs.
- Eagerness in serving may prompt suspicion of self advancement.
- Meeting practical needs maybe misunderstood as lack of interest in spiritual matters.
- Tendency to get side tract from following employer’s direction

(over)

C. Teaching

Characteristics

- Believes their gift is foundational to other gifts.
- Emphasis on the meaning of words.
- Attesting of the knowledge of those who teach.
- Avoids using illustrations from non-biblical sources.
- A greater joy in researching than presenting truth.

Misunderstandings

- Emphasis on content may appear to neglect practical application.
- Testing others may appear to be prideful.
- Details of research may appear to be unnecessary to audience.

D. Exhortation

Characteristics

- Use Bible as a resource to solve problems.
- Tends to avoid systems of information that lack practical application.
- Begins with problems and then goes to Scripture rather than beginning with Scripture.

Misunderstandings

- Emphasis on practical steps may appear to over simplify problems.
- Desire to witness through life style may appear to be lack of interest in evangelism.
- The use of Scripture for practical application may appear to take Scripture out of context.

E. Giving

Characteristics

- Ability to make wise purchases and investments.
- A desire to give quietly to effective ministries.
- Avoids pressure appeals.
- Joy when a gift is an answer to a specific prayer.
- A concern that gift be of high quality.

Misunderstandings

- Desire to increase the effectiveness of a ministry may be viewed as an attempt to control ministry.
- Lack to a response to pressure appeals may appear as lack of generosity.
- Personal frugality may not be understood by friends and relatives.

F. Leading

Characteristics

- Ability to see overall picture.
- Desire to complete tasks as quickly as possible.
- Ability to know what can and can't be delegated.
- Will stand on sidelines until responsibilities turned over to him.
- Willingness to endure criticism from workers to achieve ultimate goal.
- Desire to move on to new challenge once task is completed.

Misunderstandings

- Ability to delegate may be viewed as laziness.
- Willingness to endure criticism may appear as insensitive.
- Seeing people as a resource to accomplish goals may appear as devaluing of people.

G. Mercy

Characteristics

- Gravitate toward those who hurt.
- Greater concern for mental distress than physical suffering.
- Avoidance of firmness unless sees how it will bring benefit.
- Sensitivities to words and actions which hurt other people.
- Negative reaction to those who are insincere or insensitive.

Misunderstandings

- Avoidance of firmness may be viewed as weakness.
- Sensitivity of others may cause some to feel he is guided by emotion rather than logic.
- Maybe misunderstood by people of opposite sex.

II. Three Truths To Remember About Spiritual Gifts

A. Don't Worry If You Have Not **Identified** Your Gift.

B. Distinguish Between Your **Gift** And Your **Ministry**.

C. Remember The **Context** For Your Gift Is The **Church**.