

Employing God's Gifts Series

Chapter 1: Getting Properly Oriented – Understanding & Employing Gifts & Fruit to Serve

I. Theme Verses for Series (4 Series Goals: Mutual Service, Clear Thinking, Unity & Growth in Usage)

(1 Peter 4:10) As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:

(1 Peter 4:10) As each one has received a gift, employ it in servicing one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. (NASB – Edited by gw) (Note: Top version is ESV)

(1 Corinthians 14:12) So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.

(James 1:17) Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow. (NASB)

(Romans 12:3-6a) 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. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, (ESV)

(1 Corinthians 12:1-7, 11) Now concerning spiritual *gifts*, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware. ²You know that when you were pagans, *you were* led astray to the mute idols, however you were led. ³Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus is accursed"; and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit. ⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. ⁶There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all *persons*. ⁷But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good... ¹¹But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills. (NASB)

(Matthew 23:11) But the greatest among you shall be your servant. (See also Luke 22:36)

II. Employing God's Gifts Series: 13 Chapter Titles (One Sunday per Chapter – 13 CDs)

1. Chapter 1: Getting Properly Oriented: Understanding & Employing Gifts & Fruits to Serve Each Other
2. Chapter 2: Biblical "Gift" Words / 4 Gift Classifications & 3 Church Gifts Categories – Part A
3. Chapter 3: Biblical "Gift" Words / 4 Gift Classifications & 3 Church Gifts Categories – Part B
4. Chapter 4: Seven Gifts of Motivation or Temperament – Part A (1 Corinthians 12:6) (Romans 12:3-8)
5. Chapter 5: Seven Gifts of Motivation or Temperament – Part B (1 Corinthians 12:6) (Romans 12:3-8)
6. Chapter 6: Re-Examining New Testament Leadership Terms and Functions
7. Chapter 7: Seven Gifts of Service – Part A (1 Corinthians 12:5) (Ephesians 4:11) (1 Corinthians 12:28)
8. Chapter 8: Seven Gifts of Service – Part B (1 Corinthians 12:5) (Ephesians 4:11) (1 Corinthians 12:28)
9. Chapter 9: Nine Gifts of the Spirit – Part A - The 3 Word Gifts (1 Corinthians 12: 4, 7-11)
10. Chapter 10: Nine Gifts of the Spirit – Parts B & C - The 3 Discernment Gifts & The 3 Power Gifts
11. Chapter 11: Employing Spiritual Gifts in Serving One Another at Meetings – (1 Corinthians 14)
12. Chapter 12: Employing Spiritual Gifts in Proclaiming the King (Mark 16: 20) (Acts 4:29-31; 33)
13. Chapter 13: Cultivating Three Types of Biblical Fruit – Every Seed Brings Forth Its Own Kind

III. Getting Properly Oriented - Thinking Biblically & Clearly - General Gifts; Fruit & Specific Gift Categories

A. Getting Properly Oriented: Clearing Up Common Misunderstandings

"Joe has the Gift of Evangelism; Susan has the Gift of Prophecy; Barb has the Gift of Love."

1. Every Good and Perfect Gift – In one sense the statement in "A" above is correct.

(James 1:17) Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow. (NASB)

2. However, in an important sense the statement in "A" above is unclear & misleading.
3. Thinking Biblically – 11 New Testament Greek words that can be translated as "Gift." However...

B. Three Helpful "Gift" Classifications – General Gifts; Fruit; Specific Gifts for Edification (In Order)

1. General Gifts –

a. Creation, Life, Breath, Sun, Food, Work, Rain, Etc. (We did not deserve to be born. Life is a Gift.) (Matthew 5:45b) ... for He causes His sun to rise on *the* evil and *the* good, and sends rain on *the* righteous and *the* unrighteous. (NASB)

(Genesis 2:7) Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. (NASB)

b. Redemption, Regeneration, All Things Pertaining to "This Great Salvation." (Eph. 2:8 in Context.) (Romans 6:23) For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

c. The Delivery Systems of Grace – The Word of God, the Holy Spirit & the Church. (Philippians 2:12-13) So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure.

(Hebrews 2:1-4) For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away *from it*. ² For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, ³ how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, ⁴ God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.

2. Fruit – Used Three Ways Biblically – Three Types of Biblical Fruit. ("...Barb has the Gift of Love.")

a. Fruits of Christ-like Character – Righteousness in Attitude. Motivation & Deed (Galatians 5:22-23) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (Character Qualities) (See also Ephesians 5:9-10) (Hebrews 12:11) All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

(James 3: 13-18) Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. ¹⁵ This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. ¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing. ¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. ¹⁸ And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

b. Fruits of Reproduction – Every Seed Brings Forth Fruit of Its Kind (Discuss Matthew 23:15) (John 15:8, 16) ⁸ "My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. ¹⁶ "You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you. (Matthew 28:18-20)

c. Fruits of Deeds & Influence – (Matthew 5:13-16) (Colossians 1:10) so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

3. Specific Gifts for Edification of the Church – 3 Categories / Groupings / Headings (2 Weeks Each) (1 Corinthians 12:4-6) Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵ And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. ⁶ There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons.

a. 7 Motivational Gifts (1 Corinthians 12:6) (Romans 12:3-8) (Father / Creator)

b. 7 Service Gifts (1 Corinthians 12:5) (Ephesians 4:11) (1 Corinthians 12:28) (Our Lord Jesus)

c. 9 Charismatic Gifts (1 Corinthians 12: 4, 7-11) (The Holy Spirit)

C. Getting Properly Oriented: Serving One Another – (See Matthew 23:11 above) (John 13: 5-15)

D. Getting Properly Oriented: Cultivate Faithfulness - (Luke 16:10-12)

IV. Recommended Reading – *The Holy Spirit and You* by Dennis and Rita Bennett

V. Upcoming Weeks: See Chapter Titles Under Roman Numeral II