

What is Your Gift?

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Ephesians 4:11.
- B. In this passage, God exposes the inner workings of the Body of Christ.
- C. When we return to what God intended, the church becomes an exciting thing.
- D. The church is an organic body intended to demonstrate a new kind of power in the world, which is the power of resurrection life.
- E. Our society is permeated with a living kind of death--in this kind of death the life of Christ is intended to be manifest.
- F. Renewal is accomplished by a return to fundamental principles.

II. In the Body of Christ, every part has a distinctive function--every Christian must exercise his own gift.

- A. No one else can do what any given believer can do in the Body of Christ.
- B. If one is a Christian, he has a gift.
- C. A gift can lie within two divisions.
 - 1. Support ministries.
 - a. Apostles. Their job was to lay major frameworks for all the life of the Body of Christ.
 - b. Prophets. Their job was to unfold the mind of God to men.
 - c. Evangelists. Their job was to build up the body and grow it.
 - d. Pastor-Teachers. Their job was to maintain the life of the body.
 - 2. Working gifts.
- D. Gifts are given for the maturity of every man into the fullness of Christ.
- E. The gifts are not intended to be exercised by the clergy only.
 - 1. The support gifts are for the equipment of the ministry.
 - 2. The people are those who do the work of the church.
 - 3. Making clergy in charge of all the ministry results in the death of the church.

F. The gifts of wisdom, knowledge, insight, healings, prophesy, discernment, tongues, interpretation of tongues, service, contributions, and kindness show the diversity of gifts that there are.

G. Gifts are found by an attraction to the activities that accompany them, trying them out, and being confirmed in them by others.

Application questions:

1. What is resurrection power?

2. How would you respond to someone claiming that it is only a preacher's job to talk about the Bible?

3. What is your gift? How can you maximize it to serve the people around you the most?
