

Understanding Your Gift

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Ephesians 4:11-12.

B. The church has become something less than God intended it to be.

C. People think God is dead because they look at the church and there is no indication otherwise.

II. It was never God's intention for pastors to visit the sick and evangelize among other things—this is the work of the whole body of Christ. The twofold task of every church is evangelism and edification practiced consistently.

III. God reaches the world by giving every Christian a gift for ministry.

A. What Jesus did in the first century church is what Jesus is capable of doing in the church today.

B. The gifts. (I Corinthians 12)

1. Every believer has a gift.

2. A person must learn to exercise his or her gift on the power of the Holy Spirit instead of the power of self.

C. Kinds of gifts.

1. Gifts linked with the Spirit.

2. Ministries linked with Jesus—the area that one performs a gift.

3. Power linked with God, which is the different manifestation of a gift.

D. Specific gifts.

1. The gift of wisdom, which is insight. These men know what to do and how to do it.

2. The gift of knowledge. These men are able to gather facts well.

3. The gift of faith. This ability to do something seems impossible.

4. The gift of healing. This is the ability to make people well, but it is a rare gift today. It is not given widely today because it is not the will of God for it to be given widely today.

5. The gift of miracles. This is the ability to short-circuit natural processes.

6. The gift of prophesy. This is the power to build and stimulate through words.

7. The gift of discernment. This is the ability to see through a phony.
8. The gift of tongues. This is the ability to praise God in a language never learned.
 - a. It is not for preaching the gospel.
 - b. It is not for private use.
 - c. It is useless unless it is interpreted.
9. The gift of helps. This is the gift of being able to see a need, move in, and meet it.
10. The gift of contributions.

E. These gifts need to be exercised in all of life. We must seek and find the gifts that we have and put them into operation.

Application questions:

1. How must a person learn to exercise his or her gift properly?

2. How would you assess the speaker's argument for some of the supernatural gifts not being as widely present today?

3. Which of the gifts do you think you have? What about the gift has resonated with your experience and the confirmation of others?
