

St. Matthew's Anglican

Gifts of the Holy Spirit:

Making Us Conduits of Grace

Session One: *About Spiritual Gifts*

Why talk about spiritual gifts?

- *Every believer* is given gifts (special abilities) by the Holy Spirit
- These gifts are to be *used!*
- Knowledge of the spiritual gifts is often assumed, but not elaborated.

Why the subject of spiritual gifts is often avoided:

- Many assume that everyone knows about spiritual gifts already
 - "I don't know, but everyone else does."
 - "I know, so everyone else does, too."
- Confusion about which gifts are given
 - Charismatics believe all the gifts are active today
 - Others do not
 - Which is right?

Benefits of learning about spiritual gifts:

- Greater joy in our Christian walk
- Increased vitality in our ministries
- Clearer sense of identity in Christ
- Edification of the body
- Expansion of the body

What spiritual gifts are not:

- Fruits of the Spirit
- Natural Talents
- Personality Traits or Temperament
- Emotional Maturity
- Passions
- Training

So, What Are Spiritual Gifts?

- Supernatural
- Given by the Holy Spirit
- Given when the Holy Spirit indwells a believer
- Intended for use
- For the purpose of:
 - Edification of the body
 - Evangelism
- Controllable

However...

- Spiritual Gifts work through the grid of
 - The Fruits of the Spirit
 - Our Natural Talents
 - Our Personality and Temperament
 - Emotional Maturity
 - Passions
 - Training

A Succinct Definition

- A spiritual gift is a special God-given inner prompting which enables a believer to meet needs in a way which builds up others.

The Controversy: *Three Theories of Distribution*

- Continuationist
 - All gifts are active today.
- Cessationist
 - God is done with the sign and office gifts.
- Suspensionist
 - Sign gifts will return in the Last Days.

A better question might be,

- “Am I fully available for God to use me when, where, and how *He* wants to use me for *His* glory and the building up of *His* Kingdom?”

As believers indwelt by the Holy Spirit, we are conduits for His grace. Whether by gifts or by miracles, God allow us to partner in His work.

Paul teaches that love is better than spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 13)

Resources

for Spiritual Gifts & Every-Member Ministry

Websites:

<http://www.churchgrowth.org>

<http://mintools.com/>

★ <http://buildingchurch.net/g2s.htm>

<http://ylcf.org/you/spiritual-gift/>

<http://www.timshen.truepath.com/inventory.htm>

http://elmertowns.com/spiritual_gifts_test/

<http://www.christianet.com/bible/spiritualgiftstest.htm>

<http://www.leadnet.org>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spiritual_gift

<http://www.explorefaith.org/seeker/> (just for fun!)

Books:

Anderson, James D. and Jones, Earl Ezra. *The Ministry of the Laity*. Harper and Row, Publishers, 1986.

Anderson, Ray S. *Ministry on the Fireline: A Practical Theology for an Empowered Church*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity press, 1993.

Blackaby, Henry. *What the Spirit Is Saying to the Churches*. Sisters, OR: Multnomah Publishers, 2003.

Bugbee, Bruce. *What You Do Best In the Body of Christ: Discover Your Spiritual Gifts, Personal Style, and God-Given Passion*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1995.

Creps, Earl. *Off-Road Disciplines: Spiritual Adventures of Missional Leaders*. Jossey-Bass, October 2006.

Ford, Paul. *Unleash Your Church!* Pasadena, CA: Charles E. Fuller Institute, 1989.

Getz, Gene A. *Measure of a Man: 20 Attributes of a Godly Man*. Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 1995.

Hohensee, Don, and Allen Odell. *Your Spiritual Gifts*. Wheaton, IL: Victor, 1993.

Rinehart, Stacy T. *Upside Down: The Paradox of Servant Leadership*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1998.

Stedman, Ray. *Body Life: The Church Comes Alive!* Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 1979.

Stevens, R. Paul. *The Equipper's Guide to Every-Member Ministry: Eight Ways Ordinary People Can Do the Work of the Church*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1992.

Trenton spiritual Gifts Analysis. (Designed for liturgical churches. No sign gifts are tested, but includes craftsmanship and music.)

Warren, Rick. *The Purpose Driven Church: Growth Without Compromising Your Message & Mission*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1995.

Warren, Rick. *The Purpose Driven Life: What On Earth Am I Here For?* Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002

Wesley Spiritual gifts Questionnaire. (From a Wesleyan point of view. Tests for 24 gifts, including craftsmanship and music.) John C. Maxwell and Dan M. Reiland. Injoy, Model Church Program, 1-800-333-6506. <http://www.injoy.com>

Willard, Dallas. *The Spirit of the Disciplines: Understanding How God Changes Lives.* New York, NY: HarperCollins, 1988.

Personality Type Indicators:

Christian Personality Profile. Darrell Franken.
Life Skills Training Center, Inc. www.lifeskillstraining.com

DiSC Personal Profile System (2800 Series)
Inscape Publishing, Inc. www.resourcesunlimited.com

Keirsey, David. *Please Understand Me II: Temperament, Character, Intelligence.* Prometheus Nemesis Book Co., 1998. (Contains a Meyers-Briggs test and excellent type descriptions)

The Keirsey Temperament sorter and Keirsey Temperament Theory website:
<http://keirsey.com>

The Meyers-Briggs Type Indicator
Consulting Psychologists Press, Inc. and Davies-Black Publishing. www.cpp-db.com.