



# GRACE-POWERED LIVING

## A Study of the Book of ROMANS

USING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT  
Romans 12:4-8

December 14, 2014  
9:15 & 10:50am

**Introduction:** Today we are going to look further at each of the seven spiritual gifts and close with some important reminders about using your spiritual gift.

John 17:20-21 “<sup>20</sup>I do not ask in behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; <sup>21</sup>that they may all be one; even as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be in Us; that the world may believe that Thou didst send Me.”

### I. Further Insights About Each Gift

#### A. Prophecy

Definition: Presenting God’s Word to **convict** people of sin and their **need** for a right relationship with God.

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 opinion of others

## USING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT

### B. Serving

Definition: Meeting the **practical** needs of others.

Characteristics:

- Ability to see the **likes** and **dislikes** of other people
- Physical energy to fulfill **needs** of others 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 may be **misunderstood** as lack of interest in spiritual matters
- Tendency to get **sidetracked** from following employer's direction

### C. Teaching

Definition: **Presenting** and **clarifying** Biblical truths.

Characteristics:

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

## USING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT

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

Definition: Helping people **solve problems** by applying God's Word to their lives.

Characteristics:

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

Misunderstandings:

- Emphasis on **practical** steps may appear to **over-simplify** problems
- Desire to witness through **lifestyle** 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

Definition: Using personal **assets** to further God's Kingdom.

## USING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT

### Characteristics:

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

### Misunderstandings:

- Desire to increase the **effectiveness** of a ministry may be viewed as an attempt to **control** the 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

Definition: Coordinating **activities** of others to achieve common goals.

### Characteristics:

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

## USING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT

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** people

### G. Mercy

Definition: Identifying with and **comforting** those who are hurting.

Characteristics:

- Gravitate toward those who **hurt**
- Greater concern for **mental distress** than physical suffering
- **Avoidance of firmness** unless it is obvious 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 to others may cause some to feel he is guided by **emotion** rather than **logic**
- May be **misunderstood** by the opposite sex

## II. Spiritual Gifts Test

### A. "What We Need In Our Church"

"In-depth Bible studies with special emphasis on the precise meaning of words."

#### **Teaching**

"Generous programs of financial assistant to missionaries and other ministries."

#### **Giving**

## USING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT

“Well prepared sermons exposing sin, proclaiming righteousness, and warning of judgment to come.”

### **Prophecy**

“Practical assistance to members of the church and those in the community who have needs.”

### **Serving**

“Personal counseling and encouragement to members of the church assisting them in applying Scriptural principles to their daily living.”

### **Exhortation**

“Smooth-running organization throughout the church so that every phase will be carried out decently and in order.”

### **Leading**

“Special outreach and concern for the varying feelings of individuals with a readiness to meet their needs.”

### **Mercy**

## B. How Different Gifts Respond

## USING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT

- III. Final Thoughts About Your Spiritual Gift
  - A. Don't Worry If You Have Not Yet **Identified** Your **Gift**
    - 1. Lack of Involvement in **Ministry**
    - 2. Attempts to **Imitate** Others
    - 3. **Comments** by Others
  - B. Distinguish Between Your **Gift** and Your **Ministry**
  - C. Remember the **Context** for Your Gift Is the **Church**

To learn more about opportunities to serve at First Baptist Dallas and/or listen to the spiritual gift series again and look at the sermon outlines go to **[firstdallas.org/serve](http://firstdallas.org/serve)**.