



A Crash Course on Spiritual Gifts

Pastor Mark Alt

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INTRODUCTION

We are all born with a longing for a sense of purpose. When it comes to discovering God's purpose and plan for your life, the starting point will always be the step of placing your trust in Christ as Lord and Savior. But the next step is crucial. You must begin serving the Lord. When people choose to merely be consumers/attenders of church, but do not engage by serving others, you will always wonder what God's purpose and plan for your life is and you will remain spiritually immature. So the Scriptures show you how to begin to live the life for which you were created. That begins with spiritual gifts. What exactly is a spiritual gift? In its simplest form, a spiritual gift can be defined as **a unique ability God gives you to build community and to point people to Him**. It is unique, because the Lord will work through you and the gifts He gives you in a way that reflects your relationship with Him. That will look differently than how He works through another. That has huge implications. If you are not using your gifts, we all miss out on the good things God wants to bring through you. You are needed! This week we will look at the spiritual gifts and next week we will talk about how to discover your spiritual gifts.

REFLECTION AND RESPONSE

Read 1 Peter 4:10-11 (p.1424 [Christian Basics Bible](#), but the NIV is even better for this passage) aloud and then discuss the questions below. The words *gift* or *gifts* and the word *grace* come from the same Greek word, *charis*. Charis can be translated as gift, grace or even power. What that means is we receive God's grace through Jesus, are then filled with God's grace through the indwelling Holy Spirit, and then your gift becomes the means that God's grace flows from you to others. When you do not know the Lord or not using your gift, your life is still *untapped potential*.

1. In verse 10, to whom does it apply? Here is why – say this out loud together: **My gifts connect me to God's people.** Note how verse 11 ends. This is the unifying purpose that all Christ-followers are called to – to glorify God. *Using, not merely understanding* spiritual gifts is the gateway to connecting to God's purpose for you. You cannot get it from a book. You get it by using it. So this out loud: **“My spiritual gift connects me to God's purpose.”**

2. Now look up and read aloud Ephesians 2:10 (p.1347). Notice the word *planned*. This reveals the next thing you need to know. Say it out loud: **“My gifts connect me to God’s plan.”**

3. Then look up and read aloud Romans 12:6-8 (p.1296) and 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 and 1 Corinthians 12:27-31 (pp.1315-1316). **Discuss how these spiritual gifts build community and how they point people to God.**

It is important to know that spiritual gifts are given at the moment you place your faith in Christ, but they can take time to develop. As we grow in spiritual and emotional maturity, the magnitude of God’s impact through your gift also grows. Gifts can also be more prominent in a particular season or circumstance depending on what God has planned.

MEMORY VERSE

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.

1 Peter 4:10