

Questions

for understanding the
Basics of the Faith...

WHAT ARE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

by Vern S. Poythress

TO THE READER: A good learning technique is to answer the following questions BEFORE reading the booklet. After reading, you can refine your answers based on your reading. Then, when your group gathers, each can discuss his or her view and you can either affirm or modify what you wrote.

1. How would you describe a *spiritual gift*? List here all the gifts you can remember. (5)
2. What is required of us to receive a spiritual gift? (5-7)
3. Who decides who receives what gifts? (7-9 and 11-13)
4. Who gets these gifts? Does every Christian, or only some? (9-11)
5. Looking back at the list of gifts you wrote down in question 1, how might you rank these in order of importance to the church? Who is served by each gift – the individual, the church, or the world? (14-17)
6. Do you think the apostles would have had more gifts than other believers in the church? (17-20)
7. What would be the difference between the way the apostles operated in their gifts and the way we do? (20-28)

8. The men inspired to write the Scriptures wrote specifically to the people of their day. How then can we apply it to ourselves in our day? (28-30)

9. Do you believe *all* the spiritual gifts listed in the New Testament are still to be used by the church today? (30-37)

10. How should we respond to the use of *all* the gifts as they are used in the church today? (37-38)

After going through these questions, read the text and fill in the answers in preparation for class, noting other questions you might have. [By the way, if you do have any other questions about what you read, write them down here so you remember them at class time.]

APPLICATION

Do you know what your spiritual gift(s) is? If not, here are a few of suggestions to get you started:

- What do you like to do in and for the church? Does it look like one of the gifts?
- Talk to others in the church who know you. What do they see in you that might look like one of the gifts in operation?
- Pray. The Holy Spirit *has* given you at least one gift, and He wants you to use it in His church. If anyone in the church is not using his or her spiritual gift, it cripples the church. Read what Paul says about this in 1 Corinthians 12:14-20. There is no such thing as an unimportant or unnecessary part of the body. You are important, and finding and using your gifts are critical to the life of your church. Start praying and searching to find your gift right now.

For Further Study

Life in the Father's House: A Members Guide to the Local Church, Wayne A. Mack and Dave Swavely. P&R Publishing, 2006.

Spiritual Gifts PowerPoint. Rose Publishing, 2014.

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