

Adult Bible Institute
Fall Semester, 2003
Topic: Spiritual Gifts, Session # 2
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Theology of Spiritual Gifts

Read 1 Peter 4:10-11

I. THE CONTEXT OF THESE VERSES.

A. Have the mind of Christ (4:1).

1. What is the “mind of Christ?”
2. It is defined in Phil. 2:1-8.
3. The “mind of Christ” is giving up all personal prerogatives and perceived rights and suffering any inconvenience necessary for the sake of meeting the needs of others when it is in our power to do so.”

B. Reject the desires of the flesh. (4:2-4).

C. Be conscious of divine accountability. (4:5-7).

D. Practice the “preciousness of others.” (4:8-9).

II. THE APPLICATION OF THE TEACHING.

A. The context is using gifts to minister to and strengthen other believers in the body.

B. Therefore, spiritual gifts are meant to be used.

1. “Each one should use whatever gift he has received...” (4:10).

C. Every believer has been given a spiritual gift. Thus, discovering your gift and getting involved in the ministry of it is critical to your spiritual growth and the health of the church.

1. “Each one should use whatever gift he has received...” (4:10).

D. The purpose of spiritual gifts is to serve others.

1. “Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others” (4:10).
2. There are those who claim to have a spiritual gift for personal use in private worship that edifies themselves. This claim seems to violate the whole theology of the purpose of spiritual gifts, ministry to others in the body, and I am not aware of any New Testament teaching where private gifts for personal edification are available or encouraged. The personal edification in the use of spiritual gifts comes from the joy of having effectively ministered them to others.
3. There are one or two verses in 1 Corinthians 14 that appear to teach private gifts at first glance. As you study 1 Corinthians 14, however, it is vital that you remember that Paul is addressing abuse of gifts in public worship. Any admonitions given in the text are about how gifts are to be properly used in the public assembly of the church, not in private. More will be said about this issue in future weeks of this class.

E. The use of spiritual gifts is a way that God administers His sanctifying grace through believers to one another.

1. “...faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.” (4:10).

F. There appear to be two main categories of spiritual gifts: “speaking” gifts and “service” gifts.

1. “If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves,...” (4:11).

G. Spiritual gifts can only be effectively ministered in the power of the Holy Spirit.

1. “...If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides...” (4:11).
2. It is possible, therefore, to attempt to minister spiritual gifts in the energy of the flesh.

H. The ultimate goal of the ministry of spiritual gifts is that God may be honored and glorified among His people.

1. “...so that in all things God may be praised through

Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.” (4:11).

2. It is possible, therefore, to attempt to minister spiritual gifts for personal fame and glory. God is only glorified when gifts are ministered in the power of the Spirit for their intended purpose of serving others.