

VICTORIOUS LIFE CHURCH BIBLE STUDY SERIES: DISCOVERING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS- UNLEASHING YOUR POTENTIAL IN THE SPIRIT. BISHOP WILLIAM LEE

LESSON ONE- INTRODUCTION TO SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts is a study of the New Testament teaching about Spiritual Gifts. It is designed to lead believers into discovering their own giftedness and to affirm them in ministry.

THREE GOALS FOR THIS COURSE

1. To help the participants gain a better understanding of the Biblical teaching on spiritual gifts.
2. To help participants achieve a new appreciation for the place of spiritual gifts in the life and ministry of the church.
3. To help participants begin a process of discovering and developing their spiritual gifts.

Every Christian has a Spiritual Gift and tremendous potential. Sadly, most of that potential lies dormant in the pews while only certain gifts are used on the platform. Therefore, many Christians have settled for less than what God has for them because they have never discovered and developed their Spiritual Gift.

I. WHAT ARE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

1. A special qualification granted by the Holy Spirit to every believer to empower him/her to serve within the Body of Christ.
2. A Divinely ordained spiritual ability through which Christ enables His church to execute its task on earth.
3. Extraordinary endowments bestowed on a believer by the Holy Spirit as instruments of Christian service.
4. A supernatural capacity bestowed on a believer by the Holy Spirit to enable the believer to exercise his/her function as a member of the Body of Christ.
5. Spirit-given ability for Christian Service.

A. The Focus of Spiritual Gifts

1. Source: the Holy Spirit

2. Nature: spiritual abilities
3. Purpose: service and ministry
4. Scope: every believer

B. Your Spiritual Gift is the way God's Grace Most Naturally Flows Through You in Ministry

C. Spiritual Gifts are Not

1. Natural Abilities, talents and Skills

- a. These relate to common grace (even unbelievers have natural abilities)
- b. A persons spiritual gift may be expressed through his/her abilities or talents

2. The Fruit of the Spirit

- a. Fruit has to do with Character, gifts have to do with ministry
- b. Fruit is an end; gifts are a means to an end
- c. Fruit is an indication of spirituality; gifts are not

II. TYPES OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

A. Various Schools of Thought : Three Schools of Thought

1. Traditional Pentecostal View

- a. There are nine gifts listed in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10
- b. No believer possesses one of these gifts as a permanent endowment.

2. Traditional Non-Pentecostal View

- a. There are a number of spiritual gifts listed in the New Testament (19 to 27 depending upon ones view).
- b. Each believer has been given one of these gifts.

c. Some of these gifts may not be viewed as valid for today.

3. Cessationism – This is the view that the miraculous gifts ceased with, or very soon after, the ministry of the apostles to whom—and to whom only—they were given.

a. It understands that the miraculous and non-miraculous gifts appear in the same lists in Scripture because they all came from the same source—God’s grace and the Spirit’s power.

b. it recognizes that different gifts are given by God for different purposes.

III. THREE CATEGORIES OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 8 To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, 10 to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues,[a] and to still another the interpretation of tongues.[b] 11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.” (1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-7)

A. Manifestation Gifts (verses 6,7)

Phanerosis- an exhibition, expression, manifestation / energema: that which is brought about by the power of God.

1. These are Gifts of

a. Revelation: Word of Knowledge, word of Wisdom, discernment of spirits

b. Power: Healings, Working of Miracles, Faith

c. Inspiration: tongues, interpretation of tongues, prophecy

THESE ARE NOT PERMANENT ENDOWMENTS FOR ANY BELIEVER

B. MINISTRY GIFTS: Diakonai: service, ministry

1. Apostle
2. Prophets
3. Evangelist
- 4 & 5. pastor/teacher

These are not endowments of individual believers, but are gifts to the church for the equipping of the saints for ministry

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. (EPHESIANS 4:11)

Grace Gifts

C. Charismata: gifts of grace

1. Prophecy
2. serving
3. teaching
4. encouraging
5. ruling
6. giving
7. showing mercy

These are permanent endowments of every believer

6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; 7 if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8 if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully. (ROMANS 12:6-8)

This Introductory Lesson Lays the Foundation and Principles Upon which we will Open Moving Forward