



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC	Experiencing the Gifts of the Holy Spirit	SPEAKER	DSP Low Kok Guan
THEME	Experiencing God	DATE	5 & 6 Apr 2025

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

DSP Low introduces the backdrop of Paul's first letter to the Church of Corinth, where there were (1) Divisions (1 Cor Chp 1 to 4), (2) Disorders (1 Cor Chp 5 to 6), and (3) Doctrinal Difficulties (1 Cor Chp 7 to 16) within the Church. Like Singapore, Corinth was at the crossroads of trade routes and was a vibrant and prosperous city. The Corinthians lived in a cosmopolitan commercial centre filled with worldly influence. Paul's message to them was to remain united as a body of believers under the Lordship of Christ and to be empowered by the Holy Spirit. The believers in Corinth were blessed with many spiritual gifts (charismati) by the grace (chariti) of God. In Chapters 12 to 14, Paul unpacks spiritual gifts, explains why they are given, and exhorts how we are to use them. The eventual goal is for the Church to be built up, for the Gospel, and for God's glory.

EXPERIENCING THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. What are Spiritual Gifts?

Spiritual Gifts are special abilities given by God through the Holy Spirit to individuals to serve others and build up God's Church. There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them to believers just as He determines for the common good. Although believers may have the same gift, each gift is also unique to each believer.

Every believer is given at least one spiritual gift. Speaking Gifts include Teaching and Preaching, Evangelism, Words of Wisdom or Knowledge, Prophecy, Speaking in Tongues, Encouragement and Exhortation. Service Gifts include Administration, Leadership, Help or Giving, Mercy, Pastoring and Shepherding. Supernatural Gifts include Faith, Healing, Miracles, and Discernment of Spirits.

We can take surveys to have an indication of our gifts, but an even way to discover your gifts is to serve. Through serving, we will better understand our spiritual gifts. God will also reveal and guide us as we obey and offer ourselves to Him. When we find our spiritual gift, God will give us an opportunity to use it.

2. Why are Spiritual Gifts Given?

Spiritual gifts are not meant to put others down or to judge others. Neither are they trophies to be collected. Rather, the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good (1 Cor 12:7), and we are to excel in those gifts that build up the Church (1 Cor 14:12). For everything must be

done so that the Church may be built up (1 Cor 14:26). When gifts are manifest, people will recognise there is a God. Thus, spiritual gifts are given (a) for the good of the Church, (b) for the Gospel to be preached and for the Glory of God. When our intentions are pleasing to God, God will move with our gifts.

3. How are we to use our Spiritual Gifts?

In Love. Paul tells us to eagerly desire the greater gifts (1 Cor 12:31). Greater gifts refer to the gifts that bring the greatest positive impact to the Church, for the Gospel to be preached and to bring God glory. Paul expounds in 1 Cor 13:1-8 on how to use our spiritual gifts in the best way – in love. The most excellent way to use our spiritual gifts is in love, where God's love is poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us (Rom 5:5).

With Order. Everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way (1 Cor 14:40) for God is not a God of disorder but of peace (1 Cor 14:33). This translates to how we worship, serve, lead and live.

In Humility. We must realise that we need each other and work together as a body of believers with Christ as the head, recognising that God has placed every part of the body just as He wanted them to be (1 Cor 12:15 to 18). The body of Christ needs one another, and we are to help and support one another to develop our gifts. Spiritual gifts may not be a good measure of spiritual maturity, and we will have to give an account for how we use our spiritual gifts.

STEPS TO DISCOVER OR DEVELOP YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Explore – Try different things and serve in a variety of areas to discover our gifts.

Examine – Reflect on whether we enjoy serving in a particular area and listen receptively to feedback.

Exercise – Find and seize opportunities to serve not only at work / school, but in church and at home.

Equip – Be better prepared to serve God through various ways, such as attending courses.

Evaluate – Actively seek feedback from trusted brothers and sisters in Christ. However, be wary of fishing for compliments.

CONCLUSION

Serve the Lord with whatever we have, because God has given us His only begotten Son and given us our lives to serve Him. Our lives belong to Him. We surrender all to God because He is our all in all. We are called to be faithful in the small and the big. In our journey to explore, examine, exercise, equip and evaluate our spiritual gifts, God will help and use us. Even as we experience the gifts of the Holy Spirit, Luke 17:10 reminds and anchors us that when we have done all that we are commanded to, our hearts echo that we are unworthy servants, having only done what was our duty.

QUESTIONS

1. What are your top 3 spiritual gifts (scan the QR code to take the test)? Are they Speaking gifts, Service gifts or Supernatural gifts? Share with one another.



2. Which of the five steps are applicable in your journey of discovering and developing your spiritual gifts? At which stage are you at now and how has that journey been?

3. How are you using your spiritual gifts for the common good of the Church? How else might you use your spiritual gifts to preach the gospel for God's glory and reach out to someone today?