

Gifts

February 21, 2010 | Family Life Church
Week One: The Purpose
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Introduction:

I want to share a really simple God thought you today that we are going to develop for the next few weeks. The thought is this: **God has given you supernatural tools and when you use them you experience purpose, passion, fulfillment, success – what Jesus calls “Abundant Life.”** (John 10:10).

We are going to explore together what God has planned for you individually, your family at home, and your church family. He has set us up for success and the greatest year of our lives so far.

I really believe that God is going to come into your life in the next few weeks and **completely set you free** into living a joyful, fun, exhilarating, powerful and abundant life with Jesus.

READ:

1 Corinthians 12:1,4-11

1 Now concerning spiritual *gifts*, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant: **4** There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. **5** There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. **6** And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. **7** But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit *of all*: **8** for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, **9** to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, **10** to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another *different* kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. **11** But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.”

Ephesians 4:1-16

1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, **2** with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, **3** endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. **4** *There is* one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; **5** one Lord, one faith, one baptism; **6** one God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all.

7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

8 Therefore He says:

*"When He ascended on high,
He led captivity captive,
And gave gifts to men."*

9 (Now this, *"He ascended"*—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? **10** He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

11 And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, **12** for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, **13** till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; **14** that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, **15** but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— **16** from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love."

Gifts have a purpose

1. Establishment –

- **Romans 1:11** For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established—
 - Establish Defined: fixed firmly; founded; ordained; enacted; ratified; confirmed.

Established In What?

First they are to establish me solidly in Christ

1. Establish you in Salvation

- Romans 6:23 - **23** For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- Ephesians 2:8 - For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

2. Holy Spirit

- Acts 2:38 – 38 Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

2. Stewardship –

- Secondly they are to train me in proper application in Christ
- **You will always be accountable for your gifts.**
 - **Romans 11:29** For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.
- **Your gift is to be used to minister**
 - **1 Peter 4:10** As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.
- **Don't neglect your gift**

- **1 Timothy 4:14** Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.
- Stewardship: a person who manages another's property or affairs; one who administers anything as the agent of another or others.
- (Alignment)

3. Build the Church -

- Finally they are to prepare, build up, and beautify the Bride of Christ.
- **1 Corinthians 14:12** Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual *gifts*, *let it be* for the edification of the church *that* you seek to excel.
- **Ephesians 4:12** for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

When you use your gifts:

1. **You know that you are with Jesus building His Church and establishing the Kingdom of God on the earth.**
 - a. If you live your life doing the functions of Christianity without engaging your gifts – you will live a good life and go heaven, but you will never hear the words “Well done, good and faithful servant.”
2. **It releases the passion of God into you**
 - a. 2 Tim 1:6 – stir up the gift of God.
 - b. When we stir up the gifts of the Spirit it attracts the Spirit of God. There is no one more passionate about the things of God than God. When we use what He gave us, He comes to empower us and work through us. Passion being released into us is a by-product of properly using our gift.

- c. Using your gifts as God designed brings you into a place of endless resource:
 - i. Strength
 - ii. Passion
 - iii. Renewed hope
 - iv. Joy

3. It fulfills you

- a. Using the Gifts of the Spirit necessitates that we are full of the Spirit.
- b. When we invite the Holy Spirit to come bring the power and presence of God, He comes to us every time. Romans 8:11 – the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead comes and fill you with His presence.
- c. Then -> Psalm 16:11 – In His presence is fullness of joy and at His right hand are pleasures forevermore.
- d. It is impossible to be with the Source of true fulfillment and not be renewed and fulfilled.

4. It makes you the best you

- a. Being who you were created to be in Christ sets you free from comparison, strife, and insecurity. Using your gifts sets you free from being anyone or doing anything that God didn't call you to be.
- b. Like a car was built to drive, a plane was built to fly, shoes were made to wear, food is to eat... YOU WERE CREATED FOR A PURPOSE and your God given gifts activate and accentuate that purpose and propel you into being the exact person God designed you to be.
- c. Using your gift will directly combat comparison, striving, insecurity, dissatisfaction, and loneliness. Begin using your gift and watch how the Spirit of God will transform WHO you are.

5. It is how you live life successfully.

- a. God has an intended successful outcome for your life.
 - i. Jeremiah 29:11 - For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

- b.** There is a clear course you were designed to run.
 - i.** 1 Corinthians 9:24-25 - **24** Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain *it*. **25** And everyone who competes *for the prize* is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a perishable crown, but we *for* an imperishable *crown*.
 - c.** When you engage with the gifts that God has placed in you, it sets you on a collision course with the promises, provision, and power of God for your life. Abundant life is UNAVOIDABLE. Guaranteed success. EVERYTIME.
- 6. It adjusts your perspective and motive.**
- a. When you see your gift work like it was designed to, it totally changes your view of you and God. Isaiah catches a glimpse of how his gift of prophecy was to be used in Isaiah 6 and his response is "Woe is me, for I am undone!" When you see your gift how God sees it, it overloads your senses and you're left with proper perspective of how you and your gift relate to God and the earth. Isaiah 6:5
 - b. Your motive begins to move from anything self serving to a genuine love for people. When we rightly use the gift of God it will always bring us to a place where we are motivated to bring people back to Jesus and make Jesus famous to the world. 1 Cor 13:1-3

What if I don't know my Spiritual Gift?

Mark 11:24 – Ask God. He is desperate to tell you and empower you with His Holy Spirit to live everyday of your life using your gifts. If you ask, He will tell you.

Call:

1. Have neglected their gift. People who once used it and circumstances have somehow stopped them. Need to fan into flame the gifts
2. People who have no idea what their gift is but want to commit to discover it and live life using it for people and Jesus – gifts assessment online.