

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

The Enabling Gifts

Text: 1 Cor. 12:4-11 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.

Introduction:

- A. All of the individual gifts we have examined to this point are what I call ministry gifts. That means, if you have, develop, and use a particular gift, you have a ministry. There is a teaching ministry, prophetic ministry, ministry of giving, serving, etc. These gifts are thing you do.
- B. Tonight we examine a different set of gifts. You might call them enabling gifts. They do not determine so much what you do but the way you do it. They are more internal in result than external.

These are the gifts of **Faith, Discernment, Wisdom, and Knowledge**. Consider the difference.

Assemble the team: 1 with each ministry gift.

Now we see we need faith, discernment, wisdom, knowledge. Do we add 4 members to the team? OK, you lead the team in faith. You, you're in charge of knowledge and so on.

No, **the Bible encourages each of us to develop in each of these areas**. For instance:

Faith – Romans 12:3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

Discernment – 1 John 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Wisdom – James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

Knowledge – Proverbs 2:1-6 ¹ My son, if you receive my words, And treasure my commands within you, ² So that you incline your ear to wisdom, And apply your heart to understanding; ³ Yes, if you cry out for discernment, And lift up your voice for understanding, ⁴ If you seek her as silver, And search for her as for hidden treasures; ⁵ Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, And find the knowledge of God. ⁶ For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding;

Romans 12:3 and these other passages indicate that **God has given every believer a certain measure of these gifts**. Every believer has a certain capacity for faith. Every believer has a certain capacity for discernment. Every believer has a capacity for wisdom. Every believer has a certain capacity for knowledge.

Do we all have the same capacity? Some say yes. I think NO. What we do have is sufficient capacity to be what God wants us to be and do what God wants us to do.

- C. So **these gifts**, as we develop our portion of them, **enable us to better use our ministry gifts**. For instance,
- a. A person with the gift of exhortation, as she develops discernment, can more clearly see a problem and define steps to a solution.
 - b. A person with the gift of giving, as he develops faith, can trust God to provide what God has told him to give.
 - c. A person with the gift of teaching becomes increasingly effective as she grows in knowledge.
 - d. A person with the gift of shepherding is better able to guide as he grows in wisdom.

So let's look at these 4 enabling gifts.

I. Faith

Definition: The capacity to believe God even in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles.

A. Example – George Muller

B. Emphasis – Faith believes God for what God wants, not what we want!

1. Sister Abigail

C. Growing our faith – 9 year old girl and 25 cent pledge.

II. Discernment

Definition: The capacity to distinguish between the true and the false.

A. Example – Counterfeit money

B. **Emphasis – knowing what is true.**

III. Knowledge

Definition: The capacity to learn new information, truths, and principles.

A. Example

1. Paul in Ephesus – Acts 19:9 But when some were hardened and did not believe, but spoke evil of the Way before the multitude, he departed from them and withdrew the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus.
2. Before his death – 2 Tim. 4:13 Bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas when you come—and the books, especially the parchments. “bring my books, especially the parchments.” Paul was always learning.

B. **Emphasis – ever learning, growing in the Word of God.**

IV. Wisdom

Definition: The capacity to apply principles, truths, and information.

A. Example – Stephen – Acts 6:10 And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke.

B. **Especially useful**

1. **Defense before hostile courts** – Steven/Paul/Georgi Zheltonozke
2. **Answer to unbelievers arguments** – “Be ready to give an apology - defense of hope within you”
3. **Solution to practical problems** – Solomon and baby
4. **Applicative to practical conduct**

As we develop our individual team gifts, let us each seek to develop the measure of faith, discernment, knowledge, and wisdom God has given us. We will use our other gifts a lot better.