

Small Group Study

Everybody Gets to Play!

From the sermon series, "Living a Christ-Centered Life"



Icebreakers

Use the questions below to help people open up and to focus your meeting. It is very helpful to go around in a circle with the leader going first. (Remember if you have new members or guests you should take time to introduce everyone.)

1. If you could have any super power, which would you pick and what would you do with it?
2. What is one skill that you secretly possess?
3. What was the most fulfilling job or task you ever had?



SCRIPTURE

Have a volunteer read the following scripture:

1 Corinthians 12:4-11 (NASB)

4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. 6 And there are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. 7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 8 For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 10 and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

QUESTIONS

1. What stands out to you in this passage?
2. Take a moment and review each of the gifts described in the scripture. There is a detailed list of each gift on the final page of this study. Do you have any questions about any of these gifts?

3. The spiritual gifts in the Bible can be divided into constitutional gifts and situational gifts:

Constitutional Gifts

These are gifts that are more or less permanently part of our life. For example the five ministry gifts found in Ephesians 4:11 (apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, and teacher) as well as those listed in Romans 12:6-8 (serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, mercy, and others.) tend to be gifts that are with us on a permanent basis. These gifts are enmeshed with our personality, temperaments, natural skills and abilities, and our experience.

Situational Gifts

These are the gifts found in today's scripture: word of knowledge, word of wisdom, discerning of spirits, faith, miracles, healings, prophecy, tongues, and interpretation of tongues. These gifts tend to be "situational" in that they come and go as needed in a situation. In other words, whenever we need them, we are eligible to receive any of these nine gifts at any time as the Holy Spirit wills.

What would you say is/are your constitutional gift(s)? (e.g. teaching, preaching, hospitality, administration, mercy, etc.)

4. Which of the situational gifts have you experienced? Which would you *like* to experience?

5. Can you think of someone you know who was like Paul, a very ordinary, unimpressive person, that God used or is using in a powerful way--perhaps even through the use of some of these situational gifts?

6. What is one reason that God was able to use that person so profoundly?

7. Consider praying for one another to be filled with the Holy Spirit, be it the first time or a refilling. To minister the filling of the Holy Spirit, simply lay hands on a person and invite the presence of the Spirit to fill the person and then wait and see what God does. Be sensitive to words, pictures and impressions that the Holy Spirit may give as you wait on him and minister to those wanting a fresh filling of the Spirit.

FOR FURTHER READING...

1. Venter, Alexander. ***Doing Healing***. Cape Town, South Africa: Vineyard International Publishing, 2008.
2. Wimber, John. ***Power Healing***. New York, NY: HarperCollins, 1987.
3. Best, Gary. ***Naturally Supernatural***. Cape Town, South Africa: Vineyard International Publishing, 2007.

God bless,

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Listing of the situational spiritual gifts listed in 1 Corinthians 12:7-11

1. WORD OF WISDOM

Definition: Gives us God's direction. It shows us what God sees so we know what to do—to lead a group, solve a problem, discern God's plan.

Role: Helps us provide leadership, direction, and counsel. Jas. 1:5; 5:13-16; 1 Cor. 6:5; Mk. 2:5-12 and throughout Jesus' healing ministry.

2. WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

Definition: Gives us Spirit-inspired insight into previously given revelation (usually Scripture). It causes us to recognize God's voice and acknowledge his will. (This emerges through a word study of the term "knowledge" in the NT, i.e., Gk. gnosis and epignosis)

Role: It illuminates a passage of Scripture or an aspect of a prophecy to edify or answer the person in need.

3. DISCERNING OF SPIRITS

Definition: The God-given capacity to recognize the source and significance of spiritual activity. (See terms for discernment in the NT: Gk. diakrisis, anakrisis, sometimes krisis).

Role: Helps us recognize whether the source of an affliction is human, demonic, or divine. Often experienced through the empowerment of our senses (see, hear, smell, taste, feel) and/or inner knowing (we just know that we know).

4. FAITH

Definition: The God-given anticipation (a mysterious surge of confidence) that God is about to act through a word or deed followed by its realization.

Role: It is a gift; not a work. We cannot control it; but we can ask for it. Thus, there is no room for a negative judgment on those not healed. Faith is almost always present in someone involved in the healing situation (the one praying, the recipient, friend or relative, etc.).

5. GIFTS OF HEALINGS

Definition: The restoring of health and/or curing of illness by divine intervention.

Role: The gift most directly involved in healing. Note the plural, "gifts of healings," indicating a variety of ways that God heals, e.g., through physical restoration, deliverance, restoration of relationships, etc.

6. WORKINGS OF MIRACLES

Definition: Events in which people and things are visibly and beneficially affected in an extraordinary way by the power of God.

Role: Not only do the nature miracles of Jesus fit this category, but also extraordinary healings (e.g., Acts 19:11-12; 5:13-14), raising of the dead, and perhaps deliverances.

7. PROPHECY

Definition: Declaring the heart of God in the power of the Spirit directed to the need of the moment bringing conviction (of sin, of comfort; and strengthening the resolve of those needing encouragement in their godly pursuits).

Role: Of the handful of ways prophesy works, the most useful for healing is "prophetic insight," i.e., reading the heart or "seeing" the affliction/condition that someone is suffering/experiencing (1 Cor. 14:24-25; Jn. 4:16-19).

8. TONGUES

Definition: God-given ability to praise God in intimate and profound ways exceeding our ability in our own language.

Role: Expressing praise to God to sustain us in our suffering or to thank God for our healing in a profound and intimate way.

9. INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES

Definition: God-given ability to put tongues into intelligible words. See Acts 2:11; 10:46 for the content being praise.

Role: This makes the private unintelligible praise and thanksgiving of a person intelligible and therefore edifying to others.