
The Purpose of the Gifts (Empowering The Mission)

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

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Sermon: The Gifts of the Holy Spirit: The Purpose of the Gifts (Empowering The Mission)

New Series Messages: “The Gifts of the Holy Spirit”

- Previous Series: The Fruit of the Spirit II (The Producers)
 - Love, Joy, and Peace (Relationship with God)
 - Longsuffering, Gentleness, and Goodness (Relationship with Each other)
 - Faith, Meekness, and Temperance (Relationship with Ourselves)

Lesson Text

Ephesians 4:11–12 (AV)¹¹ And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; ¹² For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

John 9:1–5 (AV)¹ And as *Jesus* passed by, he saw a man which was blind from *his* birth. ² And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? ³ Jesus answered, **Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. ⁴ I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.**

1 Corinthians 12:12 (AV)¹² For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also *is* Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:25–26 (AV)²⁵ That there should be no schism in the body; but *that* the members should have the same care one for another. ²⁶ And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.

Introduction

We just finished a 9-part series on the Fruit of the Holy Spirit. We learned that the Fruit of the Spirit, must be produced or earned. It comes from the Greek Word “Karpos” meaning fruit!

However, Gifts of the Holy Spirit, from the Greek Word “Chrisma”, means the gifts that God has given us. A favor with which one receives without any merit, charge, or effort of his own.

Ephesians 2:⁸ For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:

Not only is Salvation given to us as a gift free of charge, so are all the Spiritual Gifts of the Spirit identified in Romans 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, Ephesians 4:11, and 1 Peter 4:10-11.

We know that God gave us the gift of Salvation to save them that are lost, but why did he give us the Gifts of the Spirit?

- Was it for Fame, Riches, Wealth, Power, Promotion? No! Matthew 16:²⁴ ... **If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.**

- Was it for evidence or proof? No! John 13: ³⁵ **By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.**

Let's think about what happens when a person is hired by a company or corporation. They first either seek (interview) someone who possesses the culture and abilities to do the job, then they give them the tools necessary to do the job.

- Tools: Computer, iPad, Company Car, Company Credit Card
- Culture: Education, Degree, Qualities, Values

Now imagine a company hiring a person, giving them the Tools, but they don't have the right Culture. They have the computer, the company car and credit card; but when they go to serve the multimillion-dollar client, they are rude, ignorant, and arrogant. It wouldn't work!

Well God Called and Chose each of us for a Spiritual Assignment.

- Our Tools are the Spiritual Gifts: Prophecy, Speaking in Tongues, Miracles, Teachers, ...
- Our Culture, on the other hand, is the Spiritual Fruit: Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, ...

Now again imagine we have all our Tools (the Gifts of the Spiritual) necessary to do our assignment, but do not possess the right Culture (the Fruit of the Spirit) when we get on the job. We have no Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, ...; It wouldn't work!

This is why I preached the Fruit of the Spirit (our Culture) before the Gifts of the Spirit (Our Tools).

What the Gifts of the Spirit represent are our tools, necessary to do the job we've been called to; this is the purpose.

The Gifts of the Spirit are not to make us a wonder, give us fame, or elevate our status in life; It is to empower and equip us to do the job that God has called us to do.

That purpose is found in our lesson text: Ephesians 4: ¹² For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Series and Sermon: The Gifts of the Holy Spirit: The Purpose of the Gifts (Empowering The Mission)

“Perfecting the Mission, Working the Mission, Edifying the Mission”

I. Perfecting the Mission

Ephesians 4: ¹¹ And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; ¹² **For the perfecting of the saints**, ...

To perfect means to complete, mature, furnish, or equip; to equip and outfit for service.

When God called us, he knew that we were deficient, lacked know how, and was incomplete; and so, he needed to perfect us to do our mission.

Psalms 138:8 (AV)⁸ The LORD will perfect *that which* concerneth me: thy mercy, O LORD, *endureth* for ever: forsake not the works of thine own hands.

Each of us are called to a God-Sized task that we are not capable within ourselves of doing; so God gives us the tools, the Spiritual, Supernatural gifts to do what we ordinarily couldn't do.

He gives us gifts because sometimes we are not mature enough for the mission:

- 1 Corinthians 3:1–2 (AV)¹ And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, *even* as unto babes in Christ. ² I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able *to bear it*, neither yet now are ye able.

He gives us gifts because sometimes we can't handle the drama and trouble of the mission:

- James 1:2–4 (AV)² My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; ³ Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. ⁴ But let patience have *her* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

He gives us gifts because sometimes we lack the power, ability, and anointing for the mission:

- Acts 1:8 (AV)⁸ **But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.**

II. Working the Mission

Ephesians 4: ¹¹ And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; ¹² For the perfecting of the saints, **for the work of the ministry**, ...

After God has equipped and outfitted us for service, He needs us to actually do the work.

John 9:4–5 (AV)⁴ **I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.** ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

Too many Christians have received their Gifts of the Spirit, but they are not doing the Work of the Ministry.

They show up to work every day, drinking the free coffee, using the free computer, driving the free company car; but they never actually do the work they were hired to do.

There are people that are blind, people that are lost, people that are broke busted and disgusted and they need us to go to work.

God has given us his Gifts so that we can Work the Work of Him that sent us.

Matthew 5:14–16 (AV)¹⁴ **Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.** ¹⁵ Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

We must work our calling, work our anointing, work our giftings, work our purpose. We must let our light so shine that men will see our good works!

III. Edifying the Mission

Ephesians 4: ¹¹ And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; ¹² For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, **for the edifying of the body of Christ:**

The purpose of the Gifts of the Spirit is first to perfect and equip us; second it is to give us the anointing to do the Work.

Finally, God gives us the Gifts of the Spirit to Edify each other.

God's Spiritual Gifts are not just given to you to perfect you; they are given to us to perfect us.

1 Corinthians 12:¹² For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also *is* Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:²⁵ That there should be no schism in the body; but *that* the members should have the same care one for another.

Although we are called, we are called with issues; called with broken hearts, called with spiritual strongholds, called with blind spots, with cuts and bruises, with anger and bitterness.

God gave each of us gifts to not only perfect ourselves and do the work of the ministry; but He gave the to us to edify and strengthen each other in the Body of Christ.

We may be broken and hurt, but there are gifts in the body to heal us. We may be lost and in despair, but there are gifts in the body to find us and order our steps. We may be poor, brokenhearted, captive, blinded, or bruised; but God will perfect that which concerns us.

Luke 4:18 (AV)¹⁸ **The Spirit of the Lord *is* upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,**

Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: Purpose of the Gifts (Empowering The Mission))

Lesson Text

- Ephesians 4:11-12, John 9:1–5, 1 Corinthians 12:12, 25–26
- Book: [“The Complete Guide To Understanding The Holy Spirit”](#): Read “Purpose of the Gifts”

Sermon Outline (Notes)

I. Perfecting the Mission

II. Working the Mission

III. Edifying the Mission

Questions

I. Getting to Know “Me”

1. Do you know your spiritual gift(s)? If so, are you using them?
2. What do you hope to learn in this series on spiritual gifts?

II. Into the Bible

1. In addition to what we learn about the Purpose of the Gifts of the Spirit in (Ephesians 4:11-12), what additional lessons can we learn from verses 13 and 14?
2. What is the difference between the gifts of 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 and the gifts of Ephesians 4:11-12?
3. Some elements of the fruit of the Spirit are mentioned in Ephesians 4:2-3. How do the mentioned fruit work in conjunction with the believer’s gifts? (Meekness, longsuffering, love, peace)

III. Life Application

1. Give an example of a person letting his or her light shine by doing the work of God in everyday life.
2. Describe a time when you were strengthened by someone else using their spiritual gift.