

GIFTED

INTRODUCTION

THE CALL TO BECOME FRUITFUL

Psalm 144: 12-15 (NLT) May our sons flourish in their youth like well-nurtured plants. May our daughters be like graceful pillars, carved to beautify a palace. 13 May our barns be filled with crops of every kind. May the flocks in our fields multiply by the thousands, even tens of thousands, 14 and may our oxen be loaded down with produce. May there be no enemy breaking through our walls, no going into captivity, no cries of alarm in our town squares. 15 Yes, joyful are those who live like this! Joyful indeed are those whose God is the Lord.

The Lord gave me this beautiful scripture of growth, prosperity, success, protection and blessing as I was preparing the vision for Christian Heritage three years ago. It is the scripture from which part of our vision, "growing and thriving" comes from.

But this growing and thriving cannot just happen. It needs to be the result of Christian work done by you and I in the power, strength and anointing of the Holy Spirit. We can do this work because we have been "Gifted".

- We may not know what we are able to do.
- We may not know what God wants us to do.
- We may be like Moses and say, "who am I that I can go, and why would they be willing to listen to me?".

The reality remains that God has work for each of us to do in our life here on earth and He has gifted us with the ability to do it.

What we will do this morning is have a look at the gifts God has given each of us, so that we can begin to understand how God has equipped us, and where He wants to use us. Once we know this, we can become productive Christians.

MESSAGE

WE ARE ALL GIFTED!

Ephesians 4:7-8;11 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."

When someone is good at something, we sometimes speak of them as having God-given talents – We all have God-given ability, God made us this way.

These abilities come in the form of: Natural talents, education, experience and so on.

but... when it comes to ministry, this gifting comes in the form of **spiritual gifts**. They are SPIRITUAL in nature.

This entire Triune Godhead is involved in giving us spiritual gifts:

1 Corinthians 12:4-6 (NKJV) 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

Spiritual gifts – the same Holy Spirit.

Ministry gifts - the same Lord - Jesus Christ.

Activities (or serving) gifts – the same God - Father God.

Spiritual gifts are given to allow us to operate in the supernatural.

Supportive gifts determine HOW we serve.

Ministry gifts point to what we may become.

Remember, it is the same God who does the work in all of us.

1 Peter 4:10-11 As each one has received a **gift**, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold **grace of God**. 11 If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

- We need to remember that whatever gift we have, its not because of how good we are, its because of the manifest grace of God!
- The gifts are given so that we can minister to one another.
- The gifts are given so that we can be effective in ministering to others:
Acts 1:8...“and you shall receive power, and you shall be my witnesses...”

THE GIFTS THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES

1 Corinthians 12:8-10 To one there is given through the Spirit a (1)message of wisdom, to another a (2)message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another (3)faith by the same Spirit, to another (4)gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another (5)miraculous powers, to another (6)prophecy, to another (7)distinguishing between spirits, to another (8)speaking in different kinds of tongues [languages], and to still another the (9)interpretation of tongues [languages].

Jesus Himself operated in the gifts of the Spirit:

Acts 10:38 ... God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him

Why do we receive these gifts?

- The gifts are given for the profit of all! (1 Cor 12:7).
- To edify the body (church).
- To uncover works of darkness (discernment).
- To perform signs and wonders and free the oppressed.
- To destroy the works of the devil.
- Acts 1:8 – enabling us to be effective as God’s witnesses!

We are to desire these gifts.

- **1 Corinthians 14:1** Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.
- **1 Corinthians 12:31** But earnestly desire the best gifts.

Which is the best gift or most important gift? The one required in the situation.

These gifts are not natural, they are supernatural. They are received by believing: **James 4:2b** You do not have because you do not ask...

Do you eagerly desire and ask God for the gifts? Have you possibly given up on the gifts because you don’t speak in tongues? My encouragement to you today is to eagerly desire the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

THE GIFTS THAT JESUS GIVES – MINISTRY GIFTS

Ephesians 4:11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

Why are these ministry gifts given? Ephesians 4:12, 13 & 16 tell us:

- Equipping of the saints for the work of ministry.
- Edifying of the body of Christ.
- Producing unity of the faith and knowledge of God.
- Resulting in effective working, each one doing their share and growing the entire body.

Not all are called to be one of these – Jesus gave some...

These ministry gifts are a calling. They often result in full-time ministry. Have you been called? Have you heeded the call?

THE GIFTS THAT FATHER GOD GIVES – SUPPORTIVE OR SERVING

Romans 12:3-8 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. 4 For as we

have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. 6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; 7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; 8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives (giving), with liberality; he who leads (leading), with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

In summary, the 7 supportive gifts are:

- Prophecy
- Ministry (deacon)
- Teaching
- Exhortation
- Giving (generosity)
- Leading
- Mercy (empathy/kindness)

These are the motivational drives that we are born with.

- They come naturally to a person, THEY ARE PART OF OUR PERSONALITY, WHO WE ARE!
- They may be natural, but they are God-given.
- **1 Corinthians 15:10a** But by the grace of God I am what I am...

This is in my mind the logical place to start when we are born-again. We may not yet know about the service gifts of Jesus. We may not yet be baptized in the Holy Spirit, but we are able to encourage, and to give, and to visit people in need. We can volunteer to help for example with the Holiday Bible Club, or with doing maintenance around the church etc.

What supportive gifts do you have? Are you using them to bless and grow God's kingdom, or are they laying dormant, dusty and unused and you find yourself feeling unhappy and unfulfilled in your Christian walk.

Summary of spiritual gifts		
Gifts of the Spirit	Gifts of the Son (Ministry Gifts)	Gifts of the Father (Supportive Gifts)
Tongues	Apostle	Prophecy
Interpretation of tongues	Prophet	Ministry
Prophecy	Evangelist	Teaching
Word of wisdom	Teacher	Exhortation
Word of knowledge		Giving
Discerning of spirits		Leading
Working of miracles		Mercy
Faith		
Gift of Healing		

These spiritual gifts can be used together in different combinations!

CONCLUSION

God has gifted each one of us in at least one, if not many ways. We need to identify, verify, use, develop, and practice these gifts so that we can be effective as Christians in doing the good works God has called us to do.

2 Timothy 2:20-21 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honour and some for dishonour. 21 Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honour, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.

We are called to be vessels of honour and we can ALL be used.

I close with this encouragement from Paul to Timothy:

2 Timothy 1:6-7 Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. 7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

If we are going to take this city, we need to realise that we are gifted by God and we need to use those gifts. Let us ask the Lord today to stir up the gift within us.