

SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE NOT FOR US

YEAR: UNITE / FOCUS: I AM CALLED
SERIES: GOD IS THE GIFT GIVER - I AM GIFTED

BIG TRUTH: SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE NOT FOR US

1 Corinthians 12:28, 11-12; Ephesians 4:6-8

BIBLE VERSE: 1 PETER 4:10-11

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.”

BIG IDEAS

- Spiritual gifts help us grow in humility.
- Spiritual gifts remind us that we belong to God and one another.
- Spiritual gifts are to be used for the good of God’s people.

BIBLE PASSAGE: ROMANS 12:1-9

UNITE - I AM CALLED

The Unite Year is an exploration of what it means to be united in Christ as the family of God (Romans 12:5). When we are saved, we are given a spirit of adoption as sons (Romans 8:15-16), are made a child of God, and we are also saved into a family- the Church. The Unite Year explores how we are to live as a part of a family, and to live in light of our calling as servants and disciples of Christ. We use our gifts to build up the church as we pursue unity, humility, and gentleness with our brothers and sisters in Christ (Ephesians 4:1-2).

SERIES AIMS



Every student should know that...

- Every good gift comes from the Father.
- They have been specifically and uniquely gifted to bring God glory.
- Spiritual gifts are given for the edification of the body of Christ.



Every student should feel...

- Thankful for the various gifts God has given their church family.
- Convicted of the ways they bear the fruit of the flesh.
- Secure in their standing as God’s children through the Holy Spirit



Every student should strive to...

- Pursue unity with other members of their church family.
- Use their gifts for the good of God’s people.
- Practice regular repentance and obedience.



Every student should want...

- To be known for loving others like Jesus loves.
- To learn more about their spiritual gifts and the gifts of others.
- To both suffer and rejoice with God’s people

GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week’s Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.

BIBLE VERSE: 1 PETER 4:10-11

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Believers are gifted to serve others.

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another...”

- God gives His people spiritual gifts that they may serve Him and one another. He gifts us with these manifestations of His Spirit, or expressions of His Spirit so we can live life with other believers and help one another.
- We serve one another in our local church, and we encourage one another to grow in our spiritual walk. As we use these gifts to serve others we are more and more like Christ.

Believers are good stewards of God’s grace when they use their gifts.

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace...”

- Believers are given spiritual gifts to use them for God’s glory. These manifestations of the Holy Spirit are actually gifts from God. Unbelievers do not receive these gifts, so we should see them for the gifts that they are. God gives them to us and because of them, we can become more like Him every day.
- We are good stewards of these gifts when we use them as God has commanded us to use them. When we serve others and seek to bring God glory with our lives, we will steward these gifts well.

Believers use their gifts for God’s glory.

“...whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.”

- All that a believer does should be done for the glory of God. We are given spiritual gifts that we might bring God glory with our lives and service. As we use our gifts, we bring God glory because we reveal His Spirit at work inside of us.
- As we use our gifts, we mature in Him and become more like Him. This brings God glory because it reflects Him in the world around us. As we speak, we speak God’s truth. As we serve, we serve in God’s power. As we show mercy and are generous, we do so with the provision that God has given us.

BIG IDEA #1: SPIRITUAL GIFTS HELP US GROW IN HUMILITY.¹**[THIS]**

In Romans 12:3, Paul admonishes believers to put on humility when he says that believers should “not think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment.” Sober judgment isn’t a call to have a lowly view of ourselves. Sober judgment means we don’t have anything that clouds our view of ourselves, like pride. It is a call to remember who we were before Christ and who we are now. In order to do this, we must have a right view of God. A right view of God involves understanding just how much we are created to need and rely upon each other. When we understand that we need one another to be who God created us to be, we grow in humility. Our gifts are designed to connect us and to bring us together as one body. We can’t live in isolation and independence and use our gifts effectively. As we rely upon one another and live the Christian life together, we grow in humility.

[THEREFORE]**In what ways have you depended upon other believers to grow in your personal walk with Jesus?**

Living life with other believers encourages us to grow in our relationship with Christ. Proverbs 27:17 teaches us the importance of sharing our spiritual life with other believers. As we share this life, we can hold one another accountable. Romans 15:1 shows us how we help one another by bearing with one another’s weaknesses.

[THIS]

In Romans 12:1-6, we see that any gift from God is an outflowing of His grace. No person is worthy to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit. God showers His grace upon us when He endows us with manifestations of Spirit. That we even receive the Spirit of God is an amazing outpouring of His grace. Understanding this truth is part of growing in humility. It’s when we take these spiritual gifts for granted or believe they are for us alone that we miss the mark. Anything God does for us is an act of mercy and grace because He is a holy God deserving of all glory and honor. He chooses to include us in His work on earth. We aren’t being begrudgingly forced to use our gifts for Him. When we grow in humility, we think of our spiritual gifts as opportunities to serve God and others. We see that we are needed in the body and that we need others.

[THEREFORE]**How can you foster a heart of gratitude for your spiritual gifts?**

In Romans 12:1-3, Paul teaches how to live with a heart of gratitude and how to have a right view of ourselves. Having a right view of yourself is the first step in having a heart of gratitude to God. As you grow in your knowledge of Him, you will grow in your gratitude to Him.

Why is it important to put on humility in order to use your gifts?

When we are humble, we can be used by God. Proverbs 3:34 and James 4:6 teach us God’s view of the proud. If we are not humble before Him, we will not use our gifts correctly and in a way that brings Him glory. It’s important for us to humble ourselves in order to truly live for God’s glory.

1. Romans 12:3: Each believer should have a right view of themselves.

BIG IDEA #2: SPIRITUAL GIFTS REMIND US THAT WE BELONG TO GOD AND ONE ANOTHER.²

[THIS]

When we read Romans 12:4-5, we see that believers all belong to God through Christ. Jesus is the way we have access to God and it is through Him that we are part of God's family. Jesus purchased us with His life and we are no longer our own. Our faith in Christ unites us as we are all joined by the same Spirit. Our spiritual gifts also show our connection to God. If we weren't connected to Him, we wouldn't have spiritual gifts because we wouldn't have His Spirit. Our spiritual gifts are things that we wouldn't have or be able to do if we didn't have a connection to God. We wouldn't teach His Word to others if we weren't connected to Him because we wouldn't understand His truth. We wouldn't proclaim His truth to others because we would still be blinded to it. Our gifts indicate that we are no longer dead in our sin.

[THEREFORE]

What does it mean to belong to God? How can you live as if you belong to God?

Ephesians 5:8 teaches us that we are no longer children of darkness if we have saving faith. This means that we belong to God because we have been purchased by His Son's blood on the cross. Belonging to God means we have a responsibility to live in the light. We can do this by obeying His commands and seeking to bring Him glory.

How do your own spiritual gifts help you see that you belong to God?

The fact that spiritual gifts are given to us shows the connection that we have with God because of His Son. Spiritual gifts are not things that we do in our flesh, but things that are made possible because of the Spirit of God. 1 Peter 4:10-11 helps us see that they are possible because of the Spirit.

[THIS]

Not only do we belong to God, but we belong to one another. Our gifts reveal this truth because our gifts depend upon one another. In Romans 12:4-5, Paul teaches that the body of Christ functions as it should when its members are using their spiritual gifts together. We are all connected and need one another. Our gifts show us this. If we have the gift of generosity, other believers need us to use that gift. If we have the gift of teaching, the body needs us to use that gift. We need other believers to use their gifts. If someone has the gift of serving, we are better when they use that gift. God's body is interconnected and interdependent. Our gifts are necessary for the growth of the body. Because we belong to one another, we are responsible for one another and we are a part of each other's spiritual journey.

[THEREFORE]

Why should you use your spiritual gifts in your local church?

Hebrews 3:13 and 1 Thessalonians 5:11 help us see why it's important to use our spiritual gifts. We belong to one another and need one another.

What are some attitudes that keep you from using your spiritual gifts?

Loving the world and being distracted by the things of the world can keep us from using our spiritual gifts. 1 John 2:15 and Romans 12:2 remind us of the danger of loving the world. When we focus on the things of the world, we may resent having to use our time for the local body of believers, but we must flee this type of thinking and use our gifts within our local body.

2. Romans 12:4-5: We are all part of God's family and belong to one another.

BIG IDEA #3: SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE TO BE USED FOR THE GOOD OF GOD'S PEOPLE.³**[THIS]**

Becoming a follower of Christ means becoming a new creation in Him. Before we believe, we are broken and sinful. We follow our sinful hearts and do not seek to please God. When we are made new in Christ, we become new people. Part of being made new is the gift of the Holy Spirit. Part of having the Holy Spirit is receiving spiritual gifts that He works in us and uses to help us become more Christ-like. We aren't given these gifts for ourselves. We're given them to be used for the good of all of God's people. We use these for the good of God's people by serving one another within the body of Christ. In Romans 12:6-9, Paul teaches that whatever our spiritual gift, we should use it to serve others. By serving others, we are bringing God glory. We also have Christ's example set before us. He came to the earth, not to be served, but to serve others. When we identify and use our spiritual gifts within our local church, we are using them for God's people.

[THEREFORE]**Why is it difficult to remember that our gifts are not for us, but for others?**

Inherently, we are selfish people. We spend more time thinking about ourselves than we do other things and people. This selfishness can keep us from using our gifts for others. Philippians 2:3 teaches us to think of others as more important than ourselves. This can be challenging because often, we might base our service to others on how much they've served us.

[THIS]

God has ordained that His body would be dependent upon each other. Our gifts are such that they depend upon other believers using their gifts in order to be most effective. The good of God's people is that they serve Him and bring Him glory. When we evaluate the spiritual gifts mentioned in Scripture, we can understand how they are for the good of God's people. Spiritual gifts, unlike natural talents, are things that build up the people of God. They serve to equip fellow believers to do the work of God. They serve to make the church function as it is created to and they help us survive in this fallen and broken world. For example, the gift of generosity serves to help those believers who are suffering or struggling in some way in this world. The gift of teaching helps believers who need to grow in their knowledge of God's Word and the gift of mercy helps those who have sinned and need forgiveness and reconciliation. All of the gifts are for the good of God's chosen and redeemed people.

[THEREFORE]**How have fellow believers used their gifts for your good?**

When believers bear with us in our weaknesses or during our difficult times, they are using their spiritual gifts for our good. Galatians 6:2 and Ephesians 4:2 help us see that we benefit from fellow believers using their spiritual gifts.

How can you specifically use your spiritual gifts for the good of God's people this week?

Ephesians 4:6 teaches us that our gifts help the body grow and other believer's gifts do the same. You can use your gifts to serve within your local body this week and it will help to equip other believers for the work of the Lord. Using your gifts will also help the body grow. You will grow in your own walk with the Lord when you use your gifts.

3. Romans 12:6-9: Our gifts are meant for God and His body. They are to be used for His glory and our good.