

Network Seminar 1

Play DVD: Imagine a Church...

Discuss Observations and Insights from the DVD

This Course:

Step 1 – Discovery

Step 2 – Coaching

Step 3 – Service

Reminder of sermon that day... Quickly go over it.

Your Spiritual Gifts indicate *what* you will do best when you serve. You'll be *competent* when you use your God-given gifts in ministry.

Your Personal Style indicates *how* you will best serve. You'll be *confident* relating authentically with others as you serve.

Your Mission Passion indicates *where* you will best serve. You'll be *motivated* to serve in the areas you care about most.

There are...

No right or wrong gifts

No right or wrong styles

No right or wrong passions

They are just different!

You can have...

Any Spiritual Gift, with

Any Personal Style, with

Any Ministry Passion.

Go over list of Spiritual Gifts in powerpoint...

Read each passage from the Bible...

1 Corinthians 12:8-10

The Bible refers here to the "gifts" of healing and later to the gifts of "healings" (verse 28). The plural form indicates there is more than one kind of healing (physical, emotional, spiritual, etc.)

1 Corinthians 12:28

Gifts already mentions aren't listed again.

Romans 12:6-8

"Service" and "Helps" are viewed as the same.

Ephesians 4:11

In the original Greek, the word for "pastors" is literally "shepherds."

As you look at these passages you'll note that none of the lists is complete. They are more illustrative examples than as definitive lists. The authors have made no attempt to say, "Now here are all the gifts."

The Network Series has also included 4 others that aren't specifically mentioned in these passages. But they are:

- Rooted in Scripture

- Clearly evident in the life of the local church
- Affirmed in the lives of some believers
- Consistent with our description of a Spiritual Gift

1 Peter 9:10

In the original Greek, verses 9-10 are one sentence. Therefore, there is textual support for “hospitality” being in the list of Spiritual Gifts.

Exodus 31:3-5

The person was filled with the Spirit of God to have the ability to engage in all kinds of “craftsmanship.”

1 Timothy 2:1-2

There is common acceptance for the ministry of prayer.

“Intercessory” prayer was done by Jesus, Paul, and Moses.

Psalm 150:3-5

“Creative Communication” includes many different artistic forms of communication like drama, speaking in parables, DVD, writing, etc.

What they all have in common is the ability to glorify God and edify others with new, fresh and creative expressions of His love and truth.

Do Spiritual Gift Assessment Now... If not already completed.

Optional: Get others to fill out the Observation Assessments to see how others view your Spiritual Gifts.

As you look over the results, what thoughts do you have?

1 Corinthians 12:1

Now about Spiritual Gifts, I do not want you to be ignorant.

Recognizing the Spiritual Gifts in ourselves and also in others enable us to affirm what we do and also affirm others’ contributions to the ministry. This affirmation edifies them and builds up the church.

The true and final test of your Spiritual Gift comes through the affirmation of the body of Christ.

But how can we affirm if we don’t know anything about Spiritual Gifts.

Let’s quickly watch this DVD and see if we can recognize their Spiritual Gifts in action.

Play DVD: Spiritual Gifts in Action

Can you recognize any of the Gifts in Action

Tony – Leadership

Jessie – Hospitality

Damarco – Intercession

Ashley – Administration

Kayla – Evangelism

Nick – Craftmanship

Notice how you’re already able to identify other peoples Spiritual Gifts.

Now let’s have a closer look at your Spiritual Gift.

Let’s work our way through the Reference Assessment. This compares your characteristics to the common characteristics of people known to have that particular Spiritual Gift.

General Cautions

Not only does each Spiritual Gift have specific cautions, there are also a couple of general cautions we all need to be aware of.

The first caution is Gift PROJECTION. When a person projects his or her Spiritual Gift on others, that person is saying, "Do as I do."

When we have a particular Spiritual Gift, it is easy for us to expect others to serve as effectively in that area as we do. For example...

- Those with the Spiritual Gift of Mercy might criticize others for not ministering to more hurting people in crisis, hospitals, inner cities, etc.
- Those with the Spiritual Gift of Evangelism can expect others to be sharing their faith with three to five people a week just like they're doing.

When we project our gifts onto others, we do a great disservice to God and to them. We're not accepting of their Spiritual Gifts and expect them to serve as we do. There are different gifts given to people by design and grace.

The second caution is Gift Elevation. Gift Elevation says, "I have a more important Spiritual Gift than you."

There can be a real temptation to hold our gifts up as being more helpful to the body than other gifts. We may be tempted to magnify the importance of our Spiritual Gift and discount the gift of others.

It's important to remember that all the Gifts have equal value, even though some have far greater visibility. Each Gift makes a unique contribution to the ministry of the church. Each is necessary as **1 Corinthians 12:21** tells us:

The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you;" or again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."

When we project or elevate our gifts, we cannot glorify God or edify others.

The best way to summarise how Spiritual Gifts work is by telling you a story about the animals.

Once upon a time... right after creation... all the animals got together and formed a school. They established a well-rounded curriculum of swimming, running, climbing and flying. All the animals were required to take all the courses.

The duck excelled at swimming. In fact, he was better than the instructor! But he only made passing grade in climbing and was poor in running. He was too slow, he had to stay after school to practice running. This caused his webbed feet to become so badly worn he became only average in swimming. But average was quite acceptable, so no one worried much about it... except the duck.

The rabbit was at the top of her class in running. But after awhile, she developed a twitch in her leg from all the time she spent in the water trying to improve her swimming.

The squirrel was a peak performer in climbing, but was constantly frustrated in flying class. His body became so worn from all the hard landings he did not do too well in climbing and ended up being pretty poor in running.

The eagle was a continual problem student. She was constantly disciplined for being a nonconformist. In climbing class, she would always beat everyone else to the top of the tree, but insisted on using her own way to get there.

Each of the animals has a particular design. When they did what they were designed to do, they excelled. When they tried to operate outside their area of expertise, they would not nearly as effective.

Now let me ask a question. Can ducks run? Sure they can. But is that what they do best? No!

It has been observed that the church is full of “running ducks.” People are running hard, doing their best... waddling for Jesus! But they getting tired, frustrated, burned out, and eventually they drop.

That is why knowing your Spiritual Gift is so important. Serving according to your unique design enables you to give your best with enthusiasm and effectiveness.