

Theme: Each of us must know which gifts we have been given so that we can serve others, but we are also called to serve in areas where we are not gifted - especially helping those in need.

I. Intro – Winter Relief Begins Tomorrow

- A. This is a major ministry outreach for BRCC
- B. Thanks to everyone helping out!
- C. What is ministry to the poor is not my gift?
- D. What is the relationship between gifts and serving?

II. Opening Up Spiritual Gifts

- A. Review of last week
 - 1. We saw Paul used five Greek words to refer to gifts
 - 2. We must understand these ideas to open up gifts
- B. Defining spiritual gifts
 - 1. Definition
 - 2. We can now talk about the gifts and service

III. The Importance of Knowing Our Spiritual Gifts

- A. We each have received different gifts
 - 1. 1 Peter 4:10 - whatever gift received
 - a. This means there are many different gifts
 - b. To use a gift we must know we have it
 - 2. It is important for us to know & accept our gifts
 - a. We must know what we have been given

- b. We must know what we have NOT been given
- B. We are called to administer our gifts
 - 1. 1 Peter 4:10 - we must administer our gifts
 - a. Notice gifts are called grace - like we saw last week
 - b. We must administer - steward, manage - our gifts
 - c. We can grow in our gifts, use them better or worse
 - 2. Knowing & administering gifts leads to joy and fruit
 - a. Joy comes from God working through us by gifts
 - b. Fruit comes as we work within our areas of gifting

IV. Spiritual Gifts and Service

- A. Spiritual gifts are to be used to serve others
 - 1. 1 Peter 4:10-11 - to serve others; whole category
 - 2. We may serve in different ways, but all must serve
- B. We are also called to serve outside of our gifts
 - 1. Galatians 6:9-10 - do good as we have opportunity
 - 2. Good works governed by opportunity - not gifting
 - 3. This is why it might become wearisome - but keep on!
 - 4. We primarily serve via gifts - but not only via gifts
- C. The general call to service for all Christians
 - 1. Matthew 20:25-28 - servant of all - like Jesus
 - 2. 2 Corinth. 4:5 - proclaim Jesus - and us as servants

D. The special call to serve the poor and needy

1. Pro. 14:31 - treatment of poor shows attitude to God
2. Proverbs 19:17 - give to the poor = lend to the Lord
3. Eph 4:28 - stop stealing, work so you can give to needy

V. Applying the Word

A. Am I using my spiritual gifts?

1. We are called to be good stewards of our gifts
2. Do I know what gifts I have been given? ASK:
 - a. What gives me joy?
 - b. Where do I see fruit?
 - c. What do others see?
3. Am I using my gifts to serve others?

B. Is serving others a regular part of my life?

1. We are all called to serve others
2. Serving is NEVER convenient! Don't wait!
3. How do I regularly serve others?

C. Is serving the poor and needy a regular part of my life?

1. This is a consistent call in Scripture!
2. One reason why missions, winter relief are so important
3. Am I working to help winter relief?
4. A regular opportunity - serve at Lighthouse Shelter

D. Communion - Christ Serves Us

1. He came as a servant for us
2. We can only serve because He first served us
3. Receive His gift today - and then give it away!

Spiritual Gifts and Service

1 Peter 4:10-11; Galatians 6:9-10
January 6, 2013
Communion
Genesis 12:2-3

¹⁰ Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 4:10–11

⁹ Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. ¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. Galat. 6:9–10

Spiritual gifts are concrete expressions of God's grace, manifested by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, in order to enable us to serve others in love.

25 Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. 26 Not so with you. Instead, **whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wants to be first must be your slave — 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve,** and to give his life as a ransom for many." Matthew 20:25–28

For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and **ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.** 2 Corinthians 4:5

He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God. Proverbs 14:31

He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward him for what he has done. Proverbs 19:17

He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need. Ephesians 4:28

2 "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." Genesis 12:2–3