

Using Your Spiritual Gift(s) Pt. 3

1 Corinthians 12:27-13:8

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1. A spiritual gift is a supernatural ability given and empowered by God to be used in service to God, producing godly effects through His people, which God accomplishes.
2. God has appointed different roles and gifts in the church. We do not all have the same gift or function because that is not how God designed the Body.
3. There is a way to pursue our spiritual gifts that doesn't do us any good. Without love, even extraordinary gifts, knowledge, faith, or sacrifice profit us nothing.
4. Our spiritual gifts are not our identity. If our status or influence changes, Jesus is still worthy of our worship.
5. Spiritual gifts will be of no good to us if we don't possess love. Love is the framework of eternity. God is love.
6. 1 Corinthians 13 is a mirror that shows how far our natural selves fall short of love. When we look at Jesus, we see what perfect love looks like.
7. Biblical love is more than a desire or feeling. It is a commitment to another person's well-being above our own.
8. Love never fails. Spiritual gifts will cease, but God's love never flickers or leaves us in doubt.
9. Love is our compass with spiritual gifts. We can desire greater opportunities to edify the Body while trusting God with what He gives us.
10. We find our gifts in and through community. As we connect, serve, and hear how God has used us, our gifts begin to come to light.
11. If we only serve where we think we'll enjoy it, we may be guided by self instead of love. Pursue love and be faithful where God has you.

TODAY'S WORSHIP

Every Step
I Believe
King Of Kings

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Discuss the difference between a spiritual gift, natural ability and learned skill. Can they all be used to advance godly purposes? Can they all be used to advance secular purposes?

Reflect upon the qualities of love listed in I Cor 13:4-8 (patient, kind, not envious, not boastful, not proud, not rude, not self-seeking, not easily angered, keeps no account of wrongs, takes no pleasure in evil, rejoices in truth, always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres, never fails.) Jesus is love, exhibiting all of these all the time. Which qualities do you find most amazing and why?

Love is the foundation upon which spiritual gifts are to be given. Contrast the image of physical gifts given as an expression of love and those given for other purposes. Then, apply the same contrast to spiritual gifts.

Discuss this statement from the sermon: "If you only pick opportunities to serve that you think you'll enjoy you're not being guided by love, you're being guided by self." Can you recall a time you refused to serve and later regretted the choice; or agreed to serve and surprisingly found the service fulfilling?

The sermon reminds us that Jesus bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things; and states that "Nothing ever sways or deters Jesus." What thoughts comes to your mind when you insert your name in the statement: "Nothing ever sways or deters _____?"

What does it mean to have "love as your compass"? How would your life changed if you continually used love as your compass?

This week: Take time to reflect on spiritual gifts, community, and serving. If you are not growing in your understanding of your calling and loving others, ask the Lord to reveal what is hindering your ability to use the gifts He has given you.