

## SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Class #5 – Sunday AM1 JUNE 24, 2007

***It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.***

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (**1 John 1:9**).

**Hebrews 4:12** For the Word of God is alive and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword. . .

**Romans 12:4-6** For just as we have many members [**MELOS**] in one body and all the members do not have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

POD – The proper function of the body of Christ is analogous to the function of the human body.

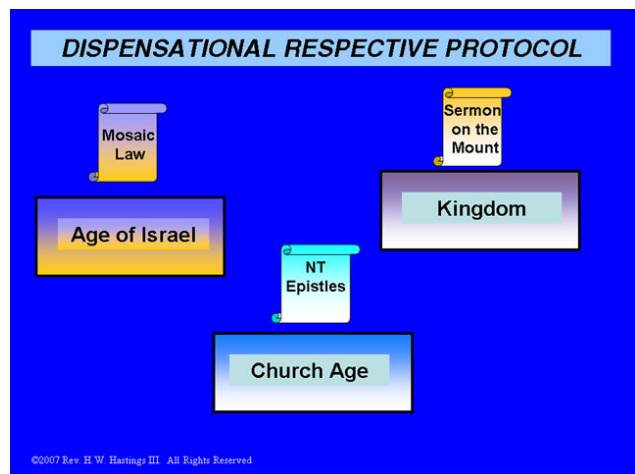
POD – As the human body has many parts designed to function in unison with one another, so is the spiritual body of Christ.

<sup>6</sup> Since we have **gifts** that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith;

**Romans 11:29** for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

**Irrevocable** – “Something that cannot be taken back”

**Gift** – χάρισμα – **CHARISMA** – “Unmerited gift that is freely bestowed”



**Book of Acts** – A transitional book. Believers transitioning from one period of time to another; from one system of protocol to another; from the Age of Israel to Church Age.

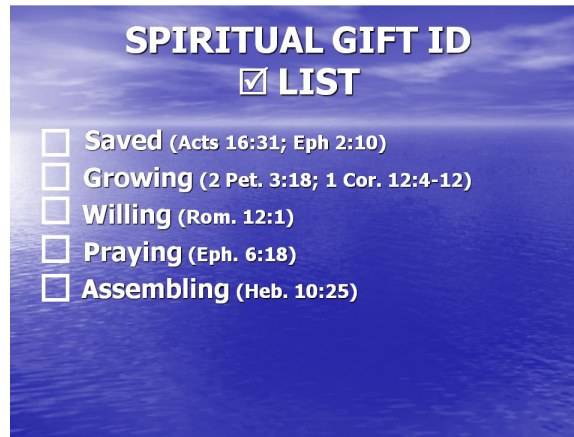
**Acts 2:1-4, 6** When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. <sup>4</sup> And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.

<sup>6</sup> And when this sound occurred, the crowd came together, and were bewildered because each one of them was hearing them speak in his own language.

*Also - Acts 1:5, 12-14; 1 Cor. 3:16; Rom. 12-1*

POD – Spiritual gifts must be deployed for a church to function effectively for the glory of God.

POD [review] - To receive the *Well Done Good and Faithful Servant* medal, the believer is required to do what God has designed him to do.



### **Shep's Gift**

By Marilyn Gould, Special to The Times  
The Los Angeles Times, May 27, 2007

EACH day Shep sits on his rug and waits for Ben to come home from school. As he waits, he tries to find something important to do.

Sometimes Shep goes to the fishbowl to watch Goldie swim in circles and guard her from leaving the bowl. But Goldie hates being stared at. She hides behind a shell. Shep goes back to his rug and waits.

Leaves fall from the maple trees. Shep scoots through the dog door and chases the leaves into a corner. Then the gardener comes and scolds, "Get away, Shep. That's my job." Shep goes back to his rug and waits.

Fluffy, the cat, naps on the sofa. With a yip-yip, Shep invites her to a game of Bark-n-Chase. Shep chases her around the room, but Fluffy doesn't like Bark-n-Chase. She spits and meows. Shep goes back to his rug and waits.

"What do other dogs do to be important?" Shep wonders.

Rex is a watch dog. He growls and frightens robbers away. Champ is a police K9. He rescues people. Rusty is a service dog for Charlie Rogers, who is in a wheelchair. Rusty does anything Charlie can't do for himself.

Even Fluffy is important. She keeps the house pest-free by chasing rodents and flies. Everyone has a job — except Shep.

On Saturday Ben and Shep go fishing. Shep watches Ben cast his line and wait for a bite. After awhile Shep gets bored and decides to explore.

In the field, cows moo. What's important about that? Shep wonders. Then he sees their udders filled with milk and he knows.

Bees buzz over Shep's head. Shep wants to play Bark-n-Chase with them, but they're collecting nectar to make honey, and he knows that's important.

Shep sees two worms squirming through the dirt. Shep thinks it's a game until he realizes they are preparing the soil for corn seeds to grow.

Poor Shep. Nothing important to do ... until suddenly he has a strange feeling. It isn't a sound. It isn't a smell. It's something inside of him that says: Something is wrong.

His ears stand up. His eyes stare like two black bullets. He sees sheep in the distance, running toward a broken fence. They're going to get away. Shep has to stop them.

He scoots under the fence — just like he scoots through the dog door at home. He circles around the sheep and herds them into the corner of the field — just like he corners the leaves at home.

Two sheep stray from the flock and, with a yip-yip, Shep chases them back — just like he chased Fluffy. Shep guards them from getting away — just like he guarded Goldie. Then he sees the farmer.

"Hey! Are you rounding up my sheep?" the farmer shouts.

Shep expects to be scolded.

The farmer looks at the name on Shep's collar. "Shep. That's a good name for a shepherd."

"Is Shep bothering you?" Ben asks as he walks up, holding a string of fish.

"No!" The farmer pats Shep's head. "He saved my sheep from getting away. He's a shepherd."

Ben is surprised. "I didn't know Shep could herd sheep."

"It's a gift Shep was born with," the farmer explains.

"I wish I had a dog like Shep to herd my sheep into the barn on weekends."

Ben puts his hand to his chin and thinks. "Maybe Shep could help you on Saturdays while I fish?" he says.

"I'd like that." The farmer smiles.

"What do you think, Shep?" Ben asks.

Shep wags his tail. Now he has an important job. He has a gift. He's a shepherd.

On the ride home, Shep thinks: Maybe everyone is born with a gift. It's just a matter of finding it.

**POD - The execution of your spiritual gift is not irksome - it will naturally surface as you are willing and come into contact with sheep.**

*The motivation and the leading for spiritual gifts come from within.*

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*All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.*