

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Class #41 – Sunday AM1 September 9, 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. . .

1 Corinthians 12:21 And 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.”

- The body parts are analogous to believers with spiritual gifts in the body of Christ.



As each member of the human body has a specific function in a particular place, so each believer in the Lord Jesus Christ has a specific function in a particular place.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

- When each believer begins to function as God has designed him to function, the services enable the body to function as one.
- Brother eye, brother hand, brother head, and brother feet are believers - each with a spiritual gift.

Brother eye and brother head are more presentable members.

They occupy prominent positions in the body and therefore, receive more attention.

- They cannot say, no matter how prominent they may be; *I have no need for the hands or the feet to function.*

Every member is dependent upon the others for the body to function in a coordinated manner.

Philippians 2:13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

Members with more prominent, or visible, gifts are dependent upon the members with invisible gifts.

- The Pastor-teacher is who you see a majority of times.
- You don't see brother hand or foot or buttocks because they are covered.
- Every church needs a buttock because it is part of the body!
- Gifts that function invisibly make it possible for you to enjoy the actual time of Bible class or to be able to download a church ministry from a distance.

POD: The believer, no matter how prominent his spiritual gift, should not overestimate his own importance.

1 Corinthians 12:15-16 If the foot says, "Because I am not a hand, I am not a *part* of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a *part* of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear says, "Because I am not an eye, I am not a *part* of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a *part* of the body.

POD: The less prominent gifts should never underestimate their importance.

You have no idea how crucial your presence in class with a spiritual gift is.

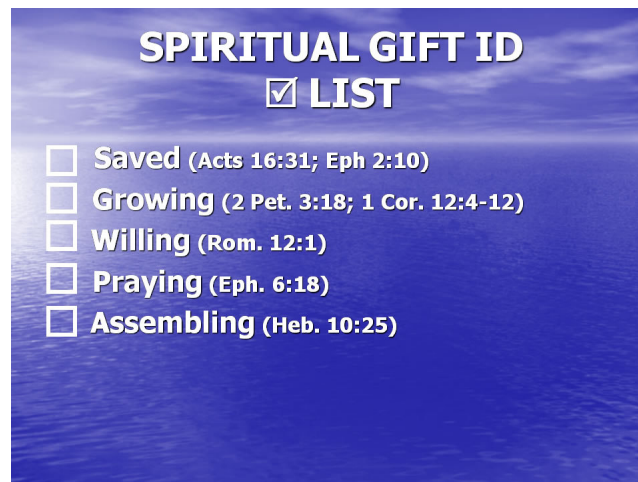
Just sitting in Bible class – listening - provides something in the spiritual realm.

POD [Review] - The believer is designed by God and placed in the body of Christ to function interdependently, not independently.

General Observation of our study

God has placed a priority on the communication of His Word.

- ✚ To understand His will
- ✚ For spiritual growth
- ✚ Identification of our spiritual gift



✚ To know God!

✚ To know our adversary –

1 Peter 5:8 “Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”

1 John 4:4 “. . . greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.”

The teaching of the Word of God is where we learn about the protocol required to live the spiritual life and glorify God by doing so.

✚ It is our bread from heaven, from which we are spiritually nourished.

✚ God has gifted the pastor to teach the Word so that you can walk in it.

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

2 Timothy 4:2 preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

As the believer consistently functions under the authority of a pastor-teacher, he is trained in righteousness.

2 Timothy 3:17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

- The local church is not an entertainment center where people go to have their emotions stimulated and feel good!
- The local church is a place where believers assemble to receive the training required to walk in the works God prepared beforehand.

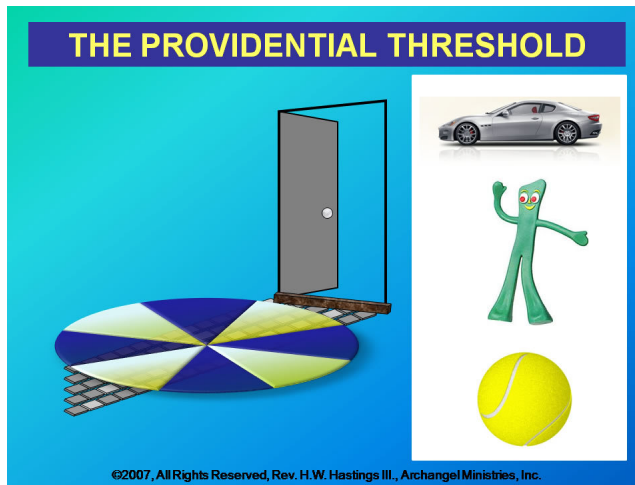
Observation: God has placed a priority on the communication of His Word and the spiritual gifts are designed to facilitate the preparation, preaching, and dissemination of that Word, as well as attend to the needs within the body.

- To the degree that the gifts function and the responsibilities of the priesthood are fulfilled, is the degree that the Word of God goes forth.
- As the Word of God goes forth, it accomplishes what God desires in the hearts of believers.

Think about that concept with the gift of giving - God takes care of the pastor through believers who give from their abundance as they purpose in their hearts under the Mentorship of God the Holy Spirit.

1 Timothy 5:18 For the Scripture says, “YOU SHALL NOT MUZZLE THE OX WHILE HE IS THRESHING,” and “The laborer is worthy of his wages.”

The gift of giving, which is not seen, enables the pastor to dedicate his life to communicating God’s Word.



- What is the gift of giving in itself without the gift of administration?
- Someone must be gifted to manage and disburse what the gift of giving provides.

Don't get your eyes on the person because God is the One who is working through the believer.

- Where would this classroom be without God working in the believer with the gift of helps.
- Where would Bible class downloads be without the gift of service.

Where would we all be without the one God works in to pray?

- Even with a facility, if the other gifts are not functioning, you will only meet on Sundays.

That is why not one person in this church or on this ministry can say to anyone, *I have no need of your spiritual gift to function.*

We are all dependent upon each other's spiritual gifts.

We must all function interdependently for this ministry to glorify God.

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