

Gathering Guide

for Communities and Friends

Next Steps: Exercising Your Spiritual Gifts, October 20, 2019

The Big Idea

The Bible is clear that every Christian is endowed with at least one spiritual gift and that the gift we have been given is to be used to serve the Body of Christ. In order to be fully effective in our service for Jesus Christ and the church, we need to know what gift we have been given and then we must properly use our gifts. For most people, effectively exercising a spiritual gift requires either education or training (or likely both). Just because God has given us a gift does not make us immediately proficient. Disciples of Jesus who cultivate the gifts they

Where we are in the Bible

We are continuing to journey through the book of Acts and this week we find ourselves in verses 24 through 28 of Chapter 18. Between the time of Paul's stopover at Ephesus (18:19-21) and his return to the city on his third missionary journey (19:1ff.), Apollos came to Ephesus. Although he was educated and possessed a thorough knowledge of the Jewish Scriptures, he did not have a complete knowledge of Jesus. A gifted speaker and teacher, he needed to be instructed himself on "the way of God" if he was to be used to effectively in ministry. Not only was Apollos willing to be instructed by Priscilla and Aquila, but he proved to be a great help to the church in Achaia with the new understanding he gained in Ephesus.

Other scriptures to consider

Romans 12:3-8

Gifts of Grace

I Corinthians 12 and 14

Spiritual Gifts

I Corinthians 13

The Way of Love

Ephesians 4:1-16

Finding a bit of ourselves

- Most people enjoy receiving a special gift. Which gift that you received in the past brought extra joy and appreciation to your heart? Why? What was so special about that gift?
- Was there a time in your life when thought you were better at something than you really were? How did you discover that you still had a lot to learn?
- As you reflect on your life, what one thing have you worked hardest at to become proficient? Did you work extra hard because it was difficult and a struggle or because you enjoyed the process and the results?

Where do we go from here?

- Review the teachings of Paul on spiritual gifts in First Corinthians 12:1-11. What does he teach us about those gifts in this passage? How should this passage affect how we view our gifts?
- The Apostle Paul instructs his young protégé Timothy in I Timothy 4:14 to not neglect the gift that was given to him. How might a God given gift be neglected by someone? What could be the consequences of neglecting the gift – both to the negligent person and to the church?
- What do you suppose your spiritual gift might be? How did you come to realize this? How are you presently using your gift to benefit the church?



Prayer focus

As you consider your spiritual gift(s) this week, pray for the following:

- You would confidently recognize the spiritual gift God has given you through the Holy Spirit.
- That the spiritual gift you have been given would flourish and be used in service to God and the church.
- In the midst of exercising your gift God would be glorified.

