

“Understand and Use Your Spiritual Gifts,” *I Corinthians 12:1-11*, page 1122

Introduction:

1. Every born again Christian will be given at least one spiritual gift.
2. Each spiritual gift will perfectly fit the believer’s personality and inner ministry desire.
3. Each spiritual gift will blend with other believers’ spiritual gifts to form a ministry team.
4. *I Corinthians 12:1: “Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant.”*
5. In the remainder of this chapter, along with chapters 13 and 14, the apostle Paul gives us a clear definition of spiritual gifts and how they are to be used.
6. We shared a series of messages concerning spiritual gifts last year.
7. Today we will share a summary review concerning spiritual gifts.

I. The Holy Spirit chooses our personal spiritual gifts.

- A. We are in a fierce spiritual battle that encompasses the entire world.
- B. This battle is very visible, and we can see those who are on the winning side and those who are being destroyed by spiritual darkness.
 1. The Anna Nichole Smith story is a tragic example of a life destroyed by spiritual darkness. The baby daughter is an innocent victim.
 2. At the risk of embarrassing them, contrast Drew and Sarah and little Liesel with the life of Anna Smith.
 3. The battle between God and Satan, good and evil, is played out in millions of events each day. Burma.
 4. It’s enough to make an individual move to an island. The battle is already here.
- C. What does this have to do with spiritual gifts?
 1. Every born again Christian is a soldier in God’s army, fighting to defeat evil in this world.
 2. Our spiritual gifts equip us to do battle with the enemy.
 3. Anna Smith, Burma may be a question; Beaver Island is a solid Yes!
- D. Each spiritual gift is intended to unite the army of God and defeat Satan. Gifts of:
 1. Wisdom.
 2. Knowledge.
 3. Faith.
 4. Healing.
 5. Miracles.
 6. Prophecy.
 7. Discernment.
 8. Tongues/languages.
 9. Interpretation.

II. Each spiritual gift is given to be used in ministry.

- A. As Christians, we are not fighting a physical war using guns and bullets.
- B. We are fighting a spiritual battle using the truth of God’s Word.
- C. We are all ministers (soldiers), taking the Word of God into battle against the spiritual darkness around us.

- D. I believe God gives us the spiritual gift that fits our personality and life focus.
 - 1. Charlene: Children's Church.
 - 2. Our daughter, Ronda: Faith.
 - 3. My friend, John Geer: Prayer.
 - 4. Our son, Rodney: Discernment and Counseling.
- E. Each born again Christian is given at least one spiritual gift to be used in ministry. Do you know what spiritual gifts God has given you?

III. When used properly, our spiritual gifts form a ministry team with other believers.

- A. God never intended that we all possess the same spiritual gifts.
- B. Spiritual gifts are not necessarily our natural talents and abilities.
 - 1. Just because an individual is a good singer, he/she may not have the spiritual gift of music.
 - 2. A person with book learning abilities may not have the spiritual gift of wisdom.
- C. Our spiritual gifts are given to us by God to fit the ministry God wants us to fulfill.
- D. Every Bible-believing church family is equipped with all the spiritual gifts needed to have a dynamic ministry.
- E. Do not covet another person's spiritual gift.
- F. We need each spiritual gift to be an effective ministry team:
 - 1. Teaching.
 - 2. Music.
 - 3. Hospitality.
 - 4. Craftsmanship.
 - 5. Wisdom.
 - 6. Faith.
 - 7. Prayer.
 - 8. Exhortation.
 - 9. Giving.
 - 10. Healing.
 - 11. Discernment.
 - 12. Encouragement.
- G. Do you understand your spiritual gift and how you fit into the ministry team of B.I.C.C.?

Conclusion:

- 1. I believe that God has a special spiritual gift for every born again Christian in our church family.
- 2. You are a very important part of our ministry team!
- 3. No other person can effectively take your place in ministry. God needs you!
- 4. How do I discover my spiritual gift?
 - A. Pray. Simply ask God to help you understand what gift He has given you.
 - B. Study a spiritual gift inventory.
 - C. Ask a fellow believer to join you in prayer concerning your spiritual gift.
 - D. How has the Holy Spirit used you in the past?
 - E. Seek to establish a mentoring relationship with another mature believer and seek sound counsel from that person.
- 5. Accept the spiritual gift God gives you!