



THE GIFT OF GAB?

We have heard people say, "He has the gift of gab." This could mean the ability to speak confidently and easily that makes people want to believe something. This is not one of the Spiritual gifts that we categorize as a speaking gift. Rather, these are Holy Spirit empowered abilities to speak to God's family that will build-up and encourage people to follow Jesus.

LEARNING FROM GOD'S WORD

We are continuing our walk through of the Spiritual Gifts given by the Holy Spirit. There are three purposes for this challenge:

- 1) To help us appreciate one another and the gifts that God has given us
- 2) To identify gifts that we may have and then engage in service
- 3) To encourage us all to serve God and His family in multiple ways

In one sense, we all serve in all of these ways. Every disciple should be showing mercy or serving or teaching. But a spiritual gift is a Spirit-given ability to impact others beyond human ability.

In our second week of this mini-series, we are going to look at the "speaking gifts." We will briefly define each and examine how some were helpful to the early church. As you read about each, consider how the gift might be recognized and useful to the church family.

Read Ephesians 4:10-16. The first four speaking gifts are apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherd /teacher. Together, they have one very distinct purpose - to equip disciples to serve in the church ministries so that the church grows.

Apostles and Prophets

The Apostles and Prophets were men in the Old and New Testament to whom God gave his revealed word for direct communication to God's people for the purpose of aligning them with God's will and purposes and establishing for them the written and completed word of God for all time, focusing people on the glory of God and his mighty works. The New Testament Apostles and Prophets started this process by walking with Jesus, learning the faith from him directly, and recording the lessons for us in the Bible. **THUS**, we understand that their role and presence is **NOT** repeatable today.

Evangelists/Evangelism

The gift of Evangelism is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body to effectively train others to share the Gospel, and to share the Gospel with unbelievers resulting in responses of faith and their becoming dedicated disciples of Jesus Christ, focusing people on the glory of God and his mighty works.

How might we recognize this gift in someone?

How might this gift be useful to the church today?

Shepherd/Pastor

The gift of Shepherd/Pastor is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body to assume a long-term personal responsibility to nurture and guide God's people with God's word, resulting in ongoing spiritual maturity and full discipleship, focusing people on the glory of God and his mighty works.

How might we recognize this gift in someone?

How might this gift be useful to the church today?

Teaching

The gift of Teaching is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body to understand, clearly explain, and teach God's Word to the body, resulting in its members learning, obeying and using God's word in their lives to thrive, focusing people on the glory of God and his mighty works.

How might we recognize this gift in someone?

How might this gift be useful to the church today?

Read Romans 12:3-8

Encouragement

The gift of Encouragement is the special ability God gives to certain members of the body to offer words of comfort, consolation, encouragement, counsel, and a summons to action resulting in other members of the body feeling helped, strengthened, and compelled to change and act, focusing people on the glory of God and his mighty works.

How might we recognize this gift in someone?

How might this gift be useful to the church today?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:7-11

Here we see the final four Speaking Gifts: Word of Wisdom, Word of Knowledge, Prophecy, Tongues and the Interpretation of Tongues

Word of Wisdom

The gift of Wisdom is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body to help others understand how God's truths can be applied in specific situations, resulting in practical solutions for real needs., and focusing people on the glory of God and his mighty works.

Note: A Word of Wisdom is just that...wise counsel on life given from one believer to another as inspired by the Holy Spirit from God's word.

How might we recognize this gift in someone?

How might this gift be useful to the church today?

Word of Knowledge

The gift of Knowledge is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body to bring truth to the body of Christ through personal biblical insights, resulting in a deeper faith and stronger commitment to God for those who hear and focusing people on the glory of God and his mighty works. (See Colossians 3:16)

How might we recognize this gift in someone?

How might this gift be useful to the church today?

Prophecy

The gift of Prophecy is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body to reveal a Spirit-prompted message to believers that is aligned with God's purposes and truths, and which has relevance for personal decisions, correction, or edification. The message may have immediate or future applications, but all must be evaluated in line with God's already revealed truth, focusing people on the glory of God and his mighty works.

(Note: J.D. Greear describes this in his book, *Jesus Continued, why the Holy Spirit in you is better than Jesus beside you*: "The act of proclaiming and applying God's Word to people in particular situations is the primary form of prophecy. Scripture is, of course, always God's Word; but through the gift of prophesy, God empowers his church to speak **That Word** in a timely way that addresses the situation of the moment. When it happens, you have the sense that God has not just spoken in the Bible, but is speaking to you...Hearing the Spirit of God speak to us the word of God- through the people of God ought to be our experience every time we gather. Have you ever felt like a sermon was speaking right to you? That God addressed you through the teacher, applying his word to your situation, exposing you, giving you understanding, or guiding you? If so, then you have experienced a manifestation of the gift of prophesy" (p. 135, 137)

How might we recognize this gift in someone?

How might this gift be useful to the church today?