

Employ The Gifts

The One Anothers June 29, 2025

From time to time we are taking a look together at the “one another” commands in Bible. There are about 60 of them, given to us so we can know how to properly relate to each other in the church and so we can be built up, *others* can be built up, and our church can thrive in the love of God.

Last time we looked at “greet one another.” Today we’re going to take a look at another command found in 1 Peter 4:10.

1 Peter 4:10 (ESV) - As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.

Peter goes on to list some ways that happens. But that’s the command: Employ your gifts for the benefit of one another. First of all, it’s exciting to know that the Lord specifically allocates each and everyone of His people with spiritual gifting for particular purposes.

So what *is* a spiritual gift? Well, they are abilities or activities given by the grace of God and *His* sovereign choosing that provide the power we need to accomplish the work of the Holy Spirit. So, that means you can’t earn or learn a spiritual gift and you don’t get to choose gifts, buffet style. It’s not about your *natural* skills, it’s a *supernatural* enabling.

Of course, we can all use our natural skills and abilities to serve God and help others - for sure. But on top of those natural abilities, God gives each of us gifts of the Spirit. And the reason He gives them is *not* for our own fame or to make us great or to make us feel like we’re better than other people. Actually, they’re given in the opposite direction. They are given for the *common* good of the Church.¹ God gifts and arranges each of us so that the whole Body of Christ can grow in a healthy and joyful and supportive way.²

According to Ephesians 4, as each of us operate our gifts to serve one another, all of us reach unity in the faith and in our knowledge of Jesus, *and* we grow into a greater and greater fullness of spiritual maturity and strength. Sounds great, doesn’t it? So my gifts are for *you*, and *your* gifts are for me so that Christ’s Body and our local expression of it can thrive and move and grow.

So, that’s the command: Employ your spiritual gift for the benefit of one another. Naturally that begs the question: What is my spiritual gift or gifts?

At this point, sometimes we’re tempted to go to the internet and take a quiz. But that’s certainly not how any believers figured it out in the last couple thousand years, right?

¹ 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

² 1 Corinthians 12:12-30

The New Testament has a variety of texts that teach us about spiritual gifts. We should all look at Romans 12, Ephesians 4, 1 Corinthians 12-14, and 1 Peter 4. But, as you study these different lists, you'll note they don't all match. And they aren't exhaustive. In fact, some of the "gifts" discussed in these passages are really categories, not specific activities. But going through these passages shows us the types of gifting He gives and the purposes He has in mind. And as we go through them, the Bible tells us we should *desire* spiritual gifts and pursue their operation.

The way we discover our gift is to, first and foremost, have a living relationship with God the Holy Spirit. God *wants* us to know what He's given us so that we can put them to use.

Second, we see that spiritual gifts are *primarily* connected to the life of a church. There are different categories - some miraculous, some dealing with communication, some dealing with day-to-day initiatives - but they're all about putting the Body of Christ together. Just like your body has extremely different cells but all are necessary. Blood cells are very different than nerve cells, which are very different than skin cells, but I'd really like to have all of them! Each has a necessary function that contributes to a vibrant life.

So, as I connect myself to the church family God has sent me to, and as I find my place in that organism, the Lord will reveal my gifts and bring them into action according to His design.

The principle I need to keep in mind is that *my* gifts are given not for me, but for *you*. My gift is given for the benefit of the one another around me. But if I don't care about this gracious gift of spiritual power given to operate in my life for the growth of the church, then I'm going to become like a *dead* skin cell. Dried and flaky and ready to slough off at any moment from disuse.

So, our homework is to take a quick audit: Do I know what any of my spiritual gifts are? If I do, are they in operation *toward others* in a way that doesn't bring accolades to *me*, but praise to God?³

As we consider these things and the commands God has given us concerning them, we can each walk worthy with Jesus, in His power, in His grace, strong in the Lord *together*.

³ 1 Peter 4:11