

# 3G

## Lesson Thirteen: Spiritual Gifts

We are continuing to look at the 3<sup>rd</sup> G. This last G stands for Go. Last lesson we looked at how important it is for each of us to obey the command to go and be a witness for Jesus. In this lesson, we will take a look at the gifts that God has given each of us so that we might equip His body to go and make disciples of all people.

### Gifted

ASK: What is the best gift that you have ever received from anyone? Not kids, salvation etc..., something someone got for you. \_\_\_\_\_

The best gift that someone has ever given to me was given to me by our church. This past year, Good News surprised me to celebrate my 10th anniversary as lead pastor here. And one of the gifts that they gave me was season tickets to the Iowa Hawkeyes football games. Every year since I moved back to Iowa 13 years ago, I have pulled up season tickets and dreamed of having them. Then I looked at the price and quickly woke up from my dream.

When someone gives us a gift, they give it to us so that we can enjoy it. But God has given each of us gifts so that we can use them to the benefit of others. We refer to these as spiritual gifts.

### Warning Label

As Paul begins this discussion on spiritual gifts, he challenges us to think correctly about ourselves and about God. We pick up the discussion in Romans 12:3, "For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith."

He warns us not to think higher of ourselves than we should. Remember that God hates pride. In Proverbs 6:16-19, we see 7 things that God hates, "These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren." What is the first thing in the list of things that God hates? \_\_\_\_\_

One of the dangers of learning about your spiritual gifts is pride. We can come to the conclusion that some gifts are better than others and that some gifts are more valuable than others. And therefore, the people that have those gifts are better than those that don't and they are more valuable than those that don't. Which isn't true! Each gift is just as valuable as another. Each gift is necessary to make the body of Christ be everything that it should be.

Not only does God hate pride, He struggles against those who lift themselves in pride. Look what Jesus' brother writes in James 4:6, "But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble." If we are exalted with pride because of the gifts that God has given to us, we will be like a cancer that destroys the body of Christ, instead of building it up. In order to defeat cancer, you have to remove

it or destroy it. Sometimes God has to remove someone from a church in order for that church to become healthy and grow.

## You Were Made For This

Now let's get back to our text in Romans 12. Notice this in verse 3, "For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith."

It is God who gives everyone the gift that He wants them to have, and that's why we can't be filled with pride. You and I are nothing apart from God! Without His gifting and power, you and I are worthless to the body of Jesus. And we are not just worthless, we are damaging to the body. Speaking of body let's look at Romans 12:4-5, "For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another."

To help us to understand our spiritual gifts, Paul returns to the illustration of the body. We looked at this a few lessons ago as we talked about the church, so we won't repeat everything that we have already discussed. But let's think about our bodies for a minute. Our body is made up of a bunch of different parts, and every part has a purpose that it was made for. Eyes, ears, hands, heart, feet etc... were all created and gifted to do certain things for the body. And the church, the body of Jesus is the same way. God has gifted you to serve in specific ways here at Good News!

We have some people who are doing lots of things here at Good News. And I'm glad that we have people who believe in what we are trying to do in reaching people and changing lives, but we need everyone to be sold out for Jesus! We need everyone to be using their gifts to build up the body of believers here. It's time for every single one of you to get up and get involved. We have a community here that needs each and every one of you.

## Gifts Of Grace

Paul continues in Romans 12:6, "Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;" Did you notice the phrase, "...grace that is given to us..."? And remember what he said in verse 3, "For I say, through the grace given unto me..."?

We are given these gifts by grace. Do you remember what that word grace means? Grace is the good that we do not deserve. We do not deserve the gifts that God gives to us. I can't boast just because God has given me the gifts of administration and shepherding. I don't deserve these gifts, but God gave them to me by His grace.

Now let's take a look at some of the gifts that God gives by His grace as listed in Romans 12:6-8, "Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness."

Take time to write down the 7 gifts listed in these verses. \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and  
\_\_\_\_\_.

This list is not an exhaustive list. I don't believe that God ever intended for us to have an exhaustive list. The specifics of each gift is not the emphasis, but how you use each gift is what God wants us to focus on. We are to use our gifts for God's honor and glory to build up the body of Jesus.

## Conclusion

There are a number of spiritual gifts surveys out there. I prefer [www.gifts.churchgrowth.org](http://www.gifts.churchgrowth.org) Go and take the survey and see what your top three gifts are. What I love about this survey is that it tells you what your gifts are and gives a rundown of each. It gives possible ways to use your spiritual gifts, but then it also gives some pitfalls to avoid. Based upon the gifts that you have been given, you are prone to fall in certain areas. Make a commitment to start using your gifts to build up the body of Christ today!