



THRIVE Devotional

Week 7 – Lesson 1

You Are a Gift from God

Scripture reading John 4:1-10

“Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.”

In this passage of Scripture, Jesus identifies Himself as “the gift of God.” Jesus was the gift from God sent down from Heaven to give us the gift of eternal life. Jesus was a gift to Nicodemus. Jesus was a gift to the woman at the well. Jesus was a gift to those that were blind, lame, and hungry.

In much the same way, you are a gift from God. When you got saved, the Spirit of God came to live in you. Now the Holy Spirit lives in you. *“Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his”* Romans 8:9. When His Holy Spirit came to live inside of you, He brought with Him spiritual gifts that are unique to you. You are His child and wherever you go, you are His gift. He wants to touch lives through you. When you go to work today, you are the gift of God to that workplace. In your neighborhood, you are the gift of God to that neighborhood. When you go to school, you are the gift of God to those teachers and students. If you are a teacher, you are a gift of God to all those you teach. When you go shopping, you are a gift of God to those you come in contact with. The Apostle Paul said it this way, *“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure”* Philippians 2:13.

I don’t know what your day entails today, but God wants you to remember that you are His gift. It may be that you are holding the hands of an aging loved one or cooking dinner for your family. It may be changing a diaper or it may be serving the public as a civil servant. Remember today wherever you are, you are God’s gift. Allow Him to shine through you. His gift may not always be received, but you must remember that you are His gift and that will allow you to walk with confidence and THRIVE as a believer.



THRIVE Devotional

Week 7 – Lesson 2

Understanding Spiritual Gifts

Scripture reading 1 Corinthians 12:1-12

“Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.”

It is obvious from this passage of Scripture that God wants us to understand spiritual gifts. Last time, we saw that you as an individual are a gift from God. In this passage and in Romans 12, God tells us that there are a variety of gifts that God gives to individual Christians.

God has given you a set of spiritual gifts that makes you unique from any other Christian in the world. He has a specific mission carved out for your life and He knows the exact gifts that you need to accomplish that mission. You are a gifted individual designed to serve in a specific place and to accomplish a specific purpose.

Within this passage, we also see that God wants you to be in a local church using your set of gifts to serve others within that church. *“For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.”* You are a gift from God to the other members of your local church. Your church cannot be the effective body that God wants it to be unless you are actively involved in that church. You are an irreplaceable, unique gift.

Understanding your spiritual gifts and using them within your local church will help you THRIVE and help your church to THRIVE for the glory of God.



THRIVE Devotional

Week 7 – Lesson 3

What Are the Spiritual Gifts?

Scripture reading Romans 12:3-9

“So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us...let us.”

This passage is what I call an action passage. Paul is telling us since we are gifted, we need to use our gifts within the local church to serve one another. What are the spiritual gifts? There are seven listed in our passage today:

1. Prophecy/Preaching
2. Ministry/Gift of Helps
3. Teaching/Teaching
4. Exhortation/Encouragement
5. Giving/Giving
6. Ruling/Administration
7. Mercy Shower/Caring for others

Someone might ask, “Aren’t Christians, supposed to do all of those things?” Though that is true, God’s Word is clear that you as an individual Christian are gifted by Him at your spiritual birth with certain of these gifts that would make them more profound in your life. God’s Word is clear that each of us are to go out and tell people about Jesus Christ. We are all supposed to be witnesses. Therefore, we should all be involved in prophesying or preaching the Word of God. It is also clear that there are some who are profoundly gifted with the ability to preach the Word of God. The Word of God makes it clear that we are to be helping our brothers and sisters in Christ, but there are those who are uniquely gifted with the gift of ministry and the gift of helps. They serve within the local church often times unnoticed using the gift that God has given them. I might say that it is people with the gift of helps that keep the church moving forward. There are over 250 people who serve within Liberty Baptist Church that make our Sunday schools, AWANA, adult Bible studies, and every area of ministry function. Though one gift may be more prominent than another, no gift is more important than another.

Finding out what your spiritual gift is and using it for the glory of God will help you THRIVE as a Christian.



THRIVE Devotional

Week 7 – Lesson 4

Finding Your Spiritual Gifts

Scripture reading 1 John 3:1-3

James 1:5, *“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.”*

Our Scripture reading today tells us that we are children of God and that when He appears, we will be like Him. It is wonderful to know what we are going to be like in the future. However, today, I need to know what my spiritual gift is. The question is, how do I discern my spiritual gift? In the book, *How on Earth Can I Be Spiritual?* written by Sumner Wemp, he gives several ways to discern your spiritual gift. I will list them for you:

1. Pray – James 1:5. If you want spiritual wisdom to discern spiritual gifts, then ask.
2. Notice what you really enjoy doing for the Lord. Someone with the gift of teaching will enjoy teaching and the preparation of teaching. The same can be true about each gift.
3. The areas in which God obviously uses you can identify the gift. For example, I can have a brief conversation with certain individuals in our church and when I walk away, I am encouraged. Obviously, they have the gift of exhortation.
4. Ask others what they think your spiritual gifts are. Often times we are blind to what is obvious to others.
5. The trial and error method can show what gifts one has. If you are not gifted, it will soon become obvious.
6. One other way to discern your spiritual gift is by taking a spiritual gifts test. If you would like a copy of one, you can contact the church at info@experienceliberty.com and we would be happy to send you a copy of the test.

Knowing your spiritual gift and using it will help you THRIVE.



THRIVE Devotional

Week 7 – Lesson 5

Why God Gave You a Spiritual Gift?

Scripture reading 1 Corinthians 13

1 Corinthians 12:5 *“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.”*

Several years ago, I was talking to a friend who said that God had given him the gift of tongues. That it was a prayer language between him and God alone and he only used it in his prayer closet. Because, I love my friend, I felt compelled to share with him that that is not the purpose of spiritual gifts.

According to 1 Corinthians 12, a spiritual gift is given to me to profit the church and everybody within our local church. You see it is obvious from God’s Word that the reason God has given us each spiritual gifts is so that we will be dependent upon one another. Where you are lacking, others are strong. Where you are strong, others are lacking. We all need one another. 1 Corinthians 12 tells about the spiritual gifts.

1. They are different.
2. They are used in different ways. 1 Corinthians 12:5
3. They are used in different ministries. 1 Corinthians 12:6
4. They profit the entire church. 1 Corinthians 12:7
5. They are given by God’s sovereign grace. 1 Corinthians 12:11
6. They are given to each one individually so that we will all be dependent one upon another.

Our text for today reminds us that the whole reason we are given spiritual gifts is to bind us together in love, because any spiritual gift used with the wrong motive will profit nothing. God has given you a spiritual gift for your local church. He wants you to use your spiritual gift to build others up and to demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ. So the world will know we are His disciples. Use your gift today and THRIVE.



THRIVE Devotional

Week 7 – Lesson 6

Stir Up Your Gift

Scripture reading 1 Timothy 1:1-9

James 1:16-18, *“Do not err, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.”*

You are a good and perfect gift sent from the Father of lights to be a blessing to those who are around you. You are one of God’s first fruits in showing the world what He is like. God has gifted you to be an inspiration and encouragement to others. People within the church need to see Christ in you. God has sent you to your local church as a gift.

In our Scripture reading today, Timothy seems to be somewhat discouraged. Paul is writing to him in the midst of whatever he is facing to let him know that God sent him to the city of Ephesus to be a help to others. He reminds him that he is a third generation Christian, because he learned of the faith of Christ through his grandmother and mother. Then, he reminds him of the greatest message that he is to deliver and tells him to stir up the gift that is in him. Obviously, Timothy had allowed others to discourage him from using the gifts that God has given to him to serve within the church. I meet Christians from time to time that are discouraged from past experiences. Don’t let that happen to you.

Remember, you are a gift of God. Stir up that gift. Go before God today and thank Him for making you who you are and for giving you the gifts He has given you. Determine to use the gifts He has given you to encourage other believers in your local church. Make a determination to be in church on Sunday and ask God to let you use your gifts for Him. Step out in faith and exercise the gift that God has given you. Let us THRIVE together as believers. God bless you.

If you are in the Las Vegas area, I hope to see you in church on Sunday.