

Christmas in October!

Ephesians 4; Romans 12; 1 Corinthians 12; 1 Peter 4
East Berlin Community Church
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October 11, 2020

Introduction

- Excitement surrounding the opening of the gifts at Christmas
- Review of what we've learned so far about "Spiritual Gifts"
 - Definition: *"Special, God-given ability for service"*
 - Not to be confused with areas of service, power, roles, talents, or fruit.
 - Need to maintain unity and allow for diversity in the body.

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A. The "Gift List" Specified—What are the gifts?

1. Ephesians 4:7-11

"But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore He says: 'When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men.' (Now, this, 'He ascended'—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And He himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers." (Ephesians 4:7-11)

Gift # 22 -- Hospitality

Gift #2 -- Prophets

Gift #3 -- Evangelists

Gift #4 -- Pastor/Teacher

2. Romans 12:3-8

"For I say to you through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. For we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministry; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness" (Romans 12:3-8)

Gift #5 -- Prophesying

Gift # 6 -- Ministry or Serving

Gift #7 -- Teaching

Gift #8 -- Exhorting or Encouragement

Gift #9 -- Giving

Gift #10 -- Leadership

Gift #11 -- Showing Mercy

3. 1 Corinthians 12:7-11, 27-30

"But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another the gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues, But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills." (1 Corinthians 12:7-11)

Gift #12 -- Wisdom

Gift #13 -- Knowledge

Gift #14 -- Faith

Gift #15 -- Healings

Gift # 16 -- Miracles

Gift #17 -- Spiritual Discernment

Gift #18 -- Tongues

Gift #19 -- Interpretation of Tongues

"Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then the gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Do all have the gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?" (1 Corinthians 12:27-30)

Gift #20 -- Helps

Gift #21 – Administration

4. **1 Peter 4:7-11**

“But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers. And above all things have fervent love for one another, for ‘love will cover a multitude of sins.’ Be hospitable to one another, without grumbling. As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.” (1 Peter 4:7-11)

Gift# 22 – Hospitality

5. **1 Corinthians 7:7**

“For I wish that all men were even as I myself. But each one has his own gift from God, one in this manner and another in that.” (1 Corinthians 7:7)

Gift# 23 -- Celibacy / Marriage

- 1 Corinthians 7:32-35-- *“But I want you to be without care. He who is unmarried cares for the things of the Lord—how he may please the Lord. But he who is married cares about the things of this world—how he may please his wife. There is a difference between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman cares about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit. But she who is married cares about the things of this world—how she may please her husband. And this I say for your own profit, not that I may put a leash on you, but for what is proper, and that you may serve the Lord without distraction.”*
- 1 Corinthians 7:8-9-- *“But I say to the unmarried and to the widows: It is good for them to remain even as I am; but if they cannot exercise self-control, let them marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion.”*
- 1 Corinthians 7:28-- *“if you do marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned.”*
- 1 Timothy 3:4-5-- *“one who rules his own house, having his children in submission with all reverence (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?)”*

6. **1 Corinthians 13:1-3**

“Though I speak with the tongues of men and angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass and a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.” (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)

Gift# 24 -- Voluntary Poverty

Gift# 25 – Martyrdom

7. **Mark 16:17-18**

“And these signs will follow those who believe. In my name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up the serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.” (Mark 16:17-18)

Gift# 26 – Exorcism

Gift# 27 – Physical Protection

(Purpose of the “Sign” Gifts? To confirm the validity of the message and the genuineness of the messenger.)

- Mark 16:19-20-- *“So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.”*
- Acts 2:22 -- *“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know.”*
- Hebrews 2:4-- *“But God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His will.”*

B. The “Gift List” Personalized-- How to discover your gift!

1. Explore the possibilities.
2. Experiment with as many as you can.
3. Examine your feelings and desires.
 - Matthew 7:11-- *“If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!”*
 - Psalm 37:4-- *“Delight yourself also in the Lord, and he shall give you the desires of your heart!”*
 - Philippians 2:13-- *“For it is God who works in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.”*
4. Evaluate your effectiveness
5. Expect confirmation from others