

# How to Discover Your Spiritual Gifts

## Part II

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Good morning Lighthouse! Welcome to “Show Your Love Sunday” here at Lighthouse Baptist Church.

Today we continue with our series on how to discover your spiritual gifts.

Show Your Love Sunday is all about doing something special to express our love for each other as we go about learning to love one another like Jesus told us to.

I think you will discover that today’s message actually fits that theme very well.

This message series is about how that YOU; who are born again, believing, children of God, can actually discover your real spiritual gifts and actually practice those gifts to become exactly what God intended you to be.

Our text for this series begins in Romans 11:29 where we read that

**Romans 11:29** For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

Our text continues all the way through to near the end of chapter 12, where we read in

**Romans 12:6** that we have **gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us...**

It is these twelve verses in the middle that reveal to us how to truly discover our spiritual gifts.

We learned last week that both our gifts and our calling of God are irrevocable. We saw with great evidence that God is not going to remove His calling from your life.

Nor will He revoke the gifts that supply you with the strength, the talent, the opportunities or the actual resources to carry out and fulfill your calling of God.

We read in chapter 11:29 that **the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.**

From there to what we read in chapter 12:6 **Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us...** are three specific sections of scripture that reveal to us the plan, purpose and the process of discovering our spiritual gifts.

**Romans 11:29 - 12:8**

29 For the gifts and calling of God *are* without repentance.

- 30 For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief:
- 31 Even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy.
- 32 For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all.
- 33 O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable *are* his judgments, and his ways past finding out!
- 34 For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counselor?
- 35 Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again?
- 36 For of him, and through him, and to him, *are* all things: to whom *be* glory forever. Amen.

- Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service.
- 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.
  - 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.

- 4 For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:
- 5 So we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.
- 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;
- 7 Or ministry, *let us wait* on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;
- 8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, *let him do it* with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that showeth mercy, with cheerfulness. .

In Part I we began to see God's plan for us; our calling; for the fulfilling of which He provides the necessary spiritual gifts. Today we will examine:

## **II. The Purpose of the Gifts and Calling of God.**

**Romans 11:36** For of him, and through him, and to him, *are* all things: to whom *be* glory forever. Amen.

*A. Starting out, I have to ask you a question:*

1. Since we now know that this verse is being used to explain to us the purpose of our spiritual gifts; it becomes obvious from the content of these statements that all things;

including our spiritual gifts; are ultimately about the Lord and for the Lord's glory, not for us.

2. Like it tells us in

**Colossians 1:16** For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, **and for him:**

3. My question is this: Is that OK with you?

4. Is it OK with you that everything in your life; everything about your Church, what you do for a living, where you go, what you say, who you choose for your friends, what you receive from God...is it OK with you that all of that be about the Lord and for the Lord and not about you?

5. Let me explain what I mean. Every Sunday here at Lighthouse, we have a good number of first time guests; most of which are looking for something for themselves or their family (and that's a good thing.)

6. Let's say you are here looking for a Church with a great children's ministry; you want a Church that has lots of stuff for your kids. (And we do have lots of great stuff for the kids.)

7. But, there was a day we did not. Someone had to say, "OK Lord, we will be a part of

building a great children's ministry; we give you ourselves to make this happen for your glory."

8. We are talking about the difference between all of this being about us and for us – and all of this being about Jesus and for Him.

9. We are talking about the difference between Lighthouse being a feel-good Church and a real Church.

10. We are talking about the difference between desiring gifts from the Lord to be consumed upon ourselves or gifts to be used for Him.

11. In the Bible, faith means trust; do you trust Jesus? Do you trust Jesus enough to obey the next verse:

**Romans 12:1** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is your reasonable service.*

12. Do you trust Jesus enough to say, "Here I am, use me however you want; give me what you want me to have; I trust you; I am OK with that!" And then be totally happy with your decision?

*B. First of all, your gifts and calling of God really are "of Him."*

1. There is much we can learn from simply the nature of a gift.

2. example: We know a gift is free; otherwise it is not a gift.

3. We also know that unlike giving our kids on Christmas what they instruct us they want, a real gift is chosen by the giver, not the recipient.

4. Because we are “of Him,” it is God who decides what our calling will be and it is God who decides how to equip us with the various spiritual gifts necessary to fulfill that calling as well.

5. Are you sure you are OK with that? You say you trust Jesus but are you sure you trust Jesus enough to choose those things for you?

*C. Secondly, your calling will be fulfilled, accomplished, completed, effected and realized **through** Jesus.*

1. **John 15:5** I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

2. **Philippians 4:13** I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

3. Have you asked yourself, “Why does God want me to do this thing to which He has called me or is calling me?”

4. He could certainly do it without me; right?

5. Why does God need me; John the Baptist said that God could make the rocks cry out in praise to God (probably easier than getting some of y’all to do it.)

6. It is true; God doesn’t “need” us at all...but He has chosen to do all of this with us and through us because He loves us.

7. Your talent, your determination, your character, your abilities, the resources that God provides for you to fulfill your calling; these are wonderful gifts from God.

8. But the greatest spiritual gift of all is the presence of the Lord as we together, through Him, go about doing what He has called us to do.

9. **1 Corinthians 3:9** For we are laborers together with God...

10. The very idea that the creator of the universe wants to involve Himself with us; that He desires fellowship with us; that He wants us to be a part of what He is doing even though none of us are worthy; has got to be the greatest privilege there is this side of heaven!



12. Are you are OK with that? I am very OK with that.

*D. Finally, the benefit, the glory, the reward; all that is accomplished and gained from the fulfillment of our calling goes “to Him!”*

1. Are you OK with that? Are you sure?

2. It means that Jesus gets the credit, not you.

3. It means that even if your name is on it (and it may not be) it will be in really small print and Jesus will be in big print.

4. It means you will fulfill your calling in and of and through the Church, not out there on your own.

5. When sinners get saved, we are commanded in scripture to baptize them (and obviously they are commanded to be baptized.) This is how folks become members of the Church. If you already have a proper baptism and God leads you to become a part of Lighthouse, you will be accepted as a member based on your scriptural baptism.

6. Why is this so important? I am a Christian; why do I need to be a member of the Church?

7. In the final lesson of Basic Bible Truths, we have a section explaining this:

a. Down the road in Galveston, there is a wonderful hospital for children; it is the Shriners Hospital for Children Burn Center.

b. It is a great work; they provide the best medical treatment in the world for young burn victims and pay for it all themselves; there are actually a number of these centers all over the country.

c. No one could deny that this as a wonderful work; but **who gets the credit? Who gets the glory?** If you go on their website, they will tell you all about the men behind it and how wonderful they are; and I do not disagree.

8. Here at Lighthouse, we operate a burn prevention center. If you are around here a while, you will meet the men behind it; but none of us have ever kept a single soul out of hell; only Jesus can do that!

9. You see, **a real Church is the only organization on earth where Jesus gets all the glory and not men;** that is why your calling must be fulfilled in and of and through a real Church.

**In Conclusion:**

Are you OK with that?

In two weeks we will present the third and final message of this series. You will get to see the actual process of discovering your very own spiritual gifts; you are not going to want to miss it.

The process begins by obedience to

**Romans 12:1** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is your reasonable service.*

The first step of this is to present yourself for membership in the Church, the Body of Christ; either by baptism or by letter or statement if you are coming from a Church of like faith.

Are you OK with that?