

Spiritual Gifts in the Work of the Church



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College Hill Reformed Presbyterian Church

Where & How Are You Serving?



CHRPC Draft Ministry Plan

Presented Spring 2011



- Worship
- Fellowship & Community
- Nurture
- Service
- Outreach & Evangelism

Why are YOU here? Why are WE here?



Ephesians 4:15-16

“...speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”

Why Are You Here?

- We are living stones placed carefully and specifically here - in relation to the Cornerstone
- We are purposefully placed and equipped
- What are your gifts?
- How is God developing your gifts?
- Where are your gifts applied at CHRPC?



YOU ARE HERE!

Primary Passages to Learn About Spiritual Gifts?



- **Romans 12** (A Living Sacrifice)
- **I Corinthians 12** (Spiritual Gifts, One Body Many Members)
- **I Corinthians 13** (Love)
- **I Corinthians 14** (Prophecy and Tongues)
- **Ephesians 4:1-16** (Unity in the Body of Christ)
- **I Peter 4:7-11** (Stewards of God's Grace)

Let's Read Some of These Passages

Romans 12:1-13



I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

Building A Table of Gifts – Rom. 12:1-13



“For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”

WHAT GIFTS?

- Prophecy
- Ministry
- Teaching
- Exhortation
- Giving
- Leadership
- Mercy
- Hospitality

HOW EXERCISED?

- In love
- Diligence
- Fervent
- Rejoicing
- Patient
- Prayerful
- Liberality
- Cheerfulness

I Corinthians 12:1-31



Read from pew bibles – page 1219

Building A Table of Gifts – I Cor. 12:1-31



“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.”

WHAT GIFTS?

- Wisdom
- Knowledge
- Faith
- Healing
- Miracles
- Prophecy
- Discernment
- Tongues
- Apostles
- Prophets
- Teachers
- Helping
- Administering
- Interpretation

HOW EXERCISED?

- In honor
- Modestly
- w/o division
- Caring
- Rejoicing
- In love (Chap. 13)

Building a Gifts Table – I Cor. 14:1-40



“Pursue love, but earnestly desire the spiritual gifts...But all things should be done decently and in order.”

WHAT GIFTS?

- Prophecy
- Tongues
- Encouragement
- Consolation
- Interpretation
- Knowledge
- Teaching

HOW EXERCISED?

- In love
- Building up
- In prayer
- In praise
- Thankfully
- Decently
- In order

Building a Gifts Table – Eph. 4:1-16



“there is one body and one Spirit...One Lord one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all...But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift.”

WHAT GIFTS?

- Apostles
- Prophets
- Evangelists
- Shepherds
- Teachers
- Equipping
- Faith
- Knowledge

HOW EXERCISED?

- Humility
- Gentleness
- Patience
- In love
- In Unity

Building a Gifts Table – I Pet. 4:7-11



“Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.”

WHAT GIFTS?

- Hospitality
- Speaking
- Serving

HOW EXERCISED?

- Self-Controlled
- Sober-Minded
- Earnestly
- w/o Grumbling
- As Stewards

What Are the Spiritual Gifts?

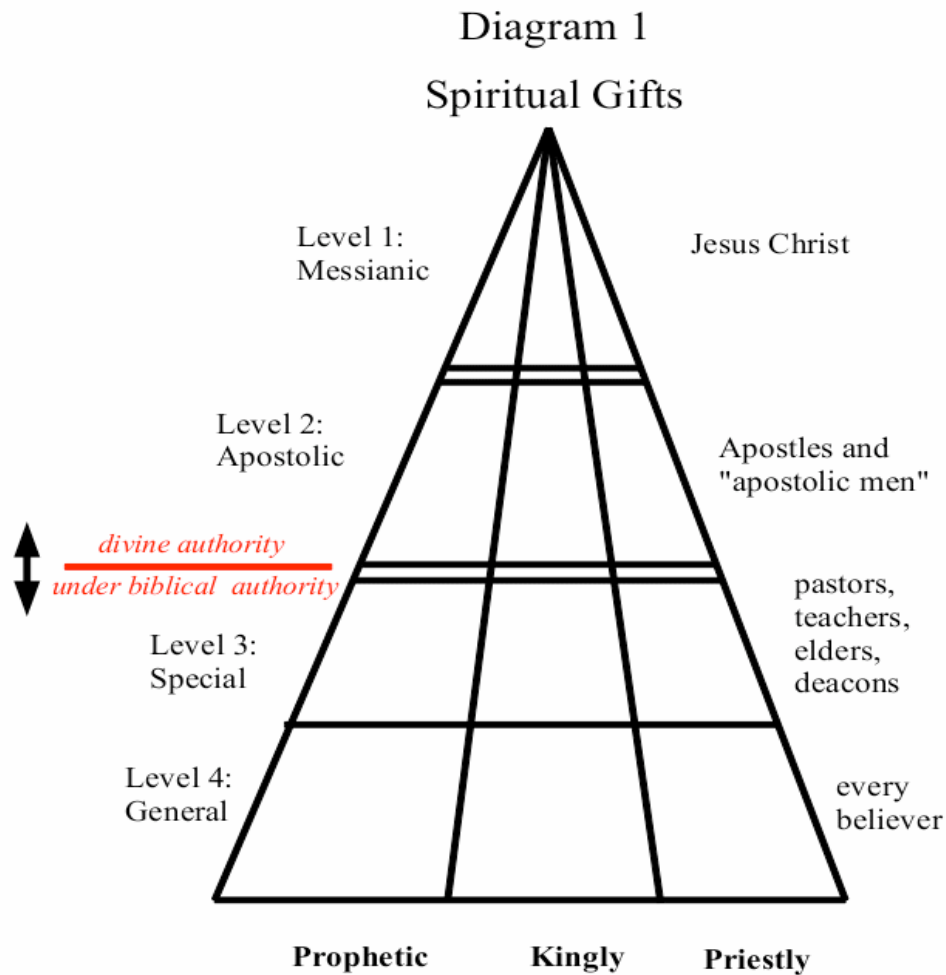
- Administration
- Discernment
- Encouragement / Consolation
- Evangelism
- Faith
- Giving
- Healing
- Helping/Serving
- Hospitality
- Intercession
- Knowledge
- Leadership
- Mercy
- *Miracles
- Prophecy
- Shepherding
- Teaching/Exhorting
- *Tongues
- Wisdom

How are Gifts “Spiritual?”



- They are gifts from God’s Spirit, bestowed and apportioned in some measure in every believer
- They are refined and sustained in us by the Holy Spirit
- They are focused by the Holy Spirit on matters other than ourselves
- They are specially applied to the work of the church by the Holy Spirit
 - Dimensions of these gifts are uniquely and effectually applied to Kingdom work by the Holy Spirit
 - While we may have gifts that can be used in our secular pursuits, these gifts are more purposeful when applied to kingdom pursuits
- They become beneficial to others through the Holy Spirit
- They are sharpened and refined the more they are used in Kingdom work
- They honor and glorify God, uniquely, when they are used in Kingdom work

Dr. Vern Poythress' Spiritual Gifts Model



- Messianic
- Apostolic
- Special Office
- All Believers

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- Wisdom

How and Where Do We Practice Spiritual Gifts



- In our place wherever we are day-by-day and in response to real needs and opportunities
- Spiritual gifts are only truly employed in a spiritual life
- They are not turned “on” and “off”
- They grow out of and are connected to/enhanced by our God-given natural abilities and talents
- They are enhanced by the fruit of the Spirit (Christian virtues) throughout the process of sanctification
- They typically compliment and correlate to our vocation
- They are given for the building of Christ’s church and cannot/must not be withheld
- They are recognized and appreciated by other kingdom workers – and together we work as one body
- Spiritual gifts are never more “spiritual” than when exercised in the work of the church and blessed by the Spirit

Spiritual Gifts & Fruit of the Spirit – What & How



Love

Peace

Patience

Perseverance

Humility

Gentleness

Goodness

Faithfulness

Joy

- Administration
- Discernment
- Encouragement
- Evangelism
- Faith
- Giving
- Healing
- Helping/Serving
- Hospitality

Kindness

Self-Control

- Intercession
- Knowledge
- Leadership
- Mercy
- *Miracles
- Prophecy
- Shepherding
- Teaching/Exhorting
- *Tongues
- Wisdom

Fervent

Diligence

Meekness

Temperance

Longsuffering

Earnest

Thankful

Zeal

Holy

Charity

How Do We Discern Our Spiritual Gifts

- Area(s) of Interest and/or Willingness
- +
• Understand & Embrace the Mission
- +
• Sense of Call
- +
• External Affirmation
- +
• Proven or Emerging Ability



Opportunity
or Need

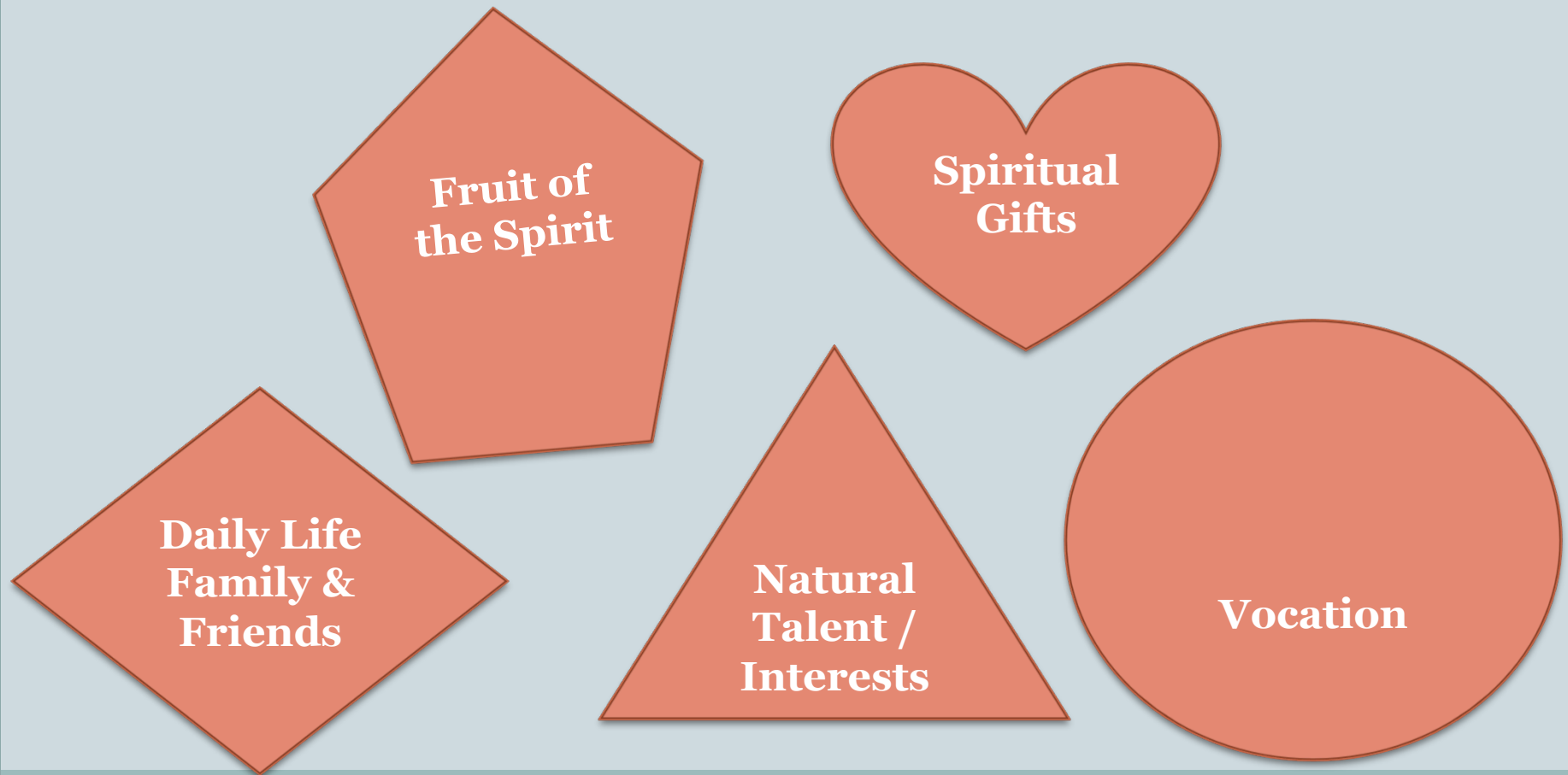
Spiritual Gifts Specifically Described

- Administration
- Discernment
- Encouragement / Consolation
- Evangelism
- Faith
- Giving
- Healing
- Helping/Serving
- Hospitality
- Intercession
- Knowledge
- Leadership
- Mercy
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- Wisdom

How are Spiritual Gifts Distinguished from Vocation, Natural Talent & Fruit of the Spirit?

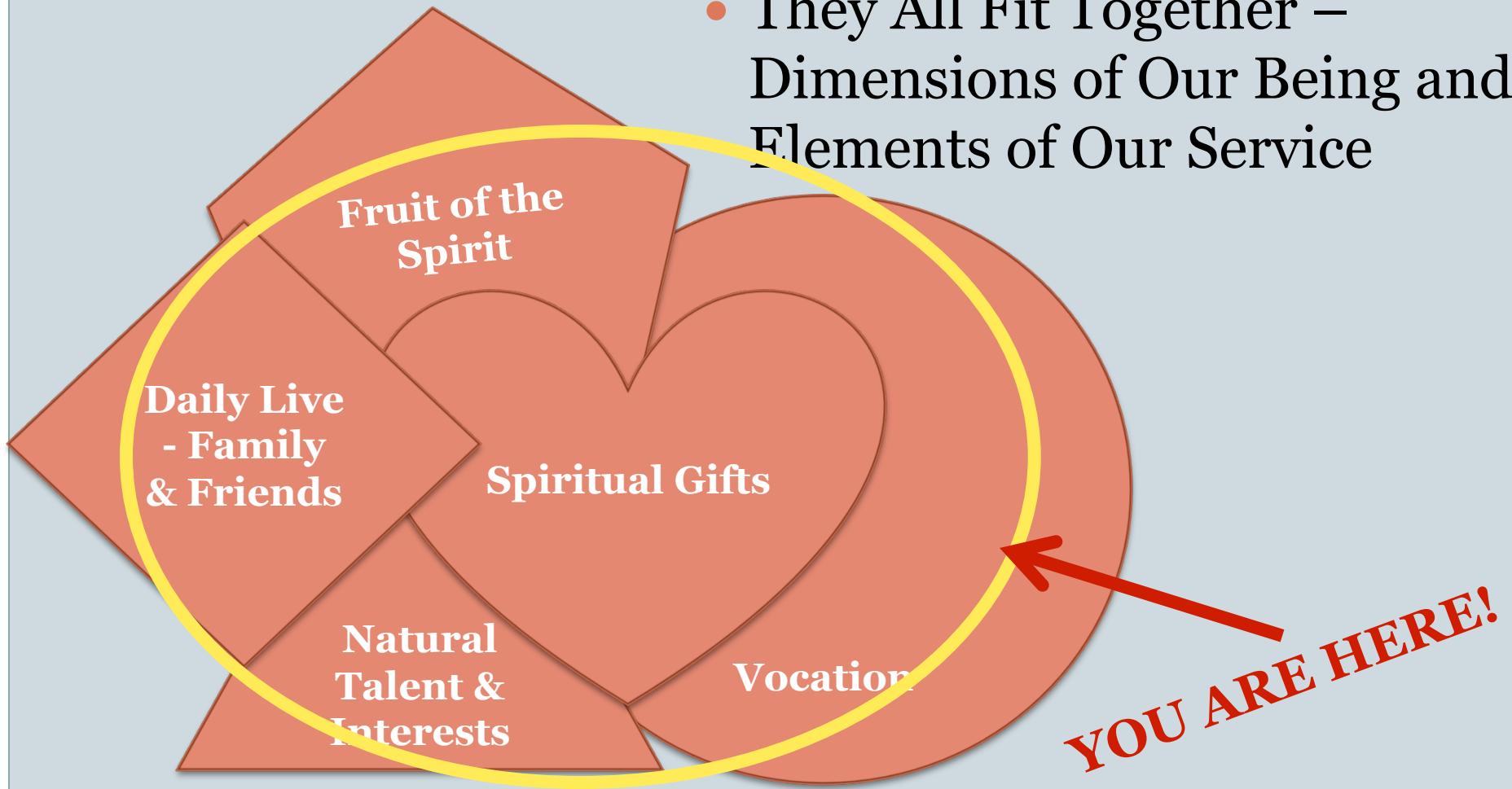


- They Aren't Floating, Segregated Components of Life



How are Spiritual Gifts Distinguished from Vocation, Natural Talent & Fruit of the Spirit?

- They All Fit Together – Dimensions of Our Being and Elements of Our Service



Personal Mission – **Deo Vivere** – Living To God (The Braided Life)



- Living in Your Context - **Venture**
- Exhibiting Fruit of the Spirit – **Virtues**
- Performing Daily Calling & Duties– **Vocation**
- Employing & Pursuing Spiritual Gifts – **Vitality**
- Working for Christ in the Church – **Victory**



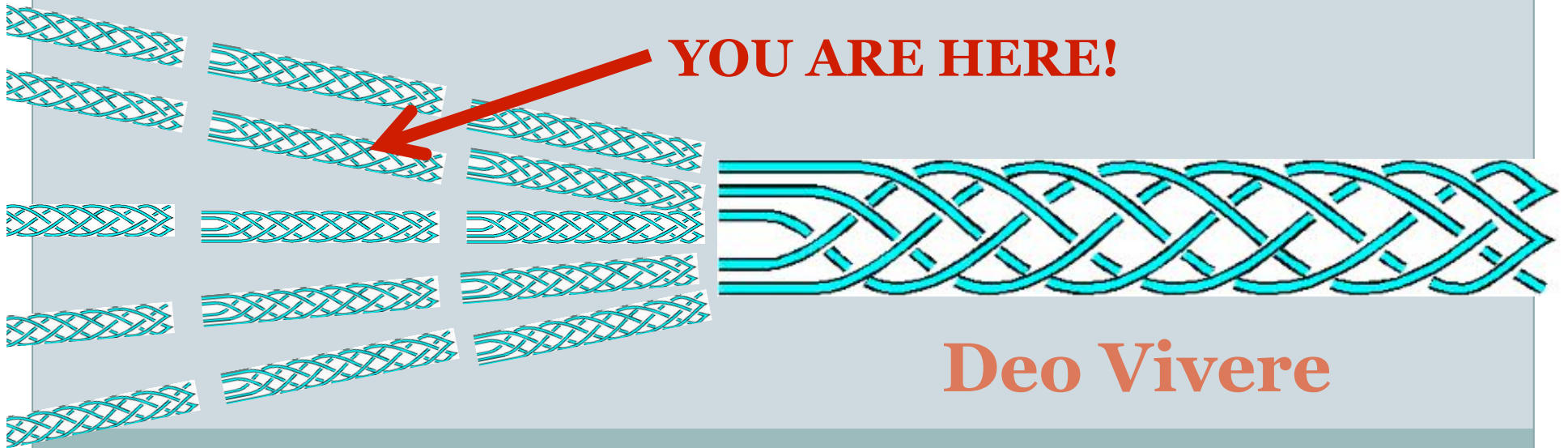
YOU ARE HERE!

- William Ames' 'Marrow of Theology' – “Theology is the doctrine or teaching of living to God (deo vivere)”
- Theology – more than a book, class or field of study – it is a way of life
- Vive Deo Et Vives - Motto of Scottish Clan Craig – “Live for God and You Shall Have Life”

Then We Are Braided/Fitted Together Into the Church – As the Church



- **Ps. 127: 1** Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.
- **I Cor. 12:12** For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.



Deo Vivere

Spiritual Gifts

- Administration
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- Wisdom

Summary Thoughts



- To say someone is incomplete w/o a particular gift is to deny God's apportionment
 - True for pastors, elders, deacons, members
 - True for younger and older members alike
- We are not to falsely assign more value to one gift over another (The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you.")
- Everyone called to faith in Christ is apportioned a measure of God's Spirit and is equipped with gift(s)
- Some are merely unaware of the gifts they are exercising, but others are uninterested in the exercise of gifts
- Each of us has the obligation to contribute our gifts to the work of the church and in pursuit of good works
- Let's work to define, refine and deploy our collective gifts – together

Questions About Spiritual Gifts - Discussion



- What is a “gift?” What are “spiritual gifts?”
- Are all gifts spiritual gifts?
- Does every believer have a gift? Multiple gifts?
- Is our “gift” the same as our calling and vocation?
- What is different about those gifts given to believers compared to those given to every man?
- How is “gift” distinguished from “ability”, “interest” or “talent”?
- How are spiritual gifts distinguished from common (or natural) gifts?
- How are spiritual gifts distinguished from fruit of the Spirit?
- How are we to know that we have a particular gift?



Final Class on May 13 – What to Expect?



- Briefly discuss each of the NT gifts
- Assess our individual gifts – take inventory
- Look at the work of CHRPC (Ministry Plan Summary)
- Align our individual gifts with CHRPC initiatives
- Recommit ourselves to the work of Jesus Christ at CHRPC through the use/application of our gifts
- Final discussion
- Commitments – Why You Are Here!