

## ENABLED TO SPEAK, ENABLED TO SERVE Ephesians 4:11-16

1. God has given all of His children **“the gift”**.
2. God has given all of His children **some gifts**.
  - a. **Sign** Gifts - The sign gifts were **authenticating** gifts or gifts of **credential** for first century Christians to authenticate their message.
  - b. **Speaking** Gifts (1 Peter 4:11) - The speaking gifts are divinely imparted abilities of **communication** for the purpose of audibly spreading God's truth.
    - i. **Apostles** - The meaning of the word apostle is simply **'sent ones'**.
    - ii. **Prophets** – He is a **proclaimer** of a message.
    - iii. **Evangelists** - It is that person who is able to find an opening in **personal** and in **public** ways to tell the good news.
    - iv. **Pastors** (shepherds)- The gift given that combines several gifts needed for the **care and teaching** of a body of believers.
    - v. **Teachers** – The teacher is delighted to study and learn so that he can **explain** and **instruct** others, either one-on-one, or in a group setting the wondrous truths of God's Word.
    - vi. **Exhortation** – Exhortation is the gift of encouragement, **comfort** and motivation.
    - vii. **Wisdom/Knowledge** – Wisdom is the **judicious** use of knowledge meant to **edify** and not tear down others.

- viii. **Discernment** - This is the ability to differentiate between **truth and error**; between false and true teachers.
- c. **Serving** Gifts (1 Peter 4:11) – 'Ministry' is the act of rendering **service** or **helping** perhaps individually or in a group effort to meet needs in the body of Christ (Rom. 12:7; 1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:12). Here are some basic qualities or gifts that show up in 'servants':
  - i. **Faith** (1 Cor. 12:9) - This is **extraordinary** faith for the supplying of needs or to carry on under **insurmountable** odds.
  - ii. **Mercy/Compassion** (Rom. 12:8) - A self-explanatory gift which is the gift that we all **really need**.
  - iii. **Giving with simplicity** (Rom. 12:8) – not **duplicity!** The gift of giving is no doubt linked to the gift of **gaining**.
  - iv. **Leadership** (ruling) (Rom. 12:8) - Leaders rule, govern and **motivate** people to work in unity.
  - v. **Administration** (1 Cor. 12:28) – they **organize** people. They help people stay on task.
3. The essential requirement concerning spiritual gifts is **availability** (Rom. 12:1-2).

Is your all on the altar of sacrifice laid?

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