**Week 4 – Gifts of the Spirit**

**Purpose:**The special feature of the empowering work of the Spirit in the book of Acts is the way it recalls the prophetic work of the Spirit in the Old Testament. Pentecost made the church into a prophetic community, living already in the powers of the coming age. This prophetic anointing is manifest in diverse gifts of the Holy Spirit (charismata – from which we get the word “charismatic”). As we enter the dimension of the power of the Holy Spirit for service, we receive a diversity of gifts, including faith, prophecy, and healing. It is important that we understand what these gifts are, how they work, and how they enable us to announce and demonstrate the kingdom of God.

**Objectives:**

* Spend time looking at the list and reviewing the spiritual gift chart mentioned from the various New Testament passages.
* Discuss the Vineyard perspective of Spiritual Gifts given to an individual. Determine how and to whom the gifts are distributed, and what are not the qualifications of spiritual gifts given to an individual.

**Overview:**

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| **Text** | **Gift** |
| **1 Corinthians 12:8-10**  **List of 9** | A message of wisdom |
| A message of knowledge |
| Faith |
| ***Gifts of healing*** |
| Miraculous powers |
| **Prophecy** |
| Distinguishing between spirits |
| Different kinds of *tongues/languages* |
| The interpretation of *tongues* |
| **1 Corinthians 12:28-30**  **List of 9** | (Apostles) |
| **Prophets** |
| [Teachers] |
| Miracles |
| ***Gifts of healing*** |
| Helping |
| Guiding |
| *Speak in tongues* |
| *Interpret tongues* |
| **Romans 12:3-8**  **List of 7** | **Prophesying** |
| Serving |
| [Teaching] |
| **Encouragement** |
| Giving |
| Leading |
| Showing mercy |
| **Ephesians 4:11**  **List of 4** | The (Apostles) |
| **The Prophets** |
| The Evangelists |
| The pastors and [teachers] |

Two other texts are *Hebrews 2:3-4 and 1 Peter 4:10-11*.

Overall, the prophetic, the teaching of the word, and healing, most often characterize what happens when charismatic gifts are released among the people of God. This was the anointing that was on Jesus and which came on the church through succession. When the Holy Spirit comes on the church, it perpetuates Jesus’ ministry of words and works through the scattering of endowments amongst his people.

These lists are **not** meant to be exhaustive. Other possible gifts are:

1. Worship *(Psalm 150:3-5; 1 Samuel 10:5; 2 Kings 3:15; 2 Chronicles 25:1-2; 1 Corinthians 14:26).*
2. Intercession *(Acts 4:23-31; 16:25-28).*
3. Hospitality *(1 Peter 4:9).*
4. Craftsmanship *(31:3; 25:31-33).*
5. Celibacy *(1 Corinthians 7:7; Matthew 19:12).*

Here at Vineyard, **we believe**:

1. Gifts as “workings” or “manifestations of the Spirit,” possible at any given moment through any Christian. These are more directly supernatural, sovereignly given by the Spirit.
2. Gifts that certain people “have” in the local church because they are often used in a certain gift. Some of these, like serving, giving, and showing mercy, seem to be possible through choice and commitment.
3. Gifts as given by Christ for the benefit of the whole church.

Here at Vineyard, **we don’t believe**:

1. Gifts are linked to personality traits. As John Wimber states, *“God does give us our unique personalities, so they are, in that sense, gifts from God. But spiritual gifts as I am discussing them are independent of personality traits...* *nor are they discovered by research or study, but sovereignly given by God’s grace through us to others.”*
2. Gifts are given to special core group of people who are just super gifted. Our goal, in Wimber’s words, *“is to equip the church to be full members in the army of God. “Everyone can play.”*

**Discussion:**

* Discuss any experience you might have had in seeing the gifts in operation, in your own life, or through others. Take time to share some stories.
* What do you observe from looking at the various gifts lists in the New Testament? Are these lists meant to be exhaustive or carefully defined?
* Vineyard theology does not agree with two popular views (gifts as personality traits that you “have” and gifts as super-offices). Do you agree or disagree? How have you seen this play out in other Christian circles?
* Are you ready and available to be used by God in a gift of the Holy Spirit? Or have you disqualified yourself by thinking that you are not a gifted “personality” or a super public ministry?
* Apostle Paul says, *“eagerly desire the gifts of the Spirit” (1 Corinthians 14:1)*. Spend time in prayer, asking that God will increase your desire, and release gifts to you. Pray the same prayer for the others in the group.