

CHRIST and the CHURCH



PART 8

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BODY BUILDING (Ephesians 4:1-16)



Every believer has been given a special ability by God to build up other believers who are part of the body of Christ, the church. As you read through this passage ask yourself "how am I building up the body?"

Key Verses

"This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men. It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up..." Ephesians 4:8, 11-12

WHAT ARE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

Definition: Spiritual gifts are special endowments given by _____ for the purpose of _____ of Christ, the church. The following table lists spiritual gifts:

Ephesians 4:11-12	Romans 12:3-8	1 Corinthians 12:1-11, 27-31
apostle evangelism pastor prophecy* teaching	exhortation giving leadership mercy prophecy* service teaching	administration apostle discernment faith healings* helps knowledge miracles* prophecy* teaching tongues/interpretation* wisdom

(*) Note: These gifts are often called "miracle gifts." There are four views as to whether or not they are for today; the Cessationist view, the Pentecostal view, the Charismatic view, and the Third Wave view. To better understand these four views readers are encouraged to read, "Are Miracle Gifts for Today: Four Views," by Wayne A. Grudem, general editor.

SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

- Principle #1: There is diversity and purpose in spiritual gifts
- Principle #2: We are accountable to Christ for the use of our spiritual gifts
- Principle #3: You need other believers and other believers need you
- Principle #4: Every believer has at least one gift
- Principle #5: They are to be discovered
- Principle #6: Unity of the church body results from their usage
- Principle #7: Gifts are manifested in varying degrees of strength

FIVE BARRIERS TO USING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT(S)

	Some Christians don't use their spiritual gifts because they simply didn't know about them or how to use them.
	When people focus on their own weaknesses instead of the Lord's power, they don't feel capable of accomplishing His work.
	A sense of unworthiness due to past sins may cause believers to mistakenly believe that they have been disqualified from service to the Lord.
	Some Christians let fear keep them from serving instead of seeing failures as opportunities to learn and improve.
	If people aren't concerned for others, they're unlikely to serve them.

HOW TO DISCOVER YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT(S)

- Make yourself neutral. Avoid predetermining what you believe your gift might be
- Ask God to reveal his appointed gift to you
- Explore your desires. God not only appoints but he provides the motivation and desire to serve
- Experiment with possible ministry areas to see if that is what God would have you to do
- Look for confirmation from others. When this happens, give all credit to God
- Remember, discovery may take time so be patient and let the Lord lead you



EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF USING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT(S)

- You experience the joy of knowing that God is working through you in a special way
- You realize that you are an instrument in the hands of God
- You become part of the whole, like the many gears in a well-oiled machine
- You become a contributor to the building-up process of the church
- You discover that you have a unique way of edifying others, and glorifying God