

Many churches are filled with people who approach church life as if they were at a ball game.

What Are Spiritual Gifts? Four main passages speak directly of them:

Romans 12:3-8

1 Corinthians 12:1-31

Ephesians 4:7-16

1 Peter 4:10-11

A working definition: "Abilities that God has granted to Christians for the edification of others in the body and the evangelization of those outside of the body" (p. 146).

Yet note well: Spiritual gifts never allow us to neglect our basic responsibilities as a Christian (Public Worship; Private Worship/Personal piety; Service; Witness; Giving/stewardship), as if I could say, "I'm just not gifted in that area."

Who Gives Spiritual Gifts?

^{NKJ} **Romans 12:6** Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us...

^{NKJ} **1 Corinthians 12:11** But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

^{NKJ} **Ephesians 4:7** But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

^{NKJ} **1 Peter 4:10** As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

Why is it important to view your spiritual gifts as coming from God? What difference will this make in your attitude towards them?

To Whom Have Spiritual Gifts Been Given?

John 3:34-35 - "There was only one man who ever walked the earth who had every spiritual gift in the greatest degree" (p. 151).

Every Believer has some indispensable giftedness (1 Cor. 12:14-27)

Yet, not all Christians have the same giftedness

Why do some believers think that [they] do not have any spiritual gifts?

Why Are Spiritual Gifts Given?

Why to leaders? Ephesians 4:11-12 - A specialized role of equipping.

Why to members? Ephesians 4:16- Note how p. 156 fleshes this out in a practical way.

1 Peter 2:9

What Are the Results of Using Our Gifts?

Care of the entire body

Unity and love in the body

Maturity and wisdom in the body

Effectiveness as the body

How Can We Discover Our Spiritual Gifts?

1. Study the Bible - There seem to be two basic categories of spiritual gifts:

Word gifts and Deed Gifts

2. Pray

3. Examine your motives

4. Evaluate your abilities -Make a list: "Can Do" "Have Done" "Doing Better" "Want to Do"

Resonance...the A string verse the E flat

5. Ask others

6. Take opportunities to serve

7. A word of caution about "Spiritual Gift Surveys"

A Final Reminder - Ephesians 4:7-8

My Abilities

Can Do	Have Done	Doing Better	Want to Do