



Central Peninsula Church

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Spiritual Gifts: Expression of Christ in You

SERIES: *Understanding the Church*

Good morning. I always love coming here. This is such a joy for me to get to be here with you. It's always like being with family for me. And this morning we're going to be talking about a very important topic...the topic of spiritual gifts. And I want to begin our discussion by asking each of you to think about one question, and you can think about it kind of throughout the morning as we study these things. The question is this, Do I experience joy in my life? See, I think all of us who have come to faith in Jesus Christ felt the compelling love of God drawing us, but deep in our heart there was a yearning for joy.

You know, I have wondered about biblical joy for years. And as I was studying this and thinking about this I was asking the Lord, "Lord, what is a good definition of joy?" Here, I think, is a good definition of joy that is biblically rooted. Joy is that wild thrill that God is doing something and you are right in the middle of it. So think about Jesus on the night before He died. You know, Jesus was the most amazing figure to me in part because in His last discussion with the men that He loved the night before He died He articulated tremendous joy. The writer of Hebrews says that, "It was for the joy set before Him that Jesus went to the cross." And that night around that dinner table when all the other men were feeling deeply discouraged, Jesus was telling them about joy. Three times in John 16 He said, "**I am doing this so that your joy may be made full.**"

So Jesus understood that joy was when God is doing something and you are right in the middle of it. And I've got to tell you how this practically works out for you and me is in the area of spiritual gifts. I've been studying this for years, and I finally got this connection; that the whole reason I get so excited about this is that there is a deep connection between understanding and developing and wrapping your life around your spiritual gifts and personally experience the fullness of joy that God has for each of us. So that's what we're going to talk about today. And I'm up here with my sleeves rolled up because we've got a lot to cover in a very short amount of time and we've got to get very practical about it. Here's what we're going to do this morning. We are going to study in summary overview form the four passages in the New Testament that deal with spiritual gifts. We're going to outline them. We're going to go through them. I just want to give you a smattering, a

taste, of these things. And then I'm going to tell you a story about how this practically works out, and that's what our morning is going to be about.

I want to begin with the definition of what spiritual gifts are. Spiritual gifts are supernatural abilities invested in believers by the indwelling Holy Spirit by which the living Christ inside expresses His love through us to others. If you're taking notes, you're probably driven nuts by the length of that, so I'm going to read that again. Spiritual gifts are supernatural abilities invested in believers by the indwelling Holy Spirit by which the living Christ inside expresses His love through us to others. You know, if you want your life to be about the love of God, if you want your life to be an extension of His love to others, then I cannot more strongly encourage you to embark on this incredible journey of knowing what your spiritual gifts are.

How do we understand what the Bible says about this? I want to give you one basic mnemonic device, one thing to trip your memory. There are four passages in the New Testament that talk about this. There are two 4s and two 12s. The two 4s are 1 Peter:4 and Ephesians 4. The two 12s are 1 Corinthians 12 (and that goes all the way through 14 actually. It's a rather long section) and Romans 12. How do you remember this? When you're thinking, okay, Dorm says it's important to go find my spiritual gifts, I want you to start with the scriptures. I want you to know the two 4s and the two 12s. Now, turn with me to 1 Peter 4. And we're going to look at verses 7-11. I'm going to read 7-9 and then we're going to jump to 10 and 11.

"The end of all things is at hand; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer. Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaint. As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. Whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever services, let him do so as by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."

This is an interesting passage. When Peter was writing, he was writing to a group of believers that were under severe persecution. They were called aliens living all around Asia Minor, and he wrote this letter to give them hope amidst suffering. And this section here is actually the end of his marching orders to them of how to live with hope in a very dark time of persecution. If you look through 7-9, he is basically saying, all of you living in these times when the end of all things is at hand, all of you have some universal Christian responsibilities to be of sound judgment, have a sober spirit for the purpose of prayer, above all to keep fervent in your love for one another because love covers a multitude of sins, be hospitable to one another without complaint. Now this section describes what all believers are called to. These are universal Christian responsibilities. These are different than spiritual gifts because spiritual gifts are individual gifts by the Holy Spirit given to the believer. So this is one of those interesting definitional passages. That's why I began with 1 Peter 4:10-11 because it's really definitional material. There are universal Christian responsibilities, one of which is hospitality. Sometimes I hear people say, well, I have the gift of hospitality, and I always think, wait a minute, we're all supposed to have that particular gift because we're all called to be hospitable one to another. Then he gets to verses 10 and 11. And verses 10 and 11 give us two great definitions. They give us the definition of how you characterize spiritual gifts in terms of speaking gifts and serving gifts. More importantly, they give us the two paramount goals in using spiritual gifts. First goal is in v. 10. **“As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another.”** Using your spiritual gifts is about serving others. That's goal number one. Goal number two, look at verse 11. **“Whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves, let him do so as by the strength which God supplies; so** (here's the purpose clause, here's the great goal) **in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.”** So in 1 Peter 4:10-11 we learned the proper goals of using spiritual gifts which is to serve others and above all to glorify God. This is all about our focus. It is not about ourselves. It is about Him and it's about others.

Back in the early days of radio in the United Kingdom, the very first time the radio was being deployed to transmit a message from the king to the people was a Christmas message from King George V of England. And of course, you know, the engineers were working with new technology. Seconds before that message was to go out, one of the engineers in Buckingham Palace found that a vital wire had been

severed, and he looked at the wire and he got nervous and he realized he had no time to repair the wire. Considering the message from the king to the people to be more important than his own life, that engineer just stood there holding in his hands the spliced wires as his hands burned as the current went through his body, the message from the king to the people. And folks, if God has given you the spiritual gift of speaking, that is what your life is about right there. A message from the king to the people, and it's more important than your own life, and in fact it will demand your life. That may be telescoped down into a single moment like it was with that engineer who gave his life that day or it may be the giving of your life over a lifetime. But see, it is all about what the king wants and how that will be literally ministered right through you to others. He considered the king was doing something very important that day, and he was literally right in the middle of it, and that's the way it's going to be for those who have speaking gifts, and by the way, also the same for those of us who have serving gifts. So the proper goals of using spiritual gifts are to serve others and to glorify God. So that's our first 4; 1 Peter 4.

Now let's look at our first 12, which is 1 Corinthians 12. Turn with me there. One thing we will not, unfortunately, be able to do is read all of 1 Corinthians 12, 13 and 14. It's an enormous section. This is the largest, most complete treatment of the subject. If you don't want to read four passages, and you just want to read one, read 1 Corinthians 12, 13 and 14. In this section Paul is writing to a wild group of party-ers who became Christians. This is the wildest church in the New Testament. These guys were highly emotional. They got so excited about miracles and tongues and healings and all these things, that sometimes they forgot that the point is not the miracles, it's the miracle-working God. And so Paul wrote to them specifically saying to them in the first verse of chapter 12, **“I don't want you to be ignorant about these spiritual things, these spiritual gifts.”** And here's the outline of this. In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul describes these spiritual gifts as the orchestration of the body...different believers given different spiritual gifts...some apostles, some prophets, some teachers, some have a gift of miracles, some have gifts of healing, some speak with tongues, some interpret. And then he gives the metaphor of the body in 1 Corinthians 12.

So in 1 Corinthians 12 there are basically three truths he describes. He says first of all, these gifts come from one spirit. They are really rooted in

the Holy Spirit. You have to be a believer to have spiritual gifts, and being a believer means being indwelt by the Holy Spirit of God. Second of all, it's one spirit but various gifts. Each one is a gift, and each one in the body plays a crucial part. Then there's chapter 13, the famous chapter about love. This falls right in the middle of Paul's description of spiritual gifts because spiritual gifts are all about God's love being expressed through individual members of the body and the body as a whole to other members of the body. It is all about love, the love of God flowing through us to others. Look at 1 Corinthians 13:1-2. He says,

“If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy, and know all the mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.”

Love is absolutely the proper pursuit of the gifted. It's all about serving in love. And then in 1 Corinthians 14, he gives us the proper purpose of the gifts which is really to edify the whole body and to glorify God with services that have harmony and order. There is a perfect correlation between 1 Peter 4:10-11 to serve others and glorify God and 1 Corinthians 14 which is about edifying others, building them up, serving them and doing so in a way that is harmonious and honors God. When you look at 1 Corinthians 12-14, you basically see a description of a body of believers working together, orchestrated by the Holy Spirit in a way that glorifies God and is an awesome picture of what the church is supposed to be like.

I'm a big baseball fan. And I'm also a big Barry Bonds fan. And one thing that I've noticed in the last couple of years watching Barry Bonds go on this big home run terror, is that my love for baseball started to come into my business experience. And whenever our team does really well, I say, guys, we hit the ball out of the park. That's a metaphor for success. But you know what, if you follow sports at all, you will find out that most surveys say that the single most difficult thing to do in all of sports is to hit a home run in the major leagues. Because see, the entire part of your body has got to function perfectly for that ball to go over the fence. You're supposed to step into it. If you step out just a little bit, guess what? You're going to foul the ball off. You're supposed to have both eyes right on that ball all the way into the bat. If you take even one eye off the ball, you're going to miss it. If you pull your head, you'll miss it even worse. If your elbow drops just a little bit, guess what? The bat will come down like this, it will be a pop fly and it will never clear the fence. If you're holding the grip too tight, your wrists won't break at just the right moment. Literally, every part of your body has got to be right there,

and I've got to tell you, when you're watching and you watch somebody like Barry Bonds, everything comes together, and those eyes are locked right there on that wrist, and that ball leaps off that bat and it goes over the fence...the entire body working perfectly. And you know what, that's just baseball.

What about when God pitches an opportunity to a body of believers and everybody works together and hits it out of the park with an eternal purpose as we're going to see in this story in a few minutes. See, 1 Corinthians 12-14 is about a body working just beautifully together. So we've got our first 4 (1 Peter 4) and first 12 (1 Corinthians 12). Now let's look at our second 12, Romans 12:1-8.

The church at Rome was world renowned. It was much more stable than the wild Corinthian church, but the problem is the Romans had a little bit of an issue with self importance, because they were in Rome and all roads led to Rome, right? And so Paul writes to them and he describes the proper attitudes in using spiritual gifts. In Romans 12:1-8, I'm just going to start here with 1-2.

“Therefore, I urge you brethren by the mercies of God to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. For through the grace given to me I say to every man among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ and individually members one of another. And since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let each exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; or he who gives with liberality; he who leads with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.”

There are three basic attitudes here. Verses 1-2, it is the foundational attitude of saying, Lord, I am available for you to use 24 and 7. Second attitude is that everybody else in the body is more important than I am. It is an attitude of profound

humility. And the third attitude is that when God gives you an opportunity to serve, you serve wholeheartedly. You go for it. Because God is doing something important, and you're going to get to be right in the middle of it, and that's exciting. The first time I studied this material back in the early 90s, I studied it with a marine who was about to be deployed to the Gulf War, and his unit was being trained for battle in the field. And as I was studying through this, I said, look at Romans 12:1-2. This is about being available to God 24 and 7 at a moment's notice. And I watched this marine's eyes glisten and then light up. He said, "That's just exactly what we're training for." And then he told us about the different levels of ready status in the military. And did you know what the highest level is? It's called Ready Status, and it is when you're ready to drop whatever you're doing at a moment's notice when your commanding officer says, "It's time to move..." morning, noon and night. And I've got to tell you, that is what the Lord wants from us. When our commander in chief, Jesus Christ, wants to use us, what's the attitude? Ready, available, here we are Lord, and that's exciting stuff. So that's our second 12.

I'm just kind of giving you a smattering of these things because I really want you to go back and study these things for yourself and even sign up for the spiritual gifts class that's coming up if you get the chance, because these things are important. Now let's finish this out with our last 4 so that we've got our two 4s and our two 12s.

The last section is Ephesians 4:1-16. This is 1-3.

"Therefore, I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

What he does in the rest of chapter 4 is describe a working church, the way a church is supposed to be, and there are three sections to this. It talks about the unity of the spirit and the seven bases for unity in a local church. Then he talks about the variety that results from people having individual spiritual gifts. And then in the last section he describes how, when the body is coming together in unit with a variety of gifts, unity plus variety leads to maturity in the body of Christ. Ephesians was a circular letter written by Paul to all the churches in Asia Minor to provide a framework for church life, and he talks about spiritual gifts at a crucial juncture in that very important circular letter. So in the New Testament, two 4s and two 12s...1 Peter 4, Ephesians 4, 1 Corinthians 12 and Romans 12.

Now right about this point you might be saying, Dorm, aren't you blowing this out of proportion a little bit?

How important is this topic, really? Let me tell you how important it is in the New Testament literature. Most scholars would say that the two most important books that Paul wrote were Romans and Ephesians. Both of those books have a virtually identical outline. The books are two-part books basically. In Romans 1-11 and Ephesians 1-3, Paul describes everything that God has done in history and for us personally to bring about our salvation. It is everything God has done for us. In the second half of Romans in 12-16 and in Ephesians 4-6, Paul covers the topic. **"In light of what God has done for us, how should we then live?"** So the first half is very theological about what God has done...the second half is what we're to do as a result of that and what God has called us to. And did you know that in both of those books, as soon as Paul turns to the practical, and he starts talking about how should we then live, immediately he talks about spiritual gifts in Romans 12:1-8 and in Ephesians 4:1-16? How important is this for the practical outworking of your Christian life? It couldn't be more important in the New Testament, hugely important.

I want to talk about how this practically works out and I want to tell you a story. You can now sit back. We've done all the biblical stuff. I'm going to tell you a story, very detailed, about something that happened as a true event, and it just illustrates a lot of the principals that we just talked about in summary form.

The story begins with my wedding back in June of 1985, 18 years ago. Praise God that Blythe and I have had 18 years of marriage. We invited, at that wedding, one of my wife's roommates, Dana Harris, to be the greeter and the wedding book coordinator for our wedding. Dana was more than happy to serve, having the spiritual gift of serving, and she decided to buy a new pair of shoes to be in the wedding. She bought the shoes and served beautifully in the wedding. Some years later, God opened the door for me to become a pastor at PBC and I worked in college ministry. I was working in leadership with some of these guys at this church. One of them was a guy by the name of Doug Owens, one of the pastor teachers at PBC, and he asked one of the wise older members of the body to think about the current state of PBC down in Palo Alto and write a letter to the elders about what that church needed. The man that Doug spoke to was a guy by the name of Lambert. Lambert spent two or three months praying and thinking about this, and he wrote a letter to the elders and he said, "You know what our church needs. Our church needs to pray more." Lambert also gave me a copy of the letter. I read it. It was

very encouraging to me and I gave it to my wife Blythe to read. And she sat down to read the letter on a Saturday morning down in Palo Alto.

All that's background information. Here's where the story begins. After reading Lambert's letter that Saturday morning, Blythe spent some time out on our patio praying. Blythe has the spiritual gift of faith. That means that God uses her in prayer in a mighty way. It's like he gives her sight of things, and she prays in the spirit in a mighty way. So, she was out there praying on the patio and here is what her prayer went like. She said, "Lord, Dorm and I rarely seem to be in a place to take in the truly needy people in our society mainly because of my fears. Please help us to change Lord and be people who often feed the poor and house the homeless so that our Christianity will not be hypocritical as our children watch us live it out." That was Blythe's prayer. Unknown to Blythe, another woman was praying to God at roughly the same time in a different part of Palo Alto that Saturday morning.

The woman's name was Debbie. She was in her late 30s, had two children and because of various illnesses, she had become homeless, living apart from her children in a wooded area near a large shopping center down in Palo Alto. She was living with a homeless young man named Todd. Now Todd's basic attitude was, nobody should have to work in the summertime in the Bay Area. This is a perfect time to sleep outside. That was Todd's attitude! Todd was homeless by choice; Debbie was homeless by unfortunate circumstance. Both struggled deeply with alcoholism and spent a good deal of their time drunk. This was perilous for Debbie in particular, who had a history of life-threatening grand mal seizures. On that Saturday morning Debbie had awakened from a fitful night's sleep outside. She felt incredibly vulnerable sleeping outdoors whenever she had to sleep outside rather than being in a shelter, and she rarely slept on those nights because of the overwhelming vulnerability. That particular morning Debbie reached a point of desperation. She wasn't feeling well physically. She was deeply appalled at where her life had ended up, and so she resorted to prayer. And her prayer went something like this, "Lord, please send someone who can help me. I don't want to live this way anymore."

That Saturday night for dinner, Blythe and I decided to try something new. We got out the Weber. We bought a whole bunch of different kinds of sausages and a whole bunch of different kinds of mustards, and we were going to barbecue all these different sausages and have them with different kinds of mustards. I highly recommend this, only our problem that night is that we bought way too many sausages! It was just Blythe and

me and our little ones. And so, as we were cleaning up I was looking at this huge plate of sausage in my hand, and I was thinking to myself, "Lord, we got a lot of food left over." And I remember as I was putting that in the refrigerator, because Blythe had left and had to run to the store to get something, and she asked me to clean up, and I said, "Lord, I wonder if you're going to bring somebody for dinner tonight." I put it away and didn't think about it.

Meanwhile, about 9:30, I was finished cleaning up and kind of thinking about my next day. You know, when you're a pastor, Sunday is your biggest workday of the week, and I was thinking this will be great. I'll be in bed by 10:00, everything will be wonderful for tomorrow. About 9:45 Blythe comes walking through our front door followed by Todd and Debbie. Now what had happened was this. At the shopping center that Blythe had gone to while I was cleaning up, she was walking in the shopping center, getting a couple of things at about 9 o'clock and Todd walks out of the bushes and asks Blythe to give him some money, and Blythe, as her fears kicked in, said no. And she remembered the prayer and the spirit of God was working and she said, "But what can I buy for you?" And Todd starting talking and pretty soon Todd introduced Debbie to Blythe because Debbie needed some womanly supplies, and they didn't have any money for it. And so pretty soon one thing led to another and Blythe and Debbie went in, they bought all the stuff and, where you guys sleeping tonight, out in the bushes and so Blythe said, "Well come home. We've got dinner for you. We've got a place to sleep." So she brought them into our house.

I've got to tell you, I'd love to say that I had this godly perspective as everybody walked in. But you know, I'm thinking, great, this is Saturday night, facing my busiest day and then the Lord said, you know, come on Dorm, this is what I'm about. And so sure enough, we got out the sausages and we fed them dinner. It wasn't long before we kind of divided them up, and I was sitting there talking with Todd. This is where I found out his philosophy of life. I shared Jesus Christ with him and Todd kind of nodded, but Todd was not very interested, because everybody should sleep outside in the summer in the Bay Area was Todd's philosophy.

Now, Debbie on the other hand, was so primed to hear about Jesus Christ that night. So Blythe, who has the spiritual gift of being an evangelist, walked back with her to the back room. Blythe just said, "Debbie, you were praying for someone to help. Let me tell you the only one who can help, really, and his name is Jesus Christ, and I

want you to take time tonight, and I want you to pray, and I want you to invite him into your life to have a fresh start tomorrow.” So Blythe was sharing with Debbie, and Debbie was soaking up every word. After these talks were over, dinner had been finished, Todd and Debbie went and showered, they went to bed and we prayed for them as they were going to bed, that they would both find new life in Jesus Christ.

The plan the following morning on Sunday was for Debbie to come to church with us, attend the college class where I was teaching, and then I and one of my brothers in that ministry would take her up to her mother’s house in Pacifica so that she could start a new life up there. On the other hand, the plan with Todd was for him to get up with me in the morning, and I would give him bus fare to ride the bus down to San Jose to check into a detox center. So early that morning at around 7:00 a.m. I took Todd to the bus station near where he had first met Blythe, and I left him there. Then I went back to our house to pick up Blythe, Debbie and the kids and we went to church. While I had been taking Todd to the bus station, Blythe had called her old friend Dana Harris to bring over some shoes for Debbie to wear since they both wore the same tiny little shoe size. So when Dana came over to our house that morning, she brought the very shoes she had worn in our wedding and gave them to Debbie because Debbie didn’t have any shoes to wear to church that day, and then Dana zipped off.

Later that morning, I had asked my brother Gerald, one of the guys in ministry with me, to take Debbie to the church service while I was up in the college room getting everything prepared. Gerald was great. He took Debbie under his wing and ushered her through the entire morning. And I watched him, and he was so sweet with her and so gentle...this young man who was an ROTC officer in training in college, just kind of taking her through the morning. Well, when college class started, Gerald and Debbie came up, and Debbie told me, “I’m not feeling very good.” We ushered her to a seat. Pretty soon we start the class, start singing *Our Hope is Built on Nothing Less*, we were all singing, Gerald was up there playing the guitar, and I heard from the back of the class a deep moan as Debbie went into a full body seizure. She was not convulsing, but her entire body was stiff and blood was starting to drip out of her mouth. Now I’ve got to tell you, this is a ministry for which I was totally unprepared. I was going, “Oh, Lord, what are we going to do?” But Gerald was perfectly prepared. Somehow, through all of his training and everything, he just took over. He knew exactly what to do. He rolled her over on her side, put something in her mouth so she wouldn’t bite her tongue, and then he leaned over her and he called gently, “Debbie Debbie.” Meanwhile, all sorts of things were going on. Somebody went downstairs to call 911, a

doctor from downstairs came up, and the doctor was ministering to her. Before long, the ambulance arrived, and I asked Gerald, “Gerald, can you go to the hospital with her and I’ll meet you there as soon as class is done.” So that’s what happened.

I had not spoken to Blythe since early that morning, and if I had, I would have heard the incredible news that, when Debbie awoke that morning, she told Blythe and the children that she had opened her heart to Jesus Christ and had asked Him to live in her life and to have a new start. I had no idea that that had happened. As the ambulance was coming and everything, Blythe came and she told me this, and I got totally excited. Ron Richie showed up at the same time. Now, when you tell Ron Richie that somebody came to Christ, you want to talk about excitement! I mean, Ron was going nuts. And the rest of that morning was spent in a body life time where Ron went back into the main service and led the whole congregation in a prayer for Debbie, and there was just incredible body life time. And I went and I led at the college group the same kind of body life time in praying. Now, when class was over, one of the students that worked closely with me, he and I drove over to the hospital to see Debbie and to relieve Gerald. We went to the emergency area, but nobody was being admitted. They wouldn’t let us in. So, I went and I withdrew some money to give to Debbie, and I wrote a note to her to have her please contact us when she could, so that I could come and see her. Well, as I was about ready to give the orderly the money and the note, he said, “Wait a minute. Are you her pastor?” and I said yes, so he let me in. We went and we had this incredible time of prayer together about her new life in Jesus Christ. I gave her the money that she needed and then took care of all of the arrangements for her to get up to Pacifica, live with her mom and get a new life started. After determining that everything was fine and that Debbie was taken care of, my friend Gerald and I and this other brother (who I’ll call brother X) went out to lunch. On the way to lunch Brother X looked at me and he said, “Dorm, how much did all this cost?” And I started tallying it up, you know, the replacement shoes for Dana, bus fare, money to get to Pacifica and gave him a number and he said, “I’d like to cover the whole thing financially.” And you know, when I was done with this whole process, I sat back and I thought, “Lord, look at what you did. Here’s a woman in the dark, saying, “Please Lord, send somebody to help me.” And I want you to consider the love of God working through so many people to just surround her with arms of love. And I want to show this power point demonstration to illustrate this.



What I love about that particular story is that this is just one example of the love God poured out for one person. You know what, these little spiritual gifts maps, you could do a million of them right here at Central Peninsula Church. This is just the way God works through his people. And the question that I want to come back to now for you is the very question we asked at the beginning. Do I experience joy in my life? What about you? What does God want to do through you to serve others, to honor Him and to enter you into a joy that is a joy of your master, a joy that He wants to be made full in you? Amen and Amen.

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