

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully. Romans 12:3-8

What was the best gift you ever received as a child? Why was it so special? How did it make you feel?

Take a moment and reflect on the truth that God, in his grace, has granted you a spiritual gift(s) as well as a "measure of faith" to exercise that gift. How does that make you feel?

Paul tells us to think of ourselves with sober judgment. What does that mean? Are you prone to think too high of yourself or too low of yourself? Why?

In what way is the church like a body? What are the implications of this in terms of how we relate to one another?

What are the specific gifts mentioned in this passage? Look also at the following passage and list whatever other spiritual gifts there are:

- 1 Corinthians 12:4-11
- 1 Peter 4:7-11
- Ephesians 4:11

There is a great deal of debate and controversy over what are commonly called "sign gifts," such as the gifts of tongues, interpretation of tongues, healing, miracles, etc. You might find it helpful to read and discuss CPC's White Paper called, "Are We a Charismatic Church? Part Two: The Gifts of the Holy Spirit."

What are the differences between spiritual gifts and natural talents? Do you feel God can use both in his service? Why or why not?

In 1 Corinthians 13, Paul warns that using our spiritual gifts apart from love is useless and even harmful. Have you ever seen this happen? If so, how?

Do you feel our spiritual gifts stay the same throughout our life, or might they change through time? Explain.

What gift or gifts do you feel the Holy Spirit has given to you? Can you think of a time when you have used that gift? How did that go, and how did that feel?

What is the balance between focusing on using our spiritual gifts and simply serving in response to a need?

"You are unique, unreproducible, and irreplaceable. In all the universe, there is no one who looks exactly like you, thinks your thoughts, or feels your feelings. Above all, there is no other Christian in the world who is equipped and gifted like you. Within you, permeating your being, is a uniquely designed pattern of spiritual gifts. The body of Christ needs you and the gifts the Spirit has uniquely bestowed upon you." Ray Stedman

Discovering your spiritual gifts and the ministry God has called you to is a process. Discuss the following:

What do I love to do? If God has given you a gift, you'll be passionate about doing it. It will be your sweet spot. It won't feel like serving; it will feel like doing what you're made to do. It's like Eric Liddell said in *Chariots of Fire*, "I know that God has made me fast, and when I run, I feel his pleasure."

What needs do I notice? Some have put it this way, "When you look at the church or the world, what makes you pound your fist on the table?"

What am I good at? You may have to develop your use of your gift, but somewhere along the line, you'll find you're good at it.

What do others say? God gives us gifts, not for ourselves but to build up the body, so ask others, what do I do that builds you up? Spiritual gifts are always discovered in community.