

The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 85

*Spiritual Gifts:
What are they?*

Everything God does Fulfills a Need or Meets a Purpose



2015

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

If YOU have never personally believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, you have the opportunity to do so right NOW. Simply tell God the Father that you believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, who loved us so much that He came down from heaven and became a man to take our place and pay for the penalty for all the sins of all mankind. Jesus, the Savior died on the Cross for your sins and the sins of the whole world. Then Jesus was buried but He rose again and He is alive today seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven. When you make the decision to believe in Jesus in simple faith based on His work on the Cross, you are now a believer and will always be a child of God. When you die, you will spend eternity with Him in Heaven. *(Acts 16:31) "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." (John 3:16) "God loved the world so much that He gave is One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."*



LESSON

What is a spiritual gift and when do you receive it? A spiritual gift is a gift that we receive from God so that we can serve Him and others. God the Holy Spirit assigns or gives EVERY believer a spiritual gift at the moment we believe in Jesus Christ as our personal Savior.

When you heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ:

1 Cor 15:1-6 "Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. (2) By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. (3) For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, (4) that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, (5) and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. (6) After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep (died)." After you heard this wonderful "good news" Gospel you decided to believe in and trust Jesus Christ so when you die you can have His eternal life and live with Him forever in heaven. This glorifies or praises God to the MAX! This is His solution for us concerning our sins.



Okay so now you're a believer...saved! Why then have we been given our spiritual gift? And why at salvation? Well everything God does meets a need or fulfills one of His purposes.

One thing God did was to create us...the human race. And God created the human race to meet a need and fulfill one of His purposes. That need being that we were sinners and needed salvation. Remember what happened with Adam and Eve in the Garden, right? And that purpose of God's being that once we are saved we are left to serve God and others. In order to do that God assigned us a spiritual gift the minute we believed and became a new creation in Christ...His children. In other words, now our part after we believe in the Lord Jesus and His work on the cross for salvation, we are new creatures and we must follow Christ by using God's grace provisions. We are entirely new spiritually so we received abundant spiritual things like a spiritual gift and the Holy Spirit living inside us so we can learn and study God's Word...the BIBLE...every day. That way we could grow up spiritually and become like Jesus. It takes time for this to happen. Believe me, it doesn't happen overnight.



The more we study God's Word, the more we start thinking like Jesus Christ and the more we think like Jesus, the more we become like Him. As I just said, after doing this for years you become spiritually mature or grown up (this time period varies with the individual believer). You will then start realizing what your spiritual gift is and through the guidance of the Holy Spirit who lives in you, you'll start using it to serve God and others.

So another way of saying this is that we go all in for the God's grace policy. We trust in His solution for our sin problem instead of trying (uselessly) to solve it ourselves. Then we learn His Word and receive God's grace gifts as the answer to all our problems after salvation. When we go in for His grace policy, it glorifies (praises/worships) Him and proves that our God is completely awesome in every way.

The other thing is that God's grace policy for the human race is expressed...literally...in His Son, the God-man, the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. So everything we participate in to receive grace and glorify the Father happens by and through our Lord Jesus Christ. That includes using our spiritual gift, which is why Peter writes in [1 Pet 4:7-11](#), "The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and in a calm spirit for the purpose of prayer. (8) Above all, be eager in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. (9) Be welcoming to one another without complaint. (10) As each one (of us) has received a special (spiritual) gift, use it in serving one another as good keepers of the grace of God. (11) Whoever speaks is to do so as one who is speaking the words of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving God by the strength which God supplies; **so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and power forever and ever. Amen.**"

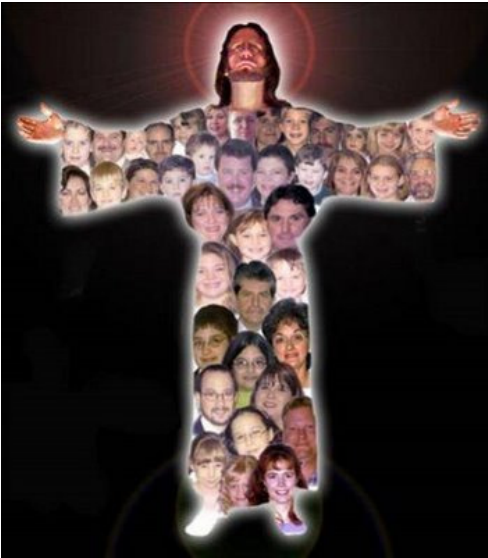
Everything that God does meets a need or fulfills one of His purposes. This is true in the creation of man. And this is true when God gives us our spiritual gifts...it meets a purpose usually towards other believers and unbelievers as well. So when we use our gifts to serve others, God is glorified or praised to the MAX through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs all the glory and power forever and ever.

Now "glory", "glorify" these are wonder words that often when we hear them we don't really get their meaning...it just doesn't register with us...especially in our souls. We really don't look for the meaning of these words either. We kind of glaze over and leave it alone, you know? But we were clearly created for God's reasons, His purposes and this glory of God thing as well. And yet if there is one grace ministry we should realize, it is HOW God is glorified! Let's look at [John 1:14-18](#) "And the Word became flesh, and lived among us, and **we saw His glory (His PERFECT CHARACTER)**, glory as of the only Son from the Father, **full of grace and truth.** (15) John testified about Him and cried out, saying, 'This was He of whom I said He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.'" (16) For of His (Jesus') fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. (17) For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. (18) No one has seen God at any time; the only Son of God (Jesus) who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him (to us in the Bible)."

He is glorified (worshipped) by BEING GRACIOUS to us and by providing EVERYTHING we will ever need to live out His plan for us...by His forgiving, and His giving, and His giving again and again. [Rom 5:20-21](#) "The Law (Ten Commandments) came in so that the sin would increase; but where sin increased, (God's) grace overflowed all the more, (21) so that, as sin ruled in death, even so (God's) grace would rule through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."



In other words, God finds it most wonderful to fulfill His purpose by fantastically and overflowing meeting the needs of His children (all believers) at the same time He proves His case against in the Angelic Conflict...Satan and the fallen angels. See how God uses us to do that? This is something only our God of grace, genius, power and sovereignty can do, kids.



I hope you see by now that spiritual gifts are all about the body of believers...the church...and the church is all about Jesus Christ! So finally, spiritual gifts are all about meeting the needs and fulfilling the purpose that God had in mind when He decided to form this amazing body called Christ and His Church.

THE place where God is at work these days is in His New Creation called Christ and His Body the Church. Jesus is the HEAD of the body and believers are the body of Christ.

[Philip 1:6-7](#)

"For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you (believers) will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus (the Rapture). (7) For it is only right for me to feel this way about you all, because I have you in my heart, since both in my imprisonment and in the defense and

confirmation of the Gospel, you all are participants of grace with me."

[Philip 2:13](#) "...for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good

pleasure." [Eph 2:10](#) "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works (using our spiritual gifts), which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them."

And the work that God provides for us in our spiritual gifts is the building up of one another.

[Rom 14:18-19](#) "For he who in this way serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. (19) So then we chase the things which make for peace and the building up of one another."

How do we do this work? We do it through our spiritual gifts. [1 Cor 16:10](#) "Now if Timothy comes, see that he is with you without cause to be afraid, for he is doing the Lord's work, as I also am."

Timothy used his spiritual gift of pastor/teacher and did the Lord's work. What was he charged with doing? Look at [2 Tim 4:1-3](#). "I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: (2) preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; scold, criticize, urge on with great patience and instruction."

The body of Christ...the church...can only function when the spiritual gifts are operating in individual believers...that's us, kids. We have to use our God given gifts to serve Christ and others. After all, what can a body do when its eyes refuse to open and its ears won't hear; when its heart stops beating and its feet don't budge; when its hands are tucked away and its joints are stiff, motionless and lifeless? Not much, right? [Rom 12:4-8](#) "For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function,(5) so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. (6) Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to use them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; (7) if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; (8) or he who urges on, in his urging on; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with persistence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness."

We are going to start with God, and go from God to us, and see how magnificent these spiritual gifts are when we understand God's purpose in giving them to us.

God's purpose

This passage in the Bible tells us God's purpose. 1 Peter 4:10-11 "As each one has received a special (spiritual) gift, use it in serving one another as good keepers of the many sides of the grace of God. (11) Whoever speaks is to do so as one who is speaking the words of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified (praised/worshipped) through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and power forever and ever. Amen."

The overall purpose of spiritual gifts is so that in all things God may be glorified through our Lord Jesus Christ who is the Head of the Body. John 17:1-5 "Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify (praise) Your Son, that the Son may glorify (praise) You, (2) even as You gave Him authority over all mankind, that to all (believers) whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life. (3) This is eternal life that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. (4) I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do. (5) Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory (PERFECT CHARACTER) which I had with You (in Heaven) before the world was.'"

The Lord Jesus Christ glorified the Father by completing the work that the Father gave Him to do on the cross. John 12:23-26 "And Jesus answered them, saying, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. (24) Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. (25) He who loves his (earthly) life loses it, and he who hates his (earthly) life in this world will keep it to life eternal. (26) If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him."



The Lord Jesus Christ glorified the Father by His work on the cross, along with His resurrection, ascension, and session into Heaven. John 14:11-14 "Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works (miracles) themselves. (12) Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father (Session into Heaven). (13) Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. (14) If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it."

1 Peter 2:12 "Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles (non-Jews), so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation."

John 15:7-9 "If you live in Me, and My words live in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. (8) My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples."

We glorify the Father through our Lord Jesus Christ by completing the work the Father has given us to do (spiritual gifts): by bearing fruit (through your spiritual gift) and proving to be Christ' disciples. [1 Peter 4:10](#) "As each one has received a special (spiritual) gift, use it in serving one another as good keepers of the many sides of the grace of God."

So as you can see by this lesson that God provides us with our spiritual gifts to fulfill His purposes for us through Jesus Christ in the Church Age in which we live. He also provides EVERYTHING we need to do that including His Word and His power from the Holy Spirit and His overflowing GRACE. Even Jesus and the Holy Spirit are praying for us right now to help us in every way to fulfill God's purpose for our lives.

Close in prayer

Prepared from Pastor John Farley's lesson on 4-11-2012
Lighthouse Bible Church
www.lbible.org

