

The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 86

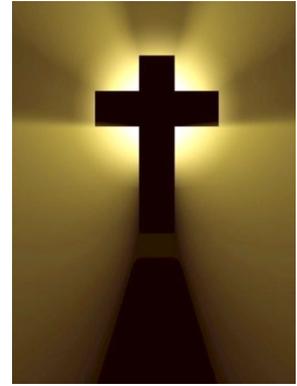
Two More Major Purposes of Our Spiritual Gifts



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

In our last lesson we learned that everything God does fulfills a need or meets a purpose and we looked at that in regards to our spiritual gifts and the purpose in general of why God gave them to us. The major purpose of our spiritual gifts is to GLORIFY God the Father. Remember Jesus glorified the Father by going to the cross and fulfilling the purpose God the Father had for Jesus on earth. After Jesus finished the work on the cross and rose from the dead, HE was GLORIFIED, too. This is what we are to do throughout our lives...glorify God.

Now we are going to look at and learn about the other major purposes that God had in regard to these spiritual gifts that we get when we are saved.

The second purpose of our spiritual gifts is to build up and edify the Body of Christ by serving one another. *1 Cor 12:7 "But to each one is given the manifestation (display, appearance) of the Spirit for the common good (of the body of believers)."*

1 Cor 14:12 "So also you, since you are very eager about spiritual gifts, seek to abound for the edification (building up) of the church."

*Eph 4:11-16 "And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, (12) for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; (13) until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. (14) As a result, we are no longer to be children (baby believers without knowledge of God), tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; (15) but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, (16) from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint (pastor/teacher) supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself **in love.**"*

The third great purpose of spiritual gifts is to lead the lost to Christ. As individuals and as one having the spiritual gift of evangelist we are to bring the glorious Gospel message of salvation through Jesus Christ to unbelievers. We should pray for opportunities to be able to personally witness to family members, friends, and people you meet in life who are lost. The Apostle Paul is talking to Timothy who has the gift of Pastor/teacher here in *1 Tim 4:14-16. "Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was given to you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you. (15) Be diligent in this matter; give yourself totally to them so that your progress will be evident to all. (16) Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, because if you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you."*

1 Cor 14:24-25 "But if an unbeliever or someone who does not understand (about the saving work of Jesus) comes in while everybody is prophesying, he will be convinced by all that he is a sinner and will be judged by all, (25) and the secrets of his heart will be laid bare. So he will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, 'God is really among you!'"

So what are you going to do now that you see these purposes regarding our spiritual gifts?

We need to ask ourselves a few basic questions whenever we are wondering about what the gifts are or how I am operating in my gift.

1. Does it glorify God and the Lord Jesus Christ?
2. Does it point to and represent the Cross?
3. Does it build up and edify the members of the body of Christ?
4. Is it used to serve others?
5. Does it lead the lost to Christ?
6. Does it promote unity and teamwork in the Royal Family in your local assembly?
7. Does it help the church to fulfill its purpose in making known the many sides of the wisdom and grace of God to men and angels (angels are always observing our behavior as Christians)?

One of the tests concerning whether or not we are operating in our spiritual gift, therefore will be whether or not we are operating with the mind or thinking of Christ, which we can only get from studying God's Word every day.

Also are we regarding ourselves as less important than others? That's humility and God loves humility in believers.

Are we readily submitting to authority? Obedient to the authority of the word of God in particular? God loves it when we obey Him and the authority He has delegated or assigned to us on earth.

Is the cross evident in our work, whereby we are laying down our life for the Royal Family? Do we put others needs before our own on a consistent basis?

Ask yourselves these questions and keep in mind what Jesus told us to do in **Luke 9:23**. "Then He said to them all: 'If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.'"

The fact that you are a student of God's Word tells God that you want to know Him and His Son, Jesus Christ and that you want to serve Him in this short life. Do it for God's glory, and for the believers and unbelievers in your life. Be a servant for Christ by using your gift.

Close in prayer

Prepared from Pastor John Farley's lesson on 4-11-2012
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