

NORTH HILLS NOTES

GOD'S MASTERPIECE: THE DESIGN

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It is He who saved us and chose us for His holy work, not because we deserved it but because that was His plan. 2 Timothy 1:9 (LB)

"Now about spiritual gifts I do not want you to be ignorant." 1 Corinthians 12:1 (NIV)

A SPIRITUAL GIFT: Is a special ability, given by the Holy Spirit to every believer at their conversion, to be used to minister to others and therefore build up the Body of Christ

4 TRUTHS ABOUT SPIRITUAL GIFTS--

1. Only **BELIEVERS** have spiritual gifts.

The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. 1 Corinthians 2:14 (NIV)

2. You can't **EARN OR WORK** for a spiritual gift.

Out of the generosity of Christ, each of us is given his own gift. Ephesians 4:7 (Message)

3. The **HOLY SPIRIT** decides what gifts I get.

It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have. 1 Corinthians 12:11 (NLT)

4. I am to **DEVELOP** the gifts God gives me.

GOD'S DESIGN IN GIVING US GIFTS IS:

A. So we can **BLESS OTHERS**.

"Each one of you, as a good manager of God's different gifts, must use for the good of others, the spiritual gift he has received from God." 1 Peter 4:10 (GN)

"The Holy Spirit displays God's power through each of us as a means of helping the entire church." 1 Corinthians 12:7 (LB)

B. So we can become **MATURE AND STABLE**.

"It was He who gave gifts to men... to build up the Body of Christ so we shall all come together to that oneness in our faith... and become mature... Then we shall no longer be children, carried by the waves and blown about by every shifting wind..." Ephesians 4:11, 13-14 (GN)

FOUR CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING SPIRITUAL GIFTS:

- Spiritual gifts are different from natural talents or "fruit" of the Spirit.

"Fruit" shows my **MATURITY**; "Gifts" show my **MINISTRY**.
(see Galatians 5:22)

- Avoid "gift superiority" or "gift envy".

What we have is one body with many parts, each its proper size and in its proper place. No part is important on its own. 1 Corinthians 12:21 (Message)

- Using your gifts without love is worthless!

"I may be able to speak the languages of men and even of angels... I may have the gift of inspired preaching... I may have all knowledge... and all the faith to move mountains -- but if I have not love, I am nothing... it does no good." 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (GN)

- You have two kinds of ministry in your church:

- Your **PRIMARY MINISTRY** should be in the area where you are **GIFTED**.
- Your **SECONDARY MINISTRY** includes serving where you are **NEEDED**.

It's easier to discover your **GIFT THROUGH MINISTRY** than to discover your **MINISTRY THROUGH YOUR GIFT**.

UNWRAPPING MY GIFTS

The Bible does not lock us into tight restrictions as to the number of spiritual gifts, or even their definitions. The four major lists of gifts are found in Romans 12:8, 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, 27-31, Ephesians 4:11-12, and 1 Peter 4:9-11 but there are other passages that mention or illustrate gifts not included in these lists. (see included list of Spiritual Gifts)

So since we find ourselves fashioned into all these excellently formed and marvelously functioning parts in Christ's body, let's just go ahead and be what we were made to be, without enviously or pridefully comparing ourselves with each other, or trying to be something we aren't. Romans 12:5 (Message)