

KEY THOUGHTS

- We have things that create ceilings in our faith. We've looked at obedience to overcome disobedience, and being a learner to overcome stagnant faith. Today we look at a transition to us being leaders.
We defined leadership as being in a posture where other people's experience takes a priority.
- Spiritual gifts: specific God-given enabling given to every believer by the Holy Spirit to accomplish ministry and build up the church.

SCRIPTURES

- Romans 12:3-8
- 1 Corinthians 12:1-31
- Ephesians 4:1-13

PRACTICAL & REFLECT

- Transition from being a puddle to a hose. Puddles only take in; hoses are conduits.
- Be active in ministry opportunities. Sometimes God uses those opportunities to uncover your spiritual giftings and passions.
- Identify your spiritual gifts and work on developing them. A well-thought tool is an online assessment at freeshapetest.com. Takes about 45 minutes and results can be seen there as well as emailed to you.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS AND DESCRIPTIONS

(partially taken and adapted from www.mintools.com):

These are assembled from three of Paul's "lists" of spiritual gifts, found in Romans 12:6-8, 1 Cor. 12:8-11, and Eph. 4:11-13.

- **ADMINISTRATION:** 1 Cor. 12:28 - to steer the body toward the accomplishment of God-given goals and directives by planning, organizing, and supervising others (Greek Word: kubernesis - to steer, guide, helmsmen)
- **APOSTLE:** Eph. 4:11; 1 Cor. 12:28 - to be sent forth to new frontiers with the gospel, providing leadership over new church bodies, as in the work of missionary (Greek Word: apostolos - 'apo'=from 'stello'=send; one sent forth)
- **DISCERNMENT:** 1 Cor. 12:10 - to clearly distinguish truth from error by judging whether the behavior or teaching is from God, Satan, human error, or human power
- **EVANGELISM:** Eph. 4:11 - to be a messenger of the good news of the Gospel with a particular effectiveness in leading others to faith in Christ (Greek Word: euaggelistes - preacher of gospel; eu=well, angelos=message - messenger of good)
- **EXHORTATION** or **ENCOURAGEMENT:** Rom. 12:8 - to come along side someone with words of encouragement, comfort, consolation, and counsel to help them be all God wants them to be (Greek Word: paraklesis - calling to one's side)
- **FAITH:** 1 Cor. 12:8-10 - to be firmly persuaded of God's power and promises to accomplish His will and purpose and to display such a confidence in Him and His Word that circumstances and obstacles do not shake that conviction
- **GIVING:** Rom. 12:8 - to share what material resources you have with liberality and cheerfulness
- **HEALINGS:** 1 Cor. 12:9,28,30 - to be used as a means through which God makes people whole either physically, emotionally, mentally, or spiritually
- **HELPS:** 1 Cor. 12:28 - to render support or assistance to others in the body so as to free them up for exercising their gifts in ministry
- **KNOWLEDGE:** 1 Cor. 12:8 - to seek to learn as much about the Bible as possible through the gathering of much information and the analyzing of that data. (See also Word of Knowledge below.)
- **LEADERSHIP:** Rom. 12:8 - to attend to the direction of the body with such care and diligence so as to motivate others to get involved in the accomplishment of goals
- **MERCY:** Rom. 12:8 - to be sensitive toward those who are suffering, whether physically, mentally, or emotionally, so as to feel genuine sympathy with their misery, speaking words of compassion but more so caring for them with deeds of love to help alleviate their distress
- **MIRACLES:** 1 Cor. 12:10,28 - to be enabled by God to perform mighty deeds which witnesses acknowledge to be of supernatural origin and means
- **PASTOR:** Eph. 4:11 - to be responsible for spiritually caring for, protecting, guiding, and feeding a group of believers entrusted to one's care
- **PROPHECY:** Rom. 12:6; 1 Cor. 12:10; Eph. 4:11 - to speak forth the message of God to His people, sometimes including foretelling of events (Greek Word: prophetes - the forth-telling of the will of God; 'pro'=forth; 'phemi'=to speak)
- **SERVICE:** Rom. 12:7 - to identify undone tasks in God's work, however menial, and use available resources to get the job done (Greek Word: diakonia - deacon, attendant 'diako'=to run errands)
- **TEACHING:** Rom. 12:7; 1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11 - to instruct others in the Bible in a logical, systematic way so as to communicate pertinent information for true understanding and growth
- **TONGUES:** 1 Cor. 12:10; 14:27-28 - to speak in a language not previously learned so unbelievers can hear God's message in their own language or the body be edified
- **INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES:** 1 Cor. 12:10; 14:27, 28 - to translate the message of someone who has spoken in tongues
- **WISDOM:** 1 Cor. 12:8 - to apply knowledge to life in such a way as to make spiritual truths quite relevant and practical in proper decision-making and daily life situations (see also Word of Wisdom below)
- **WORD OF KNOWLEDGE** – 1 Corinthians 12:8 – a God-given knowledge of details concerning a situation that would not be known outside of God's supernatural gift
- **WORD OF WISDOM** – 1 Corinthians 12:8 – a God-given insight into a situation that would not be known outside of God's supernatural gift