

Spiritual Gifts

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I. The greatest unresolved need in the church is leadership.

A. God is still giving spiritual gifts, but the Church is not in the process of developing spiritual gifts.

B. Satan has fogged the Church in terms of doctrine and dynamic of spiritual gifts.

1. Most people haven't heard that there are spiritual gifts.

2. Even fewer know their spiritual gift.

3. Even fewer are in the process of developing and employing their spiritual gift.

C. Ephesians tells us how to live a heavenly life in a hell-like world.

1. There is a major seam in the middle of the book.

a. Chapters 1-3 tell of the believer's wealth in Jesus Christ.

b. Chapters 4-6 tell of the believer's walk in the midst of warfare.

2. The whole section on the believer's walk is launched by a concentrated revelation of the place and function of spiritual gifts.

a. In Ephesians 4:1, Paul writes "to walk in a manner worthily of the calling."

1) The Greek word for worthily means "to have equal weight with."

2) Paul wants our conduct to have equal weight with our calling.

b. Paul adds this walk is to be with lowliness, meekness, longsuffering, and forbearing with one another in love. (Ephesians 4:2)

c. God gives gifts (spiritual) to men, and He gives gifted men to the Church. (Ephesians 4:3-10)

II. How do gifted men function in the Church?

A. The process of developing spiritual gifts. (Ephesians 4:12)

1. Every believer is in the ministry.

2. Every believer has a ministry.

3. Every believer is to be involved in the process of building.

4. This is the process of equipping.

B. The product of this developing process. (Ephesians 4:13)

1. Unity

2. Maturity

3. Conformity

C. The purpose of the process. (Ephesians 4:14-16)

1. Cooperation

2. Coordination

3. Completion