



## Kingdom Values - 7 SERVANTHOOD

*SERVANTHOOD - Training, equipping and enabling our members to use their spiritual gifts daily in serving God and humanity in their homes, workplaces and social circles.*

The Holy Spirit empowers believers for ministry. Each believer has been given a special gift by the Holy Spirit for ministry. *"A spiritual gift is given to each of us . . . It is the one and only Holy Spirit who distributes these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have."* (1 Cor. 12:7,11 NLT)

A spiritual gift is a special ability given by the Holy Spirit to every believer at the moment he accepts Jesus Christ. So, every Christian has at least one spiritual gift. This act of giving by the Holy Spirit is based on grace because we do not earn or deserve it, but, rather, it is given to us on the basis of the promise of Jesus. He told his disciples before He ascended to heaven, *"Wait here to receive this promise. You will be baptized with the Holy Spirit. Then you will receive power."* (Acts 1:4,5,8)

At Gospel Life, we believe that without a correct understanding and proper use of our spiritual gifts, we don't really have a church that is prepared to do God's work. What we have is a group of individuals who will be critical and envious of each other; continually involved in power games.

A spiritual gift is more than a human talent. All of us have talents, things we do well. You don't have to be a Christian to have a talent. When you become a Christian, you bring your talents with you. But they are not the same as spiritual gifts. Spiritual gifts are the sovereign choice of the Holy Spirit. You may use your talents in exercising your spiritual gifts, but the focus is not on your ability but on the blessing and empowering of God. Our primary ministry in the church should be where we are **gifted**. Our secondary ministry should be where we are **needed**.

For example, a person may have a talent for teaching. He can organize material well and explain it so well that the students benefit from the instruction. But when a person exercises the spiritual gift of teaching, you receive more than facts for the mind to store. Your heart is stirred and moved to follow Jesus. You are transformed by the Holy Spirit. In other words, spiritual gifts differ from natural talents in the results that they produce.

Contrary to what some people teach and think when you get a gift it's not for your own benefit. It's not to bless you. The gift that the Holy Spirit gives you is given to bless other people and to bless the

church. Gifts are not to make you feel good or to advance your personal agenda. They are to flow through you to benefit others beyond you. That's why it's a tragedy if you don't know what your spiritual gift is, if you are not interested in discovering what it is, or if you're not using your gift in the body. That means the body of Christ is not benefitting from your supernatural endowment.

### How to Discover and Enjoy Your Spiritual Gifts:

#### **1. Give your life to Jesus.**

Our focus must always be on our relationship with Jesus.

#### **2. Receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit daily.**

Our priority should be to get right with the Holy Spirit, because when we are right with Him, His gifts will find us. Pray to Him, "Holy Spirit, as I serve the family of God, show me how you have gifted me. Reveal to me what supernatural endowment you have given me that I can use for the common good of my brothers and sisters."

#### **3. Develop the "servant spirit" by becoming involved in meeting the needs of others and by serving in some capacity in your church.**

The discovery of spiritual gifts flows out of service, not vice versa. Worship must lead to service, and that service is possible only because of the Holy Spirit's gifts.

#### **4. Look for affirmation from the other members of the Body of Christ.**

What matters to the body is not our gifts but the personal knowledge of Christ that we convey as we use our gifts. The need is not for greater gifts but for men and women whom God can use. With the Holy Spirit, what really counts is not our ability but our availability.

The Holy Spirit has bestowed His gifts on us because God wants to accomplish His program through us. When the Holy Spirit is allowed to dominate and control our lives, He will unite the Church in love; He will empower us to exercise our spiritual gifts and to use our talents to build up our Church and to expand the kingdom of God.

You will never be fulfilled in your Christian life until you are serving God, using the Holy Spirit's special gifts. Absolutely nothing can replace the power, influence and impact of a church that is fulfilling God's agenda through the operation of spiritual gifts. When the Spirit manifests Himself, powerful things happen.