



NewLife Series
EVANGELISM, DISCIPLESHIP, MISSIONS
English, Tagalog & Cebuano Versions.

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BOOK 13

SPIRITUAL GIFTSs:
Discover, Develop, Deploy

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INTRODUCTION

ARE you asking, "How can I serve the Lord effectively and in a way acceptable to Him?"

This book will show you how – by helping you to discover, develop, and use your spiritual gifts.

The lessons, though also designed for self-study, are better appreciated when discussed with a group under a mature Bible study leader. Take up one lesson a week with your group, allotting about one and a half to two hours per group meeting.

May the Spirit of Truth himself, the Giver of spiritual gifts, be your Teacher and Guide in your growth towards usefulness and fruitfulness as you explore, express, and exercise your spiritual gifts in the Lord's service.

THREE VIEWS ABOUT SPIRITUAL GIFTS

We must be aware of THREE GENERAL VIEWS regarding spiritual gifts. Roughly, we may describe these views respectively as follows:

VIEW 1: CESSATIONIST.

Generally, this view holds that, now that the “perfect” had come, the signs and wonders gifts (e. g., tongues, interpretation of tongues, word of prophecy & word of knowledge [as impartation of new, direct, specific revelations from God today], healings, miracles), have CEASED in the sense of their having been practiced by the apostolic church. One key scripture proof for this view is 1 Corinthians 13:8-10 (KJV):

⁸ Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. ⁹ For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. ¹⁰ But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

The “perfect” is believed to refer to the completion of the Bible canon of 66 inspired books, which provide all that Christians need today without the supernatural help of signs and wonders. Admittedly, this brief description is oversimplified, but it essentially gives the idea of what cessationists believe.

VIEW 2: RESTORATIONIST

This view holds that all the spiritual gifts, particularly the signs and wonders with special focus on tongues, healings, word of prophecy and word of knowledge, were fully restored for the end times at the Azusa Street Revival. This revival (roughly from April 6, 1906 to 1915) launched the global Pentecostal movements which we find expressed today in multiplicity of groups all claiming to present the “full Gospel” (meaning, bringing all the gifts of the Holy Spirit); groups vary from classic Pentecostal churches to Charismatics (“First Wave”, “Second Wave”, “Third Wave”), the “Restored Apostolic Movement”, etc. The “Pentecostal emphasis” has found adherents within the Roman Catholic church as well as within traditional evangelical churches. Pentecostals (viewed as a movement) seem to be the fastest growing segment of the Christian church today.

VIEW 3: CONTINUIST

“Continuist” describes the view that the Book of Acts is the enduring pattern for church and Christian life during this present Church Age. The Holy Spirit came down on the day of Pentecost to be the permanent and ever-present Vicar (Representative) of Christ on earth until the Second Coming. What He enabled the Christians in the first church to do in the Book of Acts and as explicated the Epistles, He is sovereignly free to do in and through His people for His own purposes throughout all periods in church history, including our own times. Even before the “Restorationist Pentecostal era”, the history of revivals and the history of missions have recorded credible instances when various gifts of the Holy Spirit were manifested in powerful ways, proving that the gifts never ceased. We believe that “Jesus is the same, yesterday, today, and forever” (Hebrews 13:8). Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be His perfect and exact Parakletos (John 14:16-18; 16:13-15). Hence, we can equally say, “The Holy Spirit is the same, yesterday, today, and forever.” This NewLife Series is written from the perspective of View 3. However, we must keep in mind three key reminders:

- REMINDER 1:

The Bible (consisting of 66 inspired books) must always serve as the foundation, touchstone, and guide for Christian faith and practice. Any teaching or practice that clearly contradicts, adds to or subtracts from the Bible must be rejected. However, in matters where the Bible is silent or ambiguous, Christians must exercise and follow the motto: “In essentials unity; in non-essentials liberty; in all things charity.”

- REMINDER 2:

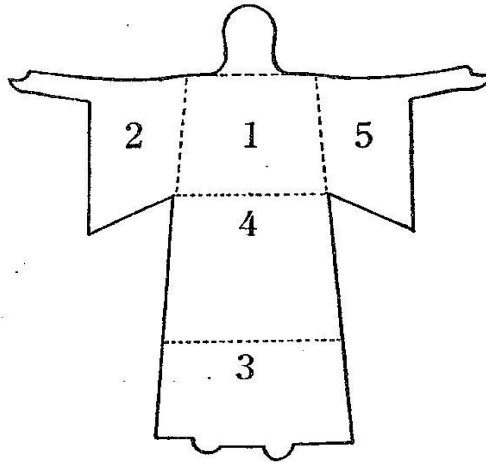
The Bible strongly warns against false prophets, deceiving spirits, and wrong doctrines; hence, it commands Christians to exercise discernment and vigilance against these threats (1 John 4:1-3; 2 Peter 2:1-3; Jude 1-25). Along with God-given GENUINE spiritual gifts, Satan will always attempt to throw in COUNTERFEITS (Matthew 13:36-43); this is particularly true with “tongues” and “prophecies” and weird animal-like behavior. False religions also report these “gifts” as part of their experience. Hence, the GIFT OF DISCERNMENT must always be exercised. The Bible gives clear instructions about the use of spiritual gifts along with warnings against their abuses (1 Corinthians 12-14; Romans 12; Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22; 1 Peter 4:10-11). Christians must faithfully follow these instructions and firmly heed the warnings.

- REMINDER 3:

Simply because there are COUNTERFEITS should never be a reason why Christians should avoid GENUINE spiritual gifts altogether. Let’s not throw out the baby with the bath-water. Rather, Christians must be challenged to thoroughly study the nature and manifestations of genuine spiritual gifts in order to exercise them as the Holy Spirit intended, while at the same time discerning and exposing and rejecting the counterfeits. Bank tellers, it’s been said, are taught to master the characteristics of a genuine dollar bill in such a way that they can immediately spot a fake one. ¹⁹ Quench not the Spirit. ²⁰ Despise not prophesyings. ²¹ Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. ²² Abstain

from all appearance of evil” (1 Thessalonians 5:19-22). It is the author’s prayer that this modest study on spiritual gifts will get you started in your exciting journey toward discovering, developing and deploying your spiritual gifts to help share the Gospel to more and more people, build up the Body of Christ, and to bring greater glory to God!

FIGURE 1
THE BODY OF CHRIST
Larawan 1
KATAWAN NI CRISTO



MEMBERS OF THE BODY COVENANT LIST
KASUNDUAN NG MGA MIYEMBRO NG KATAWAN

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

MEMBERS COVENANT LIST

#1: BREAST

#2: RIGHT ARM & HAND

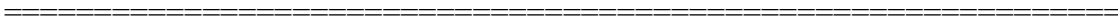
#3: THIGHS & FEET

#4: WAIST & LOINS

#5: LEFT ARM & HAND

LESSON 1

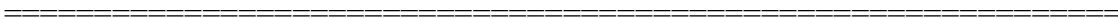
THE HOLY SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE



LEARNING GOALS

After completing this lesson, you will be able to:

- Describe briefly the truths "Christ in you" and "you in Christ";
- Explain briefly the truth that every Christian has the Holy Spirit;
- Follow six steps to the Holy Spirit-filled Christian life.



CHRIST IN YOU -- YOU IN CHRIST

1. Four wonderful truths about the Christian life will give us the right spirit and perspective for this study.

(a) According to Colossians 1:27, who lives in the Christian?

FIRST TRUTH: CHRIST IN YOU – This is the starting point of salvation and eternal life. On the day you received Christ, He came into your life; and on that day you received eternal life (1 John 5:11,12). And in John 10:10 Christ promised this life to be abundant, meaningful, useful, and exciting!

(b) According to 1 Corinthians 12:13, the Christian has been baptized (placed) into what body?

SECOND TRUTH: YOU IN CHRIST – this second truth is the starting point of discovering, developing, and using your spiritual gifts and ministry. This truth opens the door that leads to all the exciting adventures on the Christian life.

Your study leader will pass around an envelop containing five pieces of paper, which are numbered 1 to 5 respectively; each group member will pick a number from the envelop. As one envelop becomes empty, the next envelop containing similar five pieces of paper will be passed around so everybody can get a piece of paper. After everyone has taken a piece of paper, your study leader will display the Fig. 1 poster of THE BODY OF CHRIST.

2. Study Fig. 1. According to 1 Corinthians 12:13, you have been baptized (placed) into the Body of Christ. You should feel a tinge of excitement as you ask, "In what part of His Body did Christ put me?" Your answer to this question will prepare you for the next question: "Am I functioning as I should as that part of the Body of Christ?"

3. Look at the number of the paper that you picked from the envelop. Using a pencil, all who picked number 1, write your initials on the poster, in the area of Body Part #1: BREAST. The others will do the same, write their initials in the respective areas of the numbers they picked.

4. The areas of the five Body Parts in the poster represent spiritual gifts and ministries. Today you wrote your initials in one of these areas. Let's say that you wrote your initials in area #1. Can you guess what gift and ministry does this body part represent? We are not yet saying what each of the areas means, so you don't know yet if that is your gift and ministry. Later on in Lesson 6, you will write your initials again on the Fig. 1 poster after you have understood more clearly what your spiritual gifts and ministry are. The point of our illustration is this:

(a) In writing your initials on this poster, you recognize:

- that Christ has assigned you a place in His Body;
- that He has equipped you for that place;
- that He expects you to function in that place for the health and growth of His Body.

(b) In placing you into His Body, Christ has made the rest of the Body dependent on you – and He has made you dependent on the rest of the Body. If you fail, the whole Body will fail with you. If you succeed, the whole Body will succeed with you.

5. Look at Fig. 1 in your book. At the bottom of the illustration, there is a MEMBERS OF THE BODY COVENANT form consisting of five groups, corresponding to the five body part areas 1 through 5.

(a) Everybody, pass your book around to the members of the group. Using a pencil, everyone will write his/her full name in the body part area that matches the number he/she picked; for example, if you picked number 1, write your name under body part area #1.

This list will serve as our COVENANT or agreement with one another, for daily prayer for those on the Weekly Study Plan. On Monday, pray for the names listed in Group 1; Tuesday, pray for those in Group 2; Wednesday, Group 3; Thursday, Group 4; Friday, Group 5. In addition to prayer, try to fellowship with one person on your Covenant List personally or by phone during the week.

YOU HAVE ALL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

6. Please study 1 Corinthians 12:13.

THIRD TRUTH: YOU HAVE ALL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. This third truth emphasizes that Christians fully share in the life of the Body of Christ. The life of the Body is the Holy Spirit. According to 1 Corinthians 12:13, what does every Christian "drink" of?

7. To "drink" of the Holy Spirit means to receive Him. Every Christian has received the Holy Spirit. Some Christians ask: "How do I know I have the Holy Spirit?"

(a) According to Galatians 4:6 and Romans 8:15, to whom does God give Holy Spirit?

(b) The Holy Spirit begins to live in us the moment we are born again. Otherwise, what does Romans 8:9 say?

8. Without the indwelling Holy Spirit, you are not, you cannot be, a true Christian. If you are a Christian, know that the Holy Spirit lives in you. We need to emphasize this truth: When the Holy Spirit first comes into the believer at conversion, HE COMES IN AS A FULL AND COMPLETE PERSON. No subsequent spiritual experience will add more of the Holy Spirit to the believer.

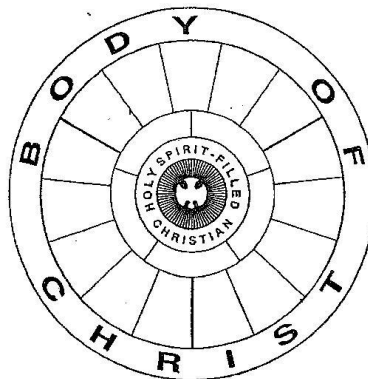
DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT HAVE ALL OF YOU?

9. A bothersome question arises: If all Christians have the Holy Spirit, how is it that so few experience the rivers of living water promised by the Lord Jesus that the Holy Spirit will give (John 4:14; 7:37,38)? Doesn't this prove that some Christians have more of the Holy Spirit, and others have less?

10. Someone diagnosed the problem accurately: You have all of the Holy Spirit. The problem is, does the Holy Spirit have all of you?

FOURTH TRUTH: DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT HAVE ALL OF YOU? This is the fourth truth that we need to understand: We must be filled with the Holy Spirit. To be filled means that the Holy Spirit controls our entire personality. The following six steps serve as a guide toward the Holy Spirit-filled life. You may have taken these or similar steps before, but it always helps to re-evaluate your life by these steps.

FIGURE 2
THE HOLY SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE



Larawan 2
BUHAY NA PUSPOS NG ESPIRITU

STEPS TO THE HOLY SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE

STEP 1: KNOW THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT LIVES IN YOU.

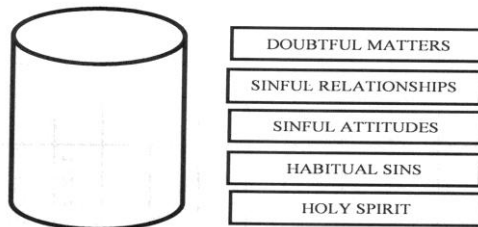
Are you sure that you have received Christ? The first step to the Holy Spirit-filled life is to thank God for giving you His Holy Spirit when you received Christ as your Lord and Savior (Romans 8:15-16; Galatians 4:6). In the space below, write a prayer expressing your gratitude for the Holy Spirit's indwelling.

STEP 2: REMOVE THE THINGS THAT BLOCK THE HOLY SPIRIT.

(a) In Ephesians 4:30, what are we commanded to stop doing?

(b) When the Holy Spirit is grieved (blocked), He cannot flow freely in us and through us. What things block the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:17-5:17)?

FIG. 2A



Let's use a simple illustration (Figure 2A): Your leader will give each one of you: (1) a PAPER CUP; (2) 5 blank strips of paper; on each strip write one of these phrases: "Holy Spirit", "Habitual Sins", "Sinful Attitudes", "Sinful Relationships", "Doubtful Matters".

The paper cup represents your life. Put the strip "Holy Spirit" at the bottom of the cup; this means that when you received Christ, the Holy Spirit came to live in you. Now, stuff the other strips into the cup; this means that these things ("Habitual Sins", "Sinful Attitudes", "Sinful Relationships", "Doubtful Matters") are blocking the Holy Spirit in your life. Before you can experience the Holy Spirit-filled life, you must remove these things from your life; you must confess and forsake all your "Habitual Sins", "Sinful Attitudes", "Sinful Relationships", "Doubtful Matters".

(c) Examine your heart in the light of God's Word. Take a separate piece of paper and write on it every sin that the Holy Spirit convicts you of.

TWO "STUMBLING BLOCK" AREAS. There are two areas which cause many Christians to stumble and which render them unfit to serve God. See below how the Lord Jesus wants you to deal with these two areas.

(c) Examine your heart in the light of God's Word. Take a separate piece of paper and write on it every sin that the Holy Spirit convicts you of.

- (1) Habitual sins.
- (2) Sinful attitudes.
- (3) Sinful relationships.
- (4) Doubtful matters.
- (5) Two "stumbling block" areas to deal with:

The Lord Jesus focused on two areas that cause many Christians to stumble. Honestly answer the questions related to each area.

- CURSING, ANGER, UNFORGIVENESS, RECONCILIATION

Matthew 5:21-25

²¹ "You have heard that it was said to those ^[d]of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' ²² But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother ^[e]without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' ^[f]shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, ^[g]'You fool!' shall be in danger of ^[h]hell fire. ²³ Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

Question 1: Do you confess and forsake the sin and habit of using curse words against people that you despise or hate?

Question 2: Are you ready to forgive and forget the wrong done to you by another person?

Question 3: Are you ready to make the first step to reconcile and mend a broken relationship with someone?

- IMPURE THOUGHTS, PORNOGRAPHY, FORNICATION, ADULTERY

Matthew 5:27-30:

²⁷ “You have heard that it was said ^[i]to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ²⁸ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ If your right eye causes you to ^[i]sin, pluck it out and cast *it* from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. ³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to ^[k]sin, cut it off and cast *it* from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

Question 1: Do you confess and forsake the sin of indulging in lustful adulterous thoughts; to confess and forsake sinful sexual habits of self-stimulation?

Question 2: Do you decide today to throw away and stop using pornographic materials (magazines, pictures, movies, online sites, etc.)?

Question 3: Do you decide today to terminate sinful relationships that involve extra-marital sexual activities?

Question 4: Do you commit today to live in sexual purity in obedience to God’s command that sex is reserved only for biblical marriage between one man and one woman?

READY FOR THE MASTER’S USE

2 Timothy 2:20, 21:

²⁰ But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. ²¹ Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, ^[h]sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.

(d) Holiness and purity are absolute requirements if you want to be used by God. For the sake of our illustration, do the following actions:

ACTION 1: Make a list of all the sins you need to confess and forsake and put your list inside the cup. This step illustrates that you recognize these sins, habits and relationships as **BLOCKAGES** to the Holy Spirit in your life and you want get rid of these.

ACTION 2: Hold up your cup to God and say a sincere prayer of **CONFESSION** of all these sins, habits and relationships and ask for God’s full **FORGIVENESS & CLEANSING** of all these sinful things through the **BLOOD** of the Lord Jesus.

ACTION 3: After making your confession, thank God and **CLAIM** His forgiveness and cleansing based on 1 John 1:9.

ACTION 4: Now, as a final action, take out from your cup the LIST of all your sins, habits and relationships, TEAR into small pieces the list and throw the torn pieces into a trash can. Now, your cup is CLEAN, and the Holy Spirit inside of you is now free to flow without any blockages.

You are ready to proceed to the next step toward the Holy Spirit-filled life.

STEP 3: SURRENDER YOUR LIFE FULLY AND UNRESERVEDLY TO GOD.

(a) Summarize Romans 12:1,2 in your own words.

(b) To be filled and controlled by the Holy Spirit, surrender every part of your life to His control. To symbolize your surrender, lift up your paper cup to God. Your life is like this paper cup. After removing the dirt that blocks the Holy Spirit, give your life (your paper cup) completely to God for His exclusive use. Take this step of full surrender by sincerely praying:

"Dear heavenly Father, I now fully surrender my whole life to You, spirit, soul, and body, all that I am, all that I have, all my relationships, and all the days of my life. From now on I am Yours alone and Yours forever. In Christ's name. Amen."

If you have prayed this prayer before, pray this prayer again to recommit your life today. After praying, complete the record below:

TODAY, I COMMITTED/RECOMMITTED MY LIFE TOTALLY TO THE LORD.

DATE _____ TIME _____ PLACE _____

STEP 4: CLAIM BY FAITH THE FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

(a) You became a child of God by asking in faith for Christ to come into your life. Similarly, you receive the filling of the Holy Spirit by asking in faith that God will fill you with His Holy Spirit. Your faith should be based on these truths:

(1) GOD COMMANDS you to be filled with His Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18);

(2) GOD PROMISES to grant your request to be filled with the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:13);

(3) GOD GUARANTEES to answer to answer prayer that is based on his will and promise (1 John 5:14,15).

(4) Pray this prayer in faith:

"Heavenly Father, You promised to give the Holy Spirit to all who ask. You also commanded me to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Therefore, I ask You now, Father, to fill me, possess me, and control me with Your Holy Spirit. By faith in Your promise and in obedience to Your command I now ask for and claim the filling of the Holy Spirit. Thank You for filling me now. In Christ's name. Amen."

If you prayed this prayer before, ask again for a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit. After praying, complete the record below:

TODAY, I CLAIMED/RECLAIMED THE FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

DATE _____ TIME _____ PLACE _____

(b) After this prayer of faith, act upon God's promise. From this moment on, always confess and declare that the Holy Spirit has taken control of your whole life. See Fig. 2. As you go about your daily tasks, always count on the presence, power, and control of the Holy Spirit. At the beginning of each day, take time to meditate on the fact that He has filled you and is filling you. As you do your work during the day, maintain the attitude of dependence upon the Holy Spirit.

(c) How about "special feelings" or "experiences"? Some Christians testify of "special feelings" or "experiences" connected to the filling or baptism with the Spirit (powerful emotions of joy, deep repentance, peace, etc.). God may bless you with them and thank God for them. But don't put your confidence on "feelings" or "experiences". Always walk by faith. Your confidence is on God's will (Ephesians 5:18), God's promise (Luke 11:13), and God's guarantee (1 John 5:14,15). Feeling or no feeling, count on the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in your life as you walk in continual faith and obedience moment by moment, step by step, doing what God shows you to do at the present moment.

STEP 5: WALK BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Read John 15:5 and Galatians 5:16-17, 22-25. To walk by the Holy Spirit means to abide continually in Christ and to live the Christ-centered life by faithfully maintaining the basic disciplines of the Christian life. Evaluate yourself with the help of the following questions:

(a) When and how much time do you give to the WORD of God through:

Hearing _____

Reading _____

Studying _____

Memorizing _____

Meditation _____

(b) When and how much time do you give to PRAYER?

(c) When and how much time do you give to FELLOWSHIP with other Christians?

(d) When and how much time do you give to WITNESSING for Christ?

(e) FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. Above all, to walk in the Spirit means to cooperate with the Holy Spirit as you allow Him to saturate you and to flow in and through your life with His nine-fold fruit (Galatians 5:22-23). Please review NewLife Book 7, Lesson 4.

STEP 6: DISCERN, DEVELOP, AND DEPLOY YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS.

This step is not a one-and-done action. Rather, this is a process involving much prayer, seeking the Holy Spirit’s guidance, and much study, following the stages below:

- STAGE 1: ACKNOWLEDGE THE THREE LEADING VIEWS
(Please review Introduction)
- STAGE 2: BEGIN WITH LOVE & SERVICE
 - (a) Make 1 Corinthians 13 as your constant guiding motivation and principle in discerning, developing and deploying your spiritual gifts.
 - (b) Consistently practice the “one another” ministries described in the HAND OF FELLOWSHIP (see NL Book 3, Lesson 4):

- STAGE 3: MAJOR ON THE NON-SPECTACULAR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Romans 12; Ephesians 4:11-16

- STAGE 4: MANAGE THE SPECTACULAR SPIRITUAL GIFTS
1 Corinthians 12-14. The lessons in this book will enable you to do this.

BEFORE THE NEXT SESSION ...

1. FOR THOSE ON THE WEEK-END PLAN:

(Break between sessions will be 15 minutes.)

(a) Pray with one or two persons in your BODY COVENANT LIST. Pray that through this course, the Lord will indeed show you your spiritual gifts.

(b) Quickly read through Lesson Two.

2. FOR THOSE ON THE WEEKLY PLAN:

(a) Take time to thank the Holy Spirit for His indwelling and to claim His fullness for yourself everyday from now on.

(b) Pray for everyone in your BODY COVENANT LIST. On Monday, pray for those under Body Part #1; Tuesday, pray for those under Body Part #2; etc. If you have time, try to fellowship with one person on your list personally or by phone; pray together (as in the WEEK-END PLAN).

(c) Study Lesson Two.

LESSON 2

WHAT ARE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

LEARNING GOALS

After completing this lesson, you will be able to:

- Define and describe spiritual gifts;
 - List twenty spiritual gifts from three key scriptures passages.
-
-

ABILITY AND FUNCTION

1. As a Christian, you have a place in the Body of Christ. Your place means two things: ability and function. Look at Fig. 1 again. Let's say, you were placed in the arm-hand area. This means you have arm-hand-ability (ability to hold) and arm-hand-function (function or duty to hold). If you were placed in the foot, you would have foot-ability (ability to walk) and foot-function (function or duty to walk).
2. In a similar way, in the Body of Christ every Christian has been given a place, and this place imparts ability and function. "Spiritual gifts" are abilities, which enable Christians to serve Christ's Body in a certain way. "Ministries" are the specific arenas of function in which a Christian will exercise his spiritual gift.

KNOW SPIRITUAL GIFTS EXIST

3. As a Christian you have the God-given obligation to discover, develop, and use your gifts. According to 1 Corinthians 12:1, what should you not be ignorant about?

4. To discover your spiritual gift, you must know that spiritual gifts exist. How do the following scriptures prove that every Christian has at least one gift?

(a) 1 Cor. 12:7,11 _____

(b) Eph. 4:7,8 _____

(c) 1 Peter 4:10 _____

5. You need to be aware of two things regarding spiritual gifts:

(a) Spiritual gifts are grace-gifts. They are not earned; you receive them because the Giver gave them to you. Grace-gifts do not give recipients the right to feel superior to others. According to Ephesians 2:8,9 and 1 Corinthians 4:7, what is the correct attitude toward grace?

(b) Every Christian is a steward of spiritual gifts. A steward does not own the gift; neither has he the right to decide if and when and how to use it. Spiritual gifts are entrusted to Christians to be used according to the will the Giver. According to Matthew 24:45-51; 25:24-30, what will the Lord do to the unfaithful servant?

NATURAL TALENTS VS. SPIRITUAL GIFTS

6. Natural talents are different from spiritual gifts. Study the comparison below:

NATURAL TALENTS

- Received at physical birth;
- Transmitted through natural heredity;
- May be used as a channel of a spiritual gift; ex.: Apollos had the natural talent for public speaking, and he became a powerful preacher and teacher because he received a spiritual gift.
- Usually results in the glory of the possessor.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

- Received at spiritual birth;
- Given by the Holy Spirit;
- Operates effectively even in the absence of natural talent; ex.: Paul had no natural talent for public speaking, but he was a powerful preacher and teacher;
- Should always glorify the Giver, God.

7. Study these examples of natural talents and add a few more that you know about:

- Good singing voice
- Public speaking
- Talent for making friends
- Talent for mathematics
- Talent for art
- Talent for mechanical things
- Talent for cooking
- Others _____

STUDY ABOUT THE GIFTS

8. To discover your spiritual gift, study the scriptures. The Bible contains three major lists of spiritual gifts: Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12-14; Ephesians 4:11. From these passages, list the gifts mentioned in each passage.

9. Gifts mentioned in Romans 12:3-8.

10. Gifts mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 28-31.

11. Gifts mentioned in Ephesians 4:11.

12. Review the three lists and put an asterisk (*) after each gift, which is mentioned in the other two lists. For example: teaching or teacher is mentioned in Romans 12:7, 1 Cor. 12:28, and Eph. 4:11; so we put an asterisk after it, like so: teacher*.

13. Make a "Master List" of all the gifts mentioned in the three lists, without duplicating any of the gifts. You should have at least 17 to 20 spiritual gifts on your list, depending on the translation you are using.

LIST AND CLASSIFICATION OF GIFTS

14. By "Master List" we do not mean that there are no other spiritual gifts other than those mentioned in the scriptures. The list of gifts in the three key scriptures above should be treated only as representative. According to 1 Peter 4:10, God's grace is manifold, varied, unlimited. Spiritual gifts, which are manifestations of God's grace, are also manifold, varied, unlimited. There are many other gifts mentioned or hinted at throughout the Bible. Different Bible teachers present their own lists. For example, compare two authors:

(a) C. Peter Wagner lists 27 spiritual gifts in his book, *Your Spiritual Gifts Can Help Your Church Grow*:

- (1) Prophecy
- (2) Service
- (3) Teaching
- (4) Exhortation
- (5) Giving
- (6) Leadership
- (7) Mercy
- (8) Wisdom
- (9) Knowledge
- (10) Faith
- (11) Healing
- (12) Miracles
- (13) Discerning of spirits
- (14) Tongues
- (15) Interpretation
- (16) Apostle
- (17) Helps

- (18) Administration
- (19) Evangelist
- (20) Pastor
- (21) Celibacy
- (22) Voluntary poverty
- (23) Martyrdom
- (24) Hospitality
- (25) Missionary
- (26) Intercession
- (27) Exorcism

(b) Leslie B. Flynn lists *19 Gifts of the Spirit* (title of his book) under three classifications:

The Speaking Gifts

- The Apostolic Gift
- The Gift of Prophecy
- The Gift of Evangelism
- The Gift of Shepherding
- The Gift of Teaching
- The Gift of Exhortation
- The Gifts of Knowledge and Wisdom

The Serving Gifts

- The Gift of Helps
- The Gift of Hospitality
- The Gift of Giving
- The Gift of Government
- The Gift of Showing Mercy
- The Gift of Faith
- The Gift of Discernment

The Signifying Gifts

- The Gift of Miracles
- The Gift of Healing
- The Gifts of Tongues and Interpretation

15. In this book we limit ourselves to the 20 spiritual gifts mentioned in the three key scriptures, grouped as follows:

Gifts for Serving

Service

Helps
Giving
Mercy
Healings

Gifts for Teaching

Word of wisdom
Word of knowledge
Exhortation
Various tongues
Interpretation of tongues.

Gifts for Leading

Leadership
Governments
Faith
Miracles
Discernment.

Basic Ministry Gifts

Apostles
Prophets
Evangelists
Pastors
Teachers

16. Note that Fig. 2 has 20 slots grouped into four sections, to represent the 20 gifts and the four categories under which they are classified. About classifications in general, bear in mind:

(a) There is no one "scriptural" way to classify the gifts. In the three major scripture passages Paul, probably the most logical writer in the New Testament, makes no attempt to classify the gifts.

(b) But for purposes of more efficient presentation and easier memorization, we adopt a system of classification, based on relationships that we perceive to exist between the gifts. These relationships will be explained as we discuss the gifts in detail.

BEFORE THE NEXT SESSION ...

1. FOR THOSE ON THE WEEK-END PLAN:

(Break between sessions will be 15 minutes.)

(a) Meet with one person from your BODY COVENANT LIST and share with each other what you think your natural talents are. Tell each other any other talent or gift that either of you seem to see in each other; help each other to make a list of your respective talents.

(b) Quickly read through Lesson Three before you go to the next session.

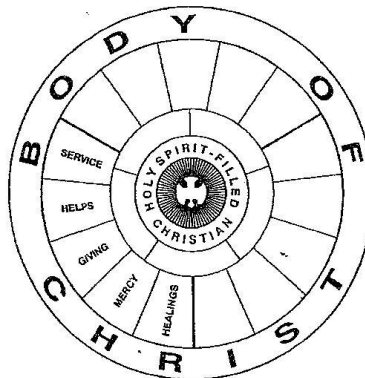
2. FOR THOSE ON THE WEEKLY PLAN:

(a) List natural talents that you believe you have.

(b) Pray for everyone listed in your BODY COVENANT LIST. On Monday, pray for those in column 1; Tuesday, those in column 2; etc. If you have time, try to fellowship with one person on this list; do this personally or by phone; share with each other (as in the WEEK-END PLAN).

(c) Study Lesson Three.

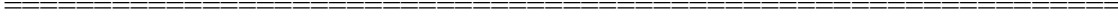
FIGURE 3
GIFTS FOR SERVING



Larawan 3
KALOOB SA PAGLILINGKOD
Paglilingkod
Pag-alalay
Pagbibigay
Kasamaan
Pagpapagaling

LESSON 3

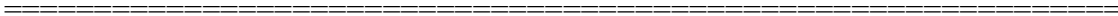
GIFTS FOR SERVING



LEARNING GOALS

After completing this lesson, you will be able to:

- Describe and give examples of the five Gifts for Serving;
- Fill out the SPIRITUAL GIFTS EVALUATION CHART for the Gifts for Serving.



SERVANTSHIP -- THE CHRISTIAN LIFESTYLE

1. The Gifts for Serving are an excellent place to begin our study of spiritual gifts, for one reason: Christ laid down servanthip (servanthood) as the lifestyle for His followers. The attitude of servanthip should pervade the discovery, development, and use of all spiritual gifts. Please summarize the following passages:

(a) Matthew 20:25-28 _____

(b) John 13:12-16. _____

(c) Galatians 5:13 _____

Although servanthip should characterize the lifestyle of all members of the Body of Christ, the Holy Spirit imparts particular GIFTS FOR SERVING to some Christians to equip them to practice servanthip in special ways. Study Fig. 3.

2. Some Bible teachers treat these two gifts as identical. However, in using two different words, the Greek New Testament indicates that each gift has its own emphasis.

THE GIFT OF SERVICE

3. SCRIPTURE REFERENCE AND DEFINITION: "... if service (DIAKONIA), in his serving..." (Romans 12:7). DIAKONIA literally means "waiting at table", "providing for physical sustenance", or "supervising meals". In Acts 6:1 "daily distribution of food" literally means "daily DIAKONIA". The Gift of Service seeks to meet basic necessities of life, such as food, clothing, and shelter.

THE GIFT OF HELPS

4. SCRIPTURE REFERENCE AND DEFINITION: "And God has appointed in the church ... helps (ANTILEMPSEIS)..." (1 Cor. 12:28). ANTILEMPSEIS literally means to "take (someone's) part, help, come to the aid of (someone)". The word refers to "help" in the general sense. The Greek word and its equivalent Hebrew describe the activity of God Himself in helping His people (1 Sam. 7:12; Luke 1:51-54).

5. While recognizing their differences, it is probably best to treat SERVICE and HELPS as twin-gifts; these are Spirit-given abilities, which enable a person to supply the so-called mundane needs of daily existence. The "assisting" quality of the twin-gifts highlights the fact that, when used to assist other gifts, they release those other gifts for greater usefulness. For example, the gift of service released the apostles' gifts of preaching and teaching (Acts 6:1-7).

(a) BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

List persons and describe how they used their gifts of service and helps:

Matt. 14:15-21 _____

Luke 8:2,3 _____

Acts 6:1-6 _____

Phil. 2:25,29,30 _____

1 Cor. 16:15 _____

(b) EXAMPLES TODAY

(1) "Tatay" Nomis exercised his gift of helps by taking care of the church lawn and plants and flowers one day a week on his own time.

(2) Lally exercised her gift of service by being available to cook for church fellowships.

(3) Mario seemed to be always there when church members need a ride to church, the airport, or any place they need to go. He uses his own car and gas.

(4) Shirley gave one or two hours a week to serve as clerk and bookkeeper at the church office.

(5) Write down other examples, which you have observed or known about.

6. Fill out the SPIRITUAL GIFTS EVALUATION CHART for the Gift of Service and the Gift of Helps at the end of this lesson.

GIFT OF GIVING

7. SCRIPTURE REFERENCE AND DEFINITION: "... he who gives, with liberality ..." (Romans 12:8). The Gift of Giving is the Holy Spirit-given desire and ability to share generously and cheerfully one's material and financial resources to help persons and ministries. *Sometimes* this gift is coupled with the ability to raise such resources. *Always* this gift is accompanied by a spirit of sacrifice, which enables the giver to deny himself many things so that he may be able to give to those in need.

8. Concerning this gift, note:

- (a) All Christians have the privilege and duty to give. (Matt. 10:8; 2 Cor. 9:6).
- (b) Certain Christians have been significantly endowed with the Gift of Giving, such that this becomes their calling and work in the Body of Christ.
- (c) The Gift of Giving does not depend on how much or how little you have. In Romans 12:8 "to give" literally means "to share". The person with the Gift of Giving is motivated by the Holy Spirit to share what he has, little or much.
- (d) The person with the Gift of Giving gives with the same attitude that God has (James 1:5).
- (1) Giving "without reproach" (NASB); "without finding fault" (NIV). The Gift of Giving is not influenced by the condition of the receiver.
- (2) Giving with "simplicity". The Gift of Giving is solely motivated by the desire to help, with no strings attached, no conditions, no hesitation or double-mindedness.

9. BIBLE EXAMPLES

List the persons and describe how they used their Gift of Giving:

- (a) 2 Cor. 8:9 _____
- (b) Acts 4:34-37 _____
- (c) 2 Cor. 8:1-5 _____

10. EXAMPLES TODAY

- (a) Tony, a Christian businessman, was usually the first to donate foodstuff for victims of typhoons, floods, or similar calamities.
 - (b) Grandma Aming received a small pension every month; but she managed to save as much of this in order to give to the Lord's work.
 - (c) Much has been written about the late R. G. LeTourneau, designer and manufacturer of heavy earth-moving machines. In 1935 he irrevocably assigned 90% of the company's profits to the LeTourneau Foundation, a "not-for-profit corporation whose income and capital can be used only for the cause of Christ" (Donald Ackland, quoted by Leslie B. Flynn).
 - (d) Other examples you have experienced or heard about.
-

11. Fill out the SPIRITUAL GIFTS EVALUATION CHART for the Gift of Giving at the end of this lesson.

GIFT OF MERCY

12. SCRIPTURE REFERENCE AND DEFINITION: "... he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness" (Romans 12:8). The Gift of Mercy is the desire and ability given by the Holy Spirit to sympathize and empathize with, to bring comfort and relief to, persons who are suffering physically, emotionally, spiritually; and to bring peace of mind and assurance to those whose condition has no cure.

13. Some characteristics of this gift:

- (a) On the part of the receiver, the suffering is usually chronic, long-term, or terminal.
- (b) On the part of the giver, exercise of the Gift of Mercy is characterized by continuing commitment, accompanied by a cheerful and generous attitude. The person without this gift may assist the sufferer, out of necessity. But the person with the Gift of Mercy serves with joyful willingness.

14. BIBLE EXAMPLES

List the persons and describe how they exercised the Gift of Mercy:

- (a) Matthew 9:36,37 _____
- (b) Acts 9:36 _____
- (c) Gal. 4:14,15 _____

(d) 2 Tim. 1:16,17 _____

15. EXAMPLES TODAY

(a) Grandpa Bert, an ordinary church member, visited elderly shut-ins, talked with them, listened to their non-stop retelling of their life stories, read the Bible to them, and prayed with them.

(b) Priscilla, a hospice nurse, attended to patients with terminal illnesses, such as cancer and AIDS. In spite of the physical and emotional demands of the work, she would not think of looking for a less stressful job. She felt fulfilled in comforting terminal patients and in sharing with them the hope of eternal life.

(c) Church growth expert Wagner wrote of a church that mobilized its members with the gift of mercy, to minister to 450 "educable slows" who receive patient, compassionate care and teaching. The church invested in buses with hydraulic lifts to accommodate wheelchairs, an investment they had no hope of recovering from the offering plate. This church also had a growing ministry to the deaf and blind.

(d) Other examples that you have personally known or heard about.

16. Fill out the SPIRITUAL GIFTS EVALUATION CHART for the Gift of Mercy at the end of this lesson.

GIFTS OF HEALINGS

17. SCRIPTURE REFERENCE AND DEFINITION: "... and to another gifts of healings by one Spirit..." (1 Cor. 12:9, 28). Gifts of Healings are abilities given by the Holy Spirit to restore physical, emotional, relational, and/or spiritual health. "Gifts" and "healings" (plural) indicate various abilities and methods in bringing about healing. Someone suggested that "specializations" exist in gifts of healings. For example, one person may have more success in praying for physical healing; another may be more effective in praying for psychological healing. We may therefore expect gifts of healings for broken marriages, for repairing dysfunctional families, for rehabilitating addicts, in addition to effecting the physical healings usually expected from this gift.

18. BIBLE EXAMPLES

List persons with gifts of healings and how their gifts were used:

(a) Matthew 8:1-17 _____

(b) Matthew 10:1 _____

(c) Mark 16:17,18 _____

(d) Acts 3:1-8; 5:15,16 _____

(e) Acts 19:12 _____

19. EXAMPLES TODAY

(a) Danny, thought of by friends as a "slow learner", became an active witness for Christ soon after being saved. The Lord led him to pray for sick people and they got healed; they also listened to his Gospel presentation and got saved.

(b) Luz, when she was still Pilipino Language supervisor in the public schools, had become known as a Christian who prayed for sick people. Non-Christian teachers and school officials requested for her prayer when they were sick; they testified of healings.

(c) "Nanay" Quintina was more active in business than in church until she had an experience with the Holy Spirit, in which she engaged in prayer for about three days. After that, the Lord led her to visit homes to tell people about Christ and to pray for sick persons. God granted many healings in answer to her prayer, several of which involved terminally ill patients. As a result, many people have come to Christ and are going on in their Christian life.

20. Other examples that you have known or heard about.

21. Fill out the SPIRITUAL GIFTS EVALUATION CHART for the Gifts of Healings at the end of this lesson.

=====

BEFORE THE NEXT SESSION ...

=====

1. FOR THOSE ON THE WEEK-END PLAN:

(Break between sessions will be 15 minutes.)

(a) Get together with one person in your BODY COVENANT LIST and share your evaluation chart. Explain why you evaluated yourself as you did. Pray for each other.

(b) Quickly read through Lesson Four before the next session.

2. FOR THOSE ON THE WEEKLY PLAN:

(a) Pray for everyone listed in your BODY COVENANT LIST. On Monday, pray for those in column 1; Tuesday, those in column 2; etc. If you have time, try to fellowship with one person on this list personally or by phone; share and pray (as in the WEEK-END PLAN, 1.a).

(b) Study Lesson Four.

***HOW TO COMPLETE THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS
EVALUATION CHART****GIFTS FOR SERVING*

Remember, there are five Gifts for Serving.

- SERVICE (Rom. 12:7). Ability given by the Holy Spirit to provide basic necessities food, clothing, shelter, etc.). Ex.: Christ (John 6:1ff.); Seven deacons (Acts 6:1-5)
- HELPS (1 Cor. 12:28). Ability given by the Holy Spirit to give practical assistance. Ex.: Christ (John 13:3-5); Timothy (Phil. 2:19-23)
- GIVING (Rom. 12:8). Ability given by the Holy Spirit to give material and financial aid with a cheerful, generous, self-sacrificial spirit. Ex.: Christ (2 Cor. 8:9); Barnabas, and the early Christians (Acts 4:34-37).
- MERCY (Rom. 12:8). Ability given by the Holy Spirit to comfort and lighten the pain of chronic sufferers or terminally ill persons. Ex.: Christ (Matt. 9:36,37); Onesiphorus (2 Tim. 1:16,17)
- HEALINGS (1 Cor. 12:9,28). Ability given by the Holy Spirit to restore health – physical, emotional, relational, spiritual. Ex.: Christ (Matt. 8:1-17); Peter (Acts 3:1-8; 5:15,16).

INDICATORS

There are six indicators that may show the presence of a gift or gifts in your life. These include:

- AWARENESS - When the Holy Spirit gives a gift, he also makes you aware of your ability to serve God in a certain way.
- BURDEN - You are burdened or motivated by the Holy Spirit to use your gift.

- **CAPABILITY** - You are enabled by the Holy Spirit even as he opens opportunities for you to use your gift.
- **DELIGHT** - You and those to whom you minister experience joy and spiritual growth as you exercise your gift.
- **ENCOURAGEMENT** - Other Christians will notice your gift and its results on the Body of Christ. The Holy Spirit will use these Christians, specially your spiritual leaders, to confirm your gift.
- **FRUIT** – God will confirm your gift/s by giving you fruit or results (souls won, disciples built up, God magnified) as you exercise your gift.

GIFTS SCORE CHART

Using the following scale of 1 – 5, rate the presence of the indicators for each gift in your life.

- 1 – Never 2 – Once or twice 3 – Several times
 4 – Often 5 – Almost always

In Chart A below use the 1 – 5 scale to show how often you are Aware, Burdened, Capable, Delighted or Encouraged or observed Fruit or results from the exercise of each gift . You should place a number (1 – 5) in every blank square.

For example, to the right of the gift of “Helps” if you are “often” Aware of this gift in your life you would place the number 4 in that square; you may also “often” feel Burdened and would place a 4 in the second square also. Perhaps you have only felt Capable of exercising this gift only “once or twice” (2), you would place the Number 2 in the third square. In the fourth square you place 3 for Delighted. In the fifth square you write 2 for Encouraged. In the sixth square write 3 for Fruit. Then add your scores (example, 4 + 4 + 2 + 3 + 2 + 3 = Total score - 18). Then divide the total (18) by six (6) to get your average score (3) for the Gift of Service.

SAMPLE GIFTS SCORE CHART

GIFTS FOR SERVING	INDICATORS						Total	Average
	Awareness	Burden	Capability	Delight	Encouragement	Fruit		
1. SERVICE	4	4	2	3	2	3	18	3

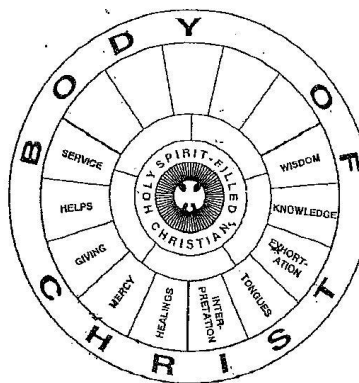
In Lesson 8, you will transfer your average score for each gift to

CHART B: SPIRITUAL GIFTS INVENTORY GRAPH:

Now, fill out your chart for GIFTS OF SERVING

GIFTS FOR SERVING	INDICATORS					Total	Average
	Awareness	Burden	Capability	Delight	Encouragement		
1. SERVICE							
2. HELPS							
3. GIVING							
4. MERCY							
5. HEALINGS							

FIGURE 4
GIFTS FOR TEACHING



Larawan 4
KALOOB SA PAGTUTURO
Karunungan
Kaalaman
Pangaral (Pagpayo)
Iba't ibang Wika
Paliwanag ng Wika

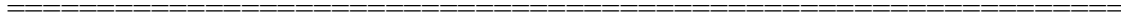
LESSON 4

GIFTS FOR TEACHING

LEARNING GOALS

After completing this lesson, you will be able to:

- Describe and give examples of the five Gifts for Teaching;
- Fill out the SPIRITUAL GIFTS EVALUATION CHART for the Gifts for Teaching.



1. In this book we distinguish between the Gifts FOR Teaching (Lesson 4) and the Gift (Ministry) OF Teaching (Lesson 6). The five Gifts FOR Teaching in this lesson are so labeled because they are closely associated with the gift or ministry of teaching. Study Fig. 4.

GIFT OF WISDOM

2. Some Bible commentators give wisdom a definition that others give to knowledge, and vice versa. This much is clear: one gift focuses on knowing, understanding, and communicating truth; the other focuses on applying truth. These two gifts are classified under teaching because a person must have a measure of both gifts to be effective in the ministry of teaching.

3. SCRIPTURE REFERENCE AND DEFINITION: "For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit.." (1 Cor. 12:8). In the broad sense, the Gift of Wisdom is the power given by the Holy Spirit that enables a person to live (think, act, relate) with favor before God and man. In the narrow sense, it is the ability to apply knowledge to practical needs and situations.

4. BIBLE EXAMPLES

List the persons and describe how they used their Gift of Wisdom:

(a) Matthew 21:23-27; 22:15-22 _____

(b) Mark 13:11 _____

(c) Acts 6:9,10 _____

(d) Acts 22:24-29 _____

(e) Acts 23:1-10 _____

(f) Acts 27:21-37 _____

5. EXAMPLES TODAY

Wisdom may be exercised today in four ways (according to Flynn). Can you provide instances from your life or from the life of someone you know, in which any of these ways were demonstrated?

(a) Defense before hostile courts (Matt. 10:19,20)

(b) Answer to unbeliever's arguments (1 Peter 3:15)

(c) Solution to problem situations (1 Kings 3:16-28)

(d) Application to practical conduct (Luke 2:52)

6. Fill out the SPIRITUAL GIFTS EVALUATION CHART for the Gift of Wisdom at the end of this lesson.

GIFT OF KNOWLEDGE

7. SCRIPTURE REFERENCE AND DEFINITION: "... and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit" (1 Cor. 12:8). The Gift of Knowledge is the ability given by the Holy Spirit to search, to know, to understand, and to explain truth found in the Bible and in other areas of knowledge. The Gift of Knowledge is a major channel through which the Holy Spirit fulfills His teaching ministry (John 14:26; 1 Cor. 2:9-16).

8. NOTE: Students of spiritual gifts debate about the difference between prophecy and the word of knowledge. Receiving specific ideas or information by direct revelation from the Holy Spirit is described by some as word of knowledge; by others, as prophecy. There's no need to be dogmatic about which gift is operating as long as we get knowledge that we need, when we need it.

9. BIBLE EXAMPLES

List the persons and describe how they used their Gift of Knowledge:

(a) Luke 2:46,47 _____

(b) Matthew 16:15-17 _____

(c) Acts 10:19,20 _____

(d) Galatians 1:15-17; 2:1,2 _____

10. EXAMPLES TODAY

(a) Bible teachers, commentators, and theologians have the Gift of Knowledge to understand and explain the written revelation of God, the Bible, as well as to discover knowledge in other areas of life and the world, past or present.

(b) Church growth experts and missionary strategists with the Gift of Knowledge gain insight into various fields of knowledge such as sociology, anthropology, psychology, politics, and religion and into how these fields affect church growth and missions. Donald McGavran was a prominent example.

(c) R. G. LeTourneau, who had the Gift of Giving, had also the Gift of Knowledge. He attributed many of his inventions and designs to have come from God.

(d) After twenty four hours of trouble-shooting a jet plane, Gerry, a Christian airline mechanic, was as frustrated as all the other mechanics and engineers when they failed to locate the cause of a malfunction. Then Gerry felt led to pray. Immediately after prayer, a certain little part of the plane was impressed on his mind; he checked and adjusted it. Presto! The malfunction was fixed. This is an example of the Gift of Knowledge.

(e) Examples you have personally experienced or observed.

11. Fill out the SPIRITUAL GIFTS EVALUATION CHART for the Gift of Knowledge at the end of this lesson.

GIFT OF EXHORTATION

12. SCRIPTURE REFERENCE AND DEFINITION: "... he who exhorts, in his exhortation..." (Romans 12:8). The Gift of Exhortation is the ability given by the Holy Spirit to encourage, inspire, confront, rebuke, and correct members of the Body of Christ in a way that brings growth or healing to them. The words "exhort" and "Comforter" (a title for the Holy Spirit) come from the same root, which means "to call alongside of". Therefore, the Holy Spirit as Comforter and the Christian with the Gift of Exhortation mean someone who stands by your side who is ready to help you with their advice and encouragement.

(a) The Gift of Exhortation includes all that the Holy Spirit does with the believer. The Christian with this gift will share in the ministry of the Comforter, as demonstrated by Christ during His earthly ministry (see below).

(b) All Christians have the *duty* to exhort one another (Heb. 3:13; 10:24,25). But certain Christians have received the Gift of Exhortation, which makes them more sensitive to the need of people for encouragement, inspiration, confrontation, rebuke, or correction.

13. BIBLE EXAMPLES

Christ provides the ultimate example in the Bible. Look at how Christ exercised the Gift of Exhortation.

(a) Inspiration and challenge:

- Christ helped a person to see beyond what he was to the kind of person he could become. How and with whom did Christ exercise this aspect of exhortation? (John 1:42)
-

- Christ helped a person to go beyond the good in order to aspire for the best. How and with whom did Christ exercise this aspect of exhortation? (John 1:47-51)
-

(b) Rebuke and correction

- Christ prevented wrong ideas before they developed; he rebuked and corrected persons on the spot when necessary. How and with whom did Christ exercise this aspect of exhortation? (Matt. 16:17, 22-24)
-

(c) Demonstration and application

- Christ demonstrated and applied truths that He wanted His disciples to learn. How and with whom did Christ exercise this aspect of exhortation? (John 13:1-17)
-

(d) Forewarning and advance encouragement

- Christ forewarned of dangers and gave encouragement and support in advance. How and with whom did Christ exercise this aspect of exhortation? (Luke 22:31-34)
-

(e) Restoration and re-commissioning

- Christ sought to restore and re-commission a person who has failed. How and with whom did Christ exercise this aspect of exhortation? (John 21:15-19)
-

14. After Christ, Barnabas gives the next most effective example. Study this outline (based on Flynn) of how he used his Gift of Exhortation:

(a) He helped needy saints (Acts 4:36,37). Describe how and with whom Barnabas exercised this aspect of exhortation.

(b) He endorsed an unwelcome convert (Acts 9:26,27). Describe how and with whom Barnabas exercised this aspect of exhortation.

(c) He accepted alien believers (Acts 11:22-24). Describe how and with whom Barnabas exercised this aspect of exhortation.

(d) He developed a gifted assistant (Acts 11:25,26). Describe how and with whom Barnabas exercised this aspect of exhortation.

(e) He restored a youthful deserter. Describe how and with whom Barnabas exercised this aspect of exhortation. (Acts 13:5,13; 15:36-39; 2 Tim. 4:11).

(f) Flynn summarizes the contribution of Barnabas' Gift of Exhortation: "Do we realize that had not Barnabas used his gift of encouragement we might be missing half of the New Testament books? Through his salvaging of Mark, he got us a writer of one of the four Gospels, possibly the first one written. Through his cultivation of Paul, he got us the writer of 13 epistles. Here is something remarkable. Barnabas never wrote a book that

found its way into the sacred canon, but he encouraged two men who between them wrote 14 books, over half of the New Testament volumes. How much we owe this self-effacing exhorter!"

15. EXAMPLES TODAY

(a) As a missionary with The Navigators in the Philippines in the 1960s through the 1970s, Gene Tabor exercised his Gift of Exhortation with a small group of young Filipinos, mostly college students from poor families. During the early years of the Navigator in the Philippines, one visiting U. S. staff person, evaluated the state of the ministry and commented that Tabor was working with a "bunch of losers"; this visiting staff member recommended that Tabor should reach individuals with more potential from the "higher classes" of Philippine society. Tabor, a strong believer in John 17:6, remained unmoved. He spent practically his entire missionary service in the Philippines, exercising his Gift of Exhortation with this "bunch of losers". As a result, there emerged from this unpromising group the following leaders: two full-time Navigators staff members; two staff members of REACH, an off-shoot discipleship ministry; a man and a woman, later married to each other, who became pioneers and leaders of Lakas-Angkan Ministries; and two pastors, one with the IEMELIF, another with the Southern Baptists, who is also the writer of these NewLife Discipleship books; plus several others who faithfully and fruitfully serve God today.

(b) Examples from your experience:

16. Fill out the SPIRITUAL GIFTS EVALUATION CHART for the Gift of Exhortation at the end of this lesson.

GIFTS OF TONGUES

16. SCRIPTURE REFERENCE AND DEFINITION: "... to another various kinds of tongues..." (1 Corinthians 12:10, 28,30). The New Testament proves by example that there are two kinds of the Gift of Tongues.

(a) "Evangelistic" Tongues. In Acts 2, the apostles were given the Gift of "evangelistic" tongues; meaning, tongues not learned by the speakers but which were native to the hearers; this gift was given for the purpose of evangelism. The "evangelistic" tongue does not need interpretation, as the hearer himself understands it. The "evangelistic" tongue is given to enable a Christian to preach the Gospel to foreigners, whose language he has had no time or ability to learn in the normal way. Some missionary authors mention instances of this gift in modern times.

Caution: The gift of "evangelistic" tongues is no substitute for normal language study for missionaries who are crossing language and cultural boundaries.

(b) "Prayer" Tongues. The Bible teaches that this gift exists. Some Bible teachers believe that the Holy Spirit stopped giving this gift when the Bible was completed; they interpret 1 Corinthians 13:8-10 to mean that the "perfect" already came with the completion of the whole Bible, therefore tongues have ceased. Other Bible teachers believe that the Bible does not state unequivocally anywhere that the Holy Spirit has stopped giving this gift in our time. But there is no doubt about one thing: this gift tends to be abused very often, therefore, the Holy Spirit inspired a whole chapter (1 Corinthians 14) to instruct believers in its proper use. From 1 Corinthians 14, we see the following guidelines:

- GUIDELINE 1: Tongues are not for everybody. The Holy Spirit gives the Gift of Tongues to some and not to all. To require everyone to have the Gift of Tongues violates clear biblical teaching (1 Cor. 14:29-30).
- GUIDELINE 2: Prayer Tongues, when not accompanied by the Gift of Interpretation, benefit only the individual (1 Cor. 14:2,4). *Public exercise in church* of Prayer Tongues must follow this procedure: "If anyone speaks in a tongue, two -- or at the most three -- should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret. If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and God" (1 Cor. 14:27,28 NIV). In Greek, to "keep quiet" means: be silent, keep still, say nothing; stop speaking, hold one's tongue; keep something secret, conceal.
- GUIDELINE 3: Prayer Tongues when accompanied by the Gift of Interpretation are equivalent to prophecy. Hence, the apostle Paul strongly recommends that a person might as well seek the Gift of Prophecy (1 Cor. 14:1-5).
- GUIDELINE 4: Prayer Tongues should not be banned or despised, but only regulated by the guidelines already explained (1 Cor. 14:39,40).

17. BIBLE EXAMPLES

The apostles spoke "evangelistic" tongues (Acts 2); the Corinthian believers spoke "prayer" tongues (1 Cor. 14).

18. EXAMPLES TODAY

Much controversy surrounds the practice of the Gift of Tongues today. We suggest that each person should make further serious and objective study of many books available (pro, con and in-between) regarding this gift. Then, he can judge for himself which experiences of tongues-speakers are of the Lord. Note: Confirmed cases of counterfeit tongues have been reported.

INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES

19. SCRIPTURE REFERENCE AND DEFINITION: "... and to another the interpretation of tongues" (1 Cor. 12:10). The Gift of Interpretation gives the ability to express in understandable language what is being communicated in unknown tongues (1 Corinthians 14:27,28). The procedure laid down by the Bible should be followed in exercising this gift (see Guideline 2 for tongues, above).

20. BIBLE EXAMPLES

Corinthian believers experienced the gift of interpretation (1 Cor. 14).

21. EXAMPLES TODAY

Some Bible interpreters believe that the aptitude for learning and translating languages are valid manifestations of the Gift of Interpretation.

22. Fill out the SPIRITUAL GIFTS EVALUATION CHART for the Gift of Tongues and the Gift of Interpretation at the end of this lesson.

BEFORE THE NEXT SESSION ...

1. FOR THOSE ON THE WEEK-END PLAN:

(Break between sessions will be 15 minutes.)

- (a) Get together with one person in your BODY COVENANT LIST and share your evaluation chart. Explain why you evaluated yourself as you did. Pray for each other.
- (b) Quickly read through Lesson Five before the next session.

2. FOR THOSE ON THE WEEKLY PLAN:

- (a) Pray for everyone listed in your BODY COVENANT LIST. On Monday, pray for those in column 1; Tuesday, those in column 2; etc. If you have time, try to fellowship with one person on this list personally or by phone; share and pray (as in the WEEK-END PLAN, 1.a).
- (b) Study Lesson Five.

***HOW TO COMPLETE THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS
EVALUATION CHART***

GIFTS FOR TEACHING

Remember, there are five Gifts for Teaching.

- WISDOM (1 Cor. 12:8). Ability given by the Holy Spirit to show the practical application of truth. Ex.: Christ (Mark 4); Paul (Acts 27:21-44)
- KNOWLEDGE (1 Cor. 12:8). Ability given by the Holy Spirit to know or explain truths from God's Word and from other fields of knowledge. Ex.: Christ (John 1:47); Peter (Acts 10:19,20)
- EXHORTATION (Rom. 12:8). Ability given by the Holy Spirit to counsel, encourage, inspire, and comfort; to confront, rebuke, and correct. Ex.: Christ (Matt. 16:17-19,23); Barnabas (Acts 2:26,27; 15:37-39).
- TONGUES (1 Cor. 12:10,28). Ability given by the Holy Spirit to speak a language not learned by the speaker. Ex.: Christ taught it (Mark 16:17); the apostles (Acts 2:1ff.); the Corinthians (1 Cor. 12, 14).
- INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES (1 Cor. 12:10, 30). Ability given by the Holy Spirit to express in known language what has been spoken in unknown tongue. Ex.: Christ (John 12:28-30); the Corinthians (1 Cor. 14:26).

INDICATORS

There are six indicators that may show the presence of a gift or gifts in your life. These include:

- AWARENESS - When the Holy Spirit gives a gift, he also makes you aware of your ability to serve God in a certain way.
- BURDEN - You are burdened or motivated by the Holy Spirit to use your gift.
- CAPABILITY - You are enabled by the Holy Spirit even as he opens opportunities for you to use your gift.
- DELIGHT - You and those to whom you minister experience joy and spiritual growth as you exercise your gift.
- ENCOURAGEMENT - Other Christians will notice your gift and its results on the Body of Christ. The Holy Spirit will use these Christians, specially your spiritual leaders, to confirm your gift.
- FRUIT = God will confirm your gift/s by giving you fruit or results (souls won, disciples built up, God magnified) as you exercise your gift.

CHART

Using the following scale of 1 – 5, rate the presence of the indicators for each gift in your life.

1 – Never 2 – Once or twice 3 – Several times

4 – Often 5 – Almost always

In Chart A below use the 1 – 5 scale to show how often you are Aware, Burdened, Capable, Delighted or Encouraged or observed Fruit or results from the exercise of each gift . You should place a number (1 – 5) in every blank square.

For example, to the right of the gift of “WISDOM” if you are “often” Aware of this gift in your life you would place the number 4 in that square; you may also “often” feel Burdened and would place a 4 in the second square also. Perhaps you have only felt Capable of exercising this gift only “once or twice” (2), you would place the Number 2 in the third square. In the fourth square you place 3 for Delighted. In the fifth square you write 2 for Encouraged. In the sixth square write 3 for Fruit. Then add your scores (example, 4 + 4 + 2 + 3 + 2 + 3 = Total score - 18). Then divide the total (18) by six (6) to get your average score (3) for the Gift of Service.

SAMPLE GIFTS SCORE CHART

GIFTS FOR TEACHING	INDICATORS						Total	Average
	Awareness	Burden	Capability	Delight	Encouragement	Fruit		
6. WISDOM	4	4	2	3	2	3	18	3

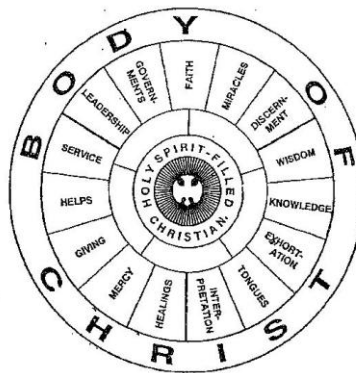
In Lesson 8, you will transfer your average scores to the SPIRITUAL GIFTS INVENTORY GRAPH.

Now, fill out your chart for the GIFTS OF TEACHING:

INVENTORY CHART FOR THE GIFTS OF TEACHING

GIFTS FOR TEACHING	INDICATORS						Total	Average
	Awareness	Burden	Capability	Delight	Encouragement	Fruit		
6. WISDOM								
7. KNOWLEDGE								
8. EXHORTATION								
9. TONGUES								
10. INTERPRETATION								

FIGURE 5
GIFTS FOR LEADING



Larawan 5
KALOOB SA PAMUMUNO
Pamumuno
Panamahala
Panampalataya
Himala
Pagkilala sa mga Espiritu

LESSON 5

GIFTS FOR LEADING

LEARNING GOALS

After completing this lesson, you will be able to:

- Describe and give examples of the five Gifts for Leading;

- Fill out the SPIRITUAL GIFTS EVALUATION CHART for the Gifts for Leading.



1. The five gifts in this lesson – Leadership, Governments, Faith, Miracles, Discernment – are classified under Gifts for Leading, because leaders whom God has used in the Bible and in church history have demonstrated one or more of these gifts in their lives. Please study Fig. 5.

2. Some Bible teachers consider the Gift of Leadership and the Gift of Governments as the same. However, Leadership and Governments come from different Greek words, indicating that each word covers distinct though related applications.

GIFT OF LEADERSHIP

3. The Gift of Leadership is person-oriented rather than task-oriented. Through this gift, the Holy Spirit enables a person to work for and with people in order to meet their needs and to keep them living and working together as a harmonious Body.

4. SCRIPTURE REFERENCE AND DEFINITION: "... he who leads (PROISTAMENOS), with diligence..." (Romans 12:8). PROISTAMENOS comes from a verb which literally means "1. to be at the head (of), rule, direct; manage, conduct (his own household); 2. to be concerned about, care for, give aid." (Arndt and Gingrich, 1957). The word PROISTAMENOS itself "originally denoted an influential Roman patron who had his following or clients. Later the word came to signify any person of wealth and power who exerted himself to help his poor, weak, and uninfluential friends." (Leslie B. Flynn)

GIFT OF GOVERNMENTS

5. The Gift of Governments is goal- and task-oriented. Through this gift, the Holy Spirit enables a leader to see God's goal, to define that goal for God's people, and to persuade them to commit themselves to that goal. A leader with this gift can devise plans to reach God-given goals, to keep people on course, and to help them to overcome the dangers, discouragements, delays, and distractions, which may prevent them from attaining the goal. The plural form implies that this gift has many expressions and applications. The Gift of Governments may be used to accomplish goals which are broad and foundational (long term), and goals which involve finishing routine tasks (short term).

6. SCRIPTURE REFERENCE AND DEFINITION: "And God has appointed in the church ... administrations (KUBERNESEIS)..." (1 Cor. 12:28). KUBERNESEIS comes from the same root as the word for ship pilot or helmsman. The helmsman governs or steers the ship, guiding it safely through storms and rocks, which threaten the ship until it safely reaches its destination.

7. Some Bible teachers combine these two gifts under the title Gift of Administration, which includes both the ability to set and accomplish goals (KUBERNESEIS) and the ability to keep people working harmoniously together (PROISTAMENOS). Some leaders have a combination of these two abilities in almost balanced strengths. Yet in distinguishing the two gifts, the Bible proves what human experience has demonstrated again and again, that:

- (a) Some leaders have the ability to take care of people well, but they hardly lead them anywhere.
- (b) Other leaders have the ability to discern and define goals and to goad people to go for those goals, but in the process, they often sacrifice individuals who don't seem to contribute toward the accomplishment of those goals.
- (c) Both gifts are needed in leading God's people. A leader that combines both gifts in balanced proportion is desirable. But a team of individuals with varying strengths in either gift working together is most practical and beneficial.
- (d) People with the Gift of Leadership and the Gift of Governments do not necessarily occupy formal leadership positions in the church. But when they speak, people listen and follow.

8. BIBLE EXAMPLES

(a) Christ possessed both gifts in perfect combination. In the following verses, indicate which gift (PROISTAMENOS or KUBERNESEIS) was exercised by Christ:

John 4:31-34 PROISTAMENOS KUBERNESEIS

Mark 6:30-32. PROISTAMENOS KUBERNESEIS

(b) In dealing with Mark, indicate which gift was exercised by Paul and Barnabas respectively: Acts 15:36-41.

Paul PROISTAMENOS KUBERNESEIS

Barnabas PROISTAMENOS KUBERNESEIS

9. EXAMPLES TODAY

Which of the two gifts did either of these two pastors have?

(a) Pastor A. was called the "perfect shepherd". His favorite message was "Love one another." He was always there when people needed him; he never forgot anybody's birthday or anniversary; and he was always a part of people's important occasions – births, dedications of children, marriages, funerals. He had organized the church in such

a way that needs of people were known and met. The church membership grew because of its caring qualities. What is Pastor A.'s gift? (Draw a circle around your answer.)

Pastor A: PROISTAMENOS KUBERNESEIS

(b) Pastor B. took over when Pastor A. retired. The first thing he announced was that he was not going to do any visitation of members, except in emergency cases. He started with a series of seminars and workshops on the nature and mission of the church. His favorite message was "Church Growth and World Missions". He presented a three-year growth plan for the church. To launch the program, he preached a sermon entitled "Shape Up or Ship Out". What is Pastor B.'s gift? (Draw a circle around your answer.)

Pastor B: PROISTAMENOS KUBERNESEIS

(c) From your experience or observation, give examples of leaders with either the Gift of Leadership or the Gift of Government.

10. Fill out the SPIRITUAL GIFTS EVALUATION CHART for the Gift of Leadership and the Gift of Governments at the end of this lesson.

GIFT OF FAITH

11. We classify the Gift of Faith under Gifts for Leading because every leader that God uses must have a measure of it in order to have vision, motivation, and action.

12. SCRIPTURE REFERENCE AND DEFINITION: "... to another faith by the same Spirit..." (1 Cor. 12:9). To understand this gift, we must distinguish it from the faith which all Christians possess.

(a) All Christians have received the gift of saving faith (Eph. 2:8,9).

(b) All Christians are growing stronger in their walk of faith (Col. 2:6,7; 2 Cor. 5:7).

(c) The Holy Spirit gives to some Christians the Gift of Faith, which enables them to see what God wants done in lives and in situations; to confess confidently that it will be done; and to cooperate persistently with God through believing prayer and/or believing action until the thing is finally done.

13. BIBLE EXAMPLES

Describe how the following persons exercised the Gift of Faith:

(a) Christ (Matt. 21:18,20; John 4:34-38; John 11:40-44)

(b) Paul (Acts 23:11; 25:10,11; 27:21-25)

14. EXAMPLES TODAY

(a) George Muller, Hudson Taylor, and Rees Howells are modern heroes of faith.

(b) A Christian worker needed to go somewhere to do the Lord's work. He had to take a bus, but did not have money for the bus ticket. He believed that God wanted him to go, so he went and waited for a bus. As he was boarding the bus, a man suddenly appeared behind him and thrust something into his pocket. He checked what it was – it was the money he needed for his bus ticket.

(c) Dr. and Mrs. Ralph D. Winter believed that God wanted them to buy a college campus for the U. S. Center for World Missions, a ministry that God called them to establish. By faith they made an offer to buy, and their offer was accepted, in spite of the fact that another group was ready with a big amount of money in their hand to buy the property. The story about how they got the money for each regular installment was a succession of faith battles and conquests every step of the way.

(d) Other examples from your personal experience or from the experience of others.

15. Fill out the SPIRITUAL GIFTS EVALUATION CHART for the Gift of Faith at the end of this lesson.

GIFT OF MIRACLES

16. The Gift of Miracles is classified under the Gifts for Leading because this gift is often granted by the Lord to establish the authority of His leaders. The Holy Spirit is free to grant this gift to "ordinary" members as well, even though they have no leadership office or responsibility.

17. SCRIPTURE REFERENCE AND DEFINITION: "... to another the effecting of miracles ..." (1 Cor. 12:10, 28). A literal translation reads "operations (ENERGEMATA) of powers (DUNAMEON)" – from whence the English words energy and dynamo come respectively. The Gift of Miracles makes a person the channel or instrument through which the Holy Spirit accomplishes extraordinary works, which supersede the ordinary course of human events or override known laws of nature.

(a) Some Bible teachers say that the age of miracles ended with the passing of the original apostles. We answer: Nowhere does the Bible say: (1) that the age of miracles is past; (2) that man's needs have changed or that God's attitudes to those needs have altered; (3) that the Holy Spirit is no longer free to distribute this particular gift, or any of His gifts for that matter.

(b) Modern church history has documented many cases of authentic miracles, involving leaders of Christian denominations of all types.

18. BIBLE EXAMPLES

Describe the miracles accomplished by the following individuals:

(a) Christ (John 2:7-11; 6:11-14)

(b) Peter (Acts 3:1-8)

(c) Paul (Acts 28:3-6)

19. EXAMPLES TODAY

(a) In Indonesia

The revival in Indonesia in the 1960s was attended by documented miracles, some of which were confirmed by no less an authority than Dr. Kurt Koch. These miracles included several raising of the dead. One involved the multiplying of sweet potato. On one occasion, only one potato remained to feed so many people. The Lord told the person in charge to cut the potato in half and place the halves on separate plates. Next she was told to distribute the potato in this manner: halve the potato on one plate, give half to the person in line, leave the other half on the plate; then turn to the other plate, halve the potato on that plate, give half to the person in line, leave the other half on the plate; then turn to the other plate and repeat the procedure. The potato on both plates kept "growing" until all the people had all they could eat.

(b) Other examples that you have experienced or observed.

20. Fill out the SPIRITUAL GIFTS EVALUATION CHART for the Gift of Miracles at the end of this lesson.

GIFT OF DISCERNMENT

21. This gift is classified under Gifts for Leading because church leaders particularly need it to protect God's people from the "wolves" that Paul warned Christians about in Acts 20:28-30.

22. SCRIPTURE REFERENCE AND DEFINITION: "... and to another the distinguishing of spirits..." (1 Cor. 12:10). The Gift of Discernment enables a person to know which spirit is the source of a teaching or behavior (Holy Spirit, human spirit, angels, evil spirit), and to know what motivation (spiritual, carnal, or sinful) underlie something which seems good on the surface .

23. Although certain Christians are endowed with a special Gift of Discernment, all Christians have the duty to exercise spiritual discernment. Summarize the following scriptures in five to ten words:

(a) Matthew 7:15-23 _____

(b) Matthew 24:23,27 _____

(c) Acts 17:11 _____

(d) 1 Thess. 5:21,22 _____

(e) Hebrew 5:14 _____

(f) 1 John 4:1-6 _____

24. BIBLE EXAMPLES

Describe how the following persons exercised the Gift of Discernment:

(a) Christ (Matt. 16:22,23; 22:15-18)

(b) Peter (Acts 5:1-10; 8:18-23)

(c) Paul (Acts 13:6-11; 2 Cor. 11:13-15; Phil. 1:15-17)

(d) Jude (Jude 4-19)

25. EXAMPLES TODAY

(a) NOTE: Christians do not need a special gift to apply the specific tests of 1 John 4:1-6, and the general tests of the Word of God. But the Holy Spirit gives the Gift of Discernment to certain members in order to protect the Body of Christ from false prophets who masquerade as angels of light.

(b) Below is an account of how one person, who was not even a Christian at that time, used the tests given in 1 John 4:1-6. These tests include faith and faithfulness to the truth concerning (a) the full deity of Christ; (b) the real humanity of Christ; (c) Christ's death, burial, resurrection, and ascension to heaven.

Rev. Victor H. Ernest, a Baptist pastor who came out of spiritism to Christ, relates how the above test was the clinching factor that led to his conversion. Reared in a non-Christian atmosphere, he regularly attended seances. Then he came across the Bible verse, "Believe not every spirit, but try the spirits." He read that the true spirit would confess that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. So he decided to try the spirits at the next seance, though he wasn't sure how he would go about it. To his surprise, the control spirit at the very next meeting announced that he would answer questions. This had never happened before. Each person would be allowed three questions.

The first question that Ernest asked was, "Do you believe that Jesus was the Son of God?" Smoothly came the answer that, of course, Jesus was the Son of God, and that we should believe what the Bible teaches. Never had Ernest heard a spirit affirm this, rather usually that Jesus was some great medium or a Palestinian teacher.

On his next turn, Ernest falteringly asked, "Do you believe that Jesus is the Savior of the world?" Immediately, almost before the question was finished, the answer came, rebuking Ernest for his doubt, then quoting authentic-sounding verses about believing.

On his final turn, Ernest asked, "Spirit, you believe that Jesus is the Son of God, that he is the Savior of the world – do you believe that Jesus died on the cross and shed His blood for the remission of sin?"

The medium, in deep trance, was hurled off his chair to the floor to lie groaning until revived. Ernest never went to another seance. He had tested the spirit to find it counterfeit. Searching God's word, he came to know Christ. (Taken from Leslie B. Flynn's 19 Gifts of the Spirit)

(c) Here are some actual instances where the Gift of Discernment was not used. The gift might have been present in one of the members but the person who possessed it was not trained to exercise it:

(1) A "CHRISTIAN" CON ARTIST. A "Christian" businessman came to a local church, sharing the "full Gospel" of the Holy Spirit. He also presented a business proposition and got investments from members and friends of the church, promising handsome returns on those investments. Someone even mortgaged his home and invested the money in the business. When the business started, the "Christian" businessman scheduled regular prayer times for the workers and staff; the whole business seemed very "Christian" and very "spiritual". But before anyone knew what was happening, the "Christian" businessman took off with all the money that the church members and friends had invested in the business. The Gift of Discernment could have exposed the business man as a fake Christian.

(2) A WOMAN BUSYBODY. A Christian woman volunteered as a church worker. Impressed by her testimony of dramatic witnessing experiences, the pastor took her as an outreach worker. In about a month, the pastor found out that instead of witnessing, this woman started spreading malicious gossip about the him and his wife. Soon, church members were split into two camps – those for the pastor and those for the woman worker. Only by God's grace and by prayer warfare was the church saved from actual split. The woman worker was later exposed as a gossip and left. The Gift of Discernment could have prevented the pastor from hastily accepting the woman as a church worker.

(3) DOUBLE AGENTS OF SATAN. Today, Satanic cults actually have a plan of planting their men and women inside Christian churches, to cause division among members and to entrap pastors and church workers in immorality. The Gift of Discernment is one of the safeguards God has given the church against these enemies.

(d) Other examples that you have experienced or observed.

26. Fill out the SPIRITUAL GIFTS EVALUATION CHART for the Gift of Discernment at the end of this lesson.

=====

BEFORE THE NEXT SESSION ...

=====

1. FOR THOSE ON THE WEEK-END PLAN:

(Break between sessions will be 15 minutes.)

(a) Get together with one person in your BODY COVENANT LIST and share your evaluation chart. Explain why you evaluated yourself as you did. Pray for each other.

(b) Quickly read through Lesson Six before the next session.

2. FOR THOSE ON THE WEEKLY PLAN:

(a) Pray for everyone listed in your BODY COVENANT LIST. On Monday, pray for those in column 1; Tuesday, those in column 2; etc. If you have time, try to fellowship with one person on this list personally or by phone; share and pray (as in the WEEK-END PLAN, 1.a).

(b) Study Lesson Six.

HOW TO COMPLETE THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS EVALUATION CHART

GIFTS FOR LEADING

Remember, there are five Gifts for Leading.

- LEADERSHIP (Rom. 12:8). Ability given by the Holy Spirit to lead people and to keep them working harmoniously together. Ex.: Christ (Matt. 20:20-28); James (Acts 15:13-22).
- GOVERNMENTS (1 Cor. 12:28). Ability given by the Holy Spirit to clarify the vision and goal and to direct and organize people to achieve the vision and goal. Ex.: Christ (John 4:34-38); Paul (Rom. 15:20-28).
- FAITH (1 Cor. 12:9). Ability given by the Holy Spirit to know what God wants to do in lives and situations and to accomplish these by believing prayer and action. Ex.: Christ (Mark 11:1-14,22-24); the believer (Matt. 17:20; John 14:12-14).
- MIRACLES (1 Cor. 12:10,28). Ability given by the Holy Spirit to bring about divine intervention in impossible situations. Ex.: Christ (John 2:1-11); Peter (Acts 9:36-41).
- DISCERNING OF SPIRITS (1 Cor. 12:10). Ability given by the Holy Spirit to distinguish between spirits (Holy Spirit, human, evil, angelic); and to discern motives (spiritual, carnal, sinful). Ex.: Christ (John 6:70,71); Peter (Acts 5:1-4)

INDICATORS

There are six indicators that may show the presence of a gift or gifts in your life. These include:

- AWARENESS - When the Holy Spirit gives a gift, he also makes you aware of your ability to serve God in a certain way.
- BURDEN - You are burdened or motivated by the Holy Spirit to use your gift.
- CAPABILITY - You are enabled by the Holy Spirit even as he opens opportunities for you to use your gift.
- DELIGHT - You and those to whom you minister experience joy and spiritual growth as you exercise your gift.
- ENCOURAGEMENT - Other Christians will notice your gift and its results on the Body of Christ. The Holy Spirit will use these Christians, specially your spiritual leaders, to confirm your gift.
- FRUIT – God will confirm your gift/s by giving you fruit or results (souls won, disciples built up, God magnified) as you exercise your gift.

CHART

Using the following scale of 1 – 5, rate the presence of the indicators for each gift in your life.

- 1 – Never 2 – Once or twice 3 – Several times
 4 – Often 5 – Almost always

In Chart A below use the 1 – 5 scale to show how often you are Aware, Burdened, Capable, Delighted or Encouraged or observed Fruit or results from the exercise of each gift . You should place a number (1 – 5) in every blank square.

For example, to the right of the gift of “LEADERSHIP” if you are “often” Aware of this gift in your life you would place the number 4 in that square; you may also “often” feel Burdened and would place a 4 in the second square also. Perhaps you have only felt Capable of exercising this gift only “once or twice” (2), you would place the Number 2 in the third square. In the fourth square you place 3 for Delighted. In the fifth square you write 2 for Encouraged. In the sixth square write 3 for Fruit. Then add your scores (example, 4 + 4 + 2 + 3 + 2 + 3 = Total score - 18). Then divide the total (18) by six (6) to get your average score (3) for the Gift of Service.

SAMPLE GIFTS SCORE CHART A

SAMPLE GIFTS SCORE CHART

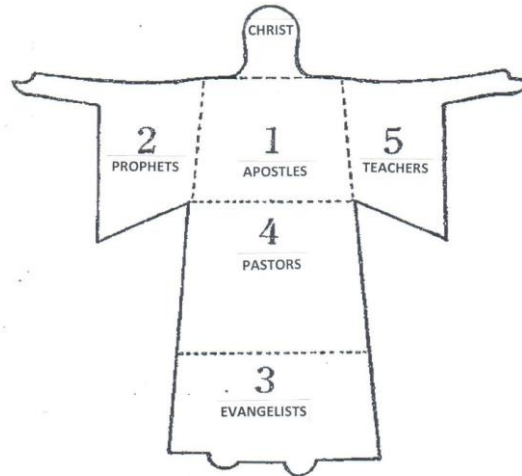
GIFTS FOR LEADING	INDICATORS						Total	Average
	Awareness	Burden	Capability	Delight	Encouragement	Fruit		
11. LEADERSHIP	4	4	2	3	2	3	18	3

In Lesson 8, you will transfer your average scores to the SPIRITUAL GIFTS INVENTORY GRAPH.

Now, fill out your chart for the GIFTS OF LEADING:

GIFTS FOR LEADING	INDICATORS						Total	Average
	Awareness	Burden	Capability	Delight	Encouragement	Fruit		
11. LEADERSHIP								
12. GOVERNMENTS								
13. FAITH								
14. MIRACLES								
15. DISCERNING OF SPIRITS								

FIGURE 1A
THE BODY OF CHRIST
Larawan 1
KATAWAN NI CRISTO



LESSON 6

BASIC MINISTRIES

LEARNING GOALS

After completing this lesson, you will be able to:

- Describe and give examples of the five Basic Ministries;
- Fill out the SPIRITUAL GIFTS EVALUATION CHART for the Basic Ministries.

SEVERAL SYSTEMS

1. The Body of Christ is compared to the human body. Though this comparison does not apply in all details, essential facts about the human body illustrate how the Body of Christ functions.
2. The human body has several systems, which are absolutely essential to its health and growth. The major systems include the skeletal, muscular, nervous, digestive, and circulatory systems. All the parts of the body are organized in such a way that each part operates within its respective system.

FIVE BASIC MINISTRIES

3. Five basic systems (ministries) are absolutely necessary for the health, growth, and work of the Body of Christ. Study Ephesians 4:11-13 carefully.

(a) According to Ephesians 4:11, what are the five basic ministries?

- Ministry #1: _____
- Ministry #2: _____
- Ministry #3: _____
- Ministry #4: _____
- Ministry #5: _____

(b) What is the immediate goal of the five ministries? (Eph. 4:12)

(c) What is the ultimate goal of the five ministries? (Eph. 4:13)

4. Compare Fig. 1A and Fig. 6.

(a) The Body of Christ has five basic ministries (systems):

- System 1: Ministry of Apostles
- System 2: Ministry of Prophets
- System 3: Ministry of Evangelists
- System 4: Ministry of Pastors
- System 5: Ministry of Teachers

(b) In the human body the different tissues, organs, and parts are "assigned" to one of the major systems. For example, the nail of the thumb on your right hand does not move from one finger to another. Even so in the Body of Christ, every Christian is "assigned" to one of the basic ministries.

(c) Note two examples:

EXAMPLE 1: To what ministry did Christ call the Twelve disciples? (Luke 6:12-16)

EXAMPLE 2: To what ministry did the Holy Spirit call Barnabas and Saul? (Acts 13:1-3)

5. This is the question you must ask about yourself: To which of the five basic ministries has the Lord assigned me? To answer this question, let us look into the meaning of the five basic ministries. (In the discussion below, the five MINISTRIES are also called GIFTS. GIFT means the spiritual ability; MINISTRY is the arena in which a gift is exercised.)

APOSTLES

6. SCRIPTURE REFERENCE AND DEFINITION: The Ministry/Gift of Apostles is mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:28 and Ephesians 4:11. Note the primary and secondary meanings of "apostle" in the New Testament.

(a) According to Ephesians 2:20, what is the place and function of apostles?

(b) The primary meaning refers to the Twelve Apostles. This meaning cannot be repeated; there will only be Twelve Apostles in the foundation of the Church.

(c) According to Paul in 1 Corinthians 3:10,11; 9:1,2, in what sense is he an apostle?

(d) The secondary meaning of apostle refers to persons who fulfill the role of "pioneer church-planters, whose credentials are the congregations they founded (1 Cor. 9:2)." This secondary meaning continues to this day as the gift of founding churches and exercising authority over them, not as a dictator, but in terms of (1) imposing discipline to guide members in holy living and orderly service to the Lord; and (2) transmitting God's authoritative revelation recorded in the Bible, which members must always believe and obey.

7. EXAMPLES TODAY.

(a) Three modern missionaries usually recognized as having possessed the Gift of Apostle were William Carey of India; Hudson Taylor of China; Adoniram Judson of Burma.

(b) We expect to find the Gift of Apostle in a mature Christian, who has grown in his ministry and has progressively risen to position of leadership in the church. The title of this person will vary from denomination to denomination – moderator, superintendent, director of missions, bishop, etc.

(c) In rare cases, a new believer (young in faith, though mature in age and practical experience) may be used by God to bring the Gospel to new areas, such that local congregations are born through his ministry, and he naturally assumes the responsibility of supervising these congregations. Edward F. Murphy describes such a person called "Victor the Colombian Apostle." Converted from a life of drinking and immorality, and with absolutely no training and no material but the Bible and with no assistance from professional missionaries, Victor Landero was given by the Holy Spirit the Gift of Apostle. From 1957 to 1968, without any church or mission officially ordaining or supporting him, Victor evangelized his people and organized them into local congregations, which in 1968 already numbered about 200 congregations, and still multiplying."

8. In Fig. 1 we place the Ministry of Apostles directly under the Head, Christ, to show that this ministry involves laying foundations and exercising authority. Write the word "APOSTLES" in BODY PART #1 in Fig. 1A.

PROPHETS

9. SCRIPTURE REFERENCE AND DEFINITION: The Ministry/Gift of Prophecy is mentioned in Romans 12:6, 1 Corinthians 12:10,28, and Ephesians 4:11.

(a) According to Ephesians 2:20, what place and function do prophets share with apostles in the Church?

(b) The Gift of Prophecy enables a person to receive God's Word and to deliver it to individuals or groups. In the Bible, prophets sometimes spoke concerning the future, but most of the time they spoke concerning past and present issues affecting God's people. The Gift of Prophecy has a primary and secondary meaning.

10. The primary meaning refers to the inspired prophets in the Bible who proclaimed and/or wrote the Word of God, the Bible. This primary meaning cannot be repeated.

(a) The main characteristics of Bible prophets include intense loyalty to God and jealousy for God's honor; utmost reverence for the Word of God and strong sense of responsibility for delivering it; and a burning passion for righteousness in individual lives and justice in social relationships.

(b) A person with this gift will experience a strong compulsion to declare God's word, similar to what Jeremiah described: "Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak anymore in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire, shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay" (Jer. 20:9).

11. The secondary meaning has three aspects:

(a) Forth-telling God's Word. Today this aspect refers to the ministry and ability of explaining and applying God's written Word to specific needs for specific persons in specific situations. This ministry is equivalent to the ministry of Holy Spirit-filled preachers, who are moved to preach truths that meet people's needs, rebuke their sins, and straighten out their lives. Response to a prophet-preacher is usually expressed in these words, "He's talking about me, about my problem, about my need, about my sin."

(b) Foretelling God's Word. Since the Bible contains much unfulfilled prophecy, certain prophet-preachers have the ability from the Holy Spirit to interpret and apply Bible prophecies whose time have come (see Daniel 12:4).

(c) Delivering God's timely Word. In the Bible, prophets delivered God's timely Word, for the preparation, protection, encouragement, warning, or guidance of God's people. Even so today, Christians, not necessarily preachers, may be given the Gift of Prophecy that enables them to receive a timely message from God to be delivered to the church or to individuals. This timely message does not always mean quoting or explaining Bible verses. Rather, they contain specific directions or warnings. Of course, these directions or warnings should never in any way contradict, minimize, or replace clear teachings of the written Word of God.

12. EXAMPLES TODAY

(a) We may consider as prophets today those Bible preachers who declare God's Word with direct relevance to the needs, problems, and situations of our times. Note: By preachers we do not mean only ordained and trained ministers. We mean any Christian who has been given special insight and understanding in God's Word in such a way that he/she is able to deliver its message to people when they need it.

(b) The third meaning of prophecy (delivering a timely word) is illustrated by this experience from the life of Brother Andrew ("God's Smuggler"). One day Brother Andrew was told by a Christian couple to learn to drive a car at a time when he had no car and was not thinking of buying one. When he did not take the word seriously, he was reprimanded and told to learn to drive immediately. As it turned out, Brother Andrew later received a gift of a car, which he used for his ministry of "smuggling" Bibles into communist countries.

13. In Fig. 1A, we place the Ministry of Prophets in BODY PART #2 in the area of the right hand to show that prophets point out God's plan and purpose for His people by proclaiming to them God's timely Word.

EVANGELISTS

14. **SCRIPTURE REFERENCE AND DEFINITION:** The Ministry/Gift of Evangelists is mentioned only in Ephesians 4:11, but this gift is evident throughout the New Testament. Note the following:

(a) The duty and privilege of evangelism belongs to all Christians (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; 8:4; 11:20).

(b) Some Christians are given by the Holy Spirit the special burden and ability to proclaim the Gospel with more commitment, more effort, and more result than most Christians.

15. This Gift of Evangelist is indicated by the following characteristics:

(a) Irresistible compulsion to proclaim the Gospel continually (1 Cor. 9:16,17)

(b) Unquenchable desire to reach peoples and places that have not yet heard the Gospel (Rom. 1:13-15; 15:20,21).

(c) Holy restlessness. Unlike the pastor who normally stays in one place, the evangelist is motivated and moved by the Holy Spirit to be always on the road, seeking the lost sheep. Philip illustrated this quality (Acts 8:26-40), which was demonstrated in its utmost intensity by the Master Evangelist, Christ himself, who said, "Let us go somewhere else to the towns nearby, in order that I may preach there also; for that is what I came out for" (Mark 1:38).

16. BIBLE EXAMPLE

Other than our Lord Jesus, Philip provides a clear example. From Acts 8:4-40, please describe the ministry and gift of Philip the evangelist.

To one city (Samaria) _____

To one individual _____

To several cities _____

17. EXAMPLES TODAY

(a) When they hear the word evangelist, many Christians think of persons, who hold big organized Gospel campaigns, such as Billy Graham, Luis Palau, Greg Tingson, and others like them. They are partially right.

(b) In fact, there are many kinds of evangelists: the personal evangelist wins people one by one; the leader of home Bible studies; the street preacher; evangelists to specific target groups – children, teenagers, single adults, married couples, senior citizens; the poor people, rich people, businessmen, laborers, handicapped, etc.

18. The Ministry of Evangelists is placed in BODY PART #3 in Fig. 1A to show that they are the "feet" of the church, extending and expanding the reach of the Gospel.

PASTORS

19. To understand what the Bible says about pastors, we must be aware that the modern use of "pastor" is not exactly the same as the New Testament use of the word. Wagner has helpful words:

"In current vocabulary (pastor) signifies the person who is the designated head of a local church. He is also called the minister, the rector, the parson, or sometimes the preacher. Now, as far as the gift is concerned, we need to use 'pastor' in a more technical sense....

"... it is helpful to distinguish between the *office* of pastor and the *gift* of pastor. Most of those we call pastors in America are people occupying the *office* of pastor. They have a staff position in the church. The point I am making here is that not everyone who has the *office* of pastor needs the gift of pastor, and furthermore there are many men and women with the *gift* of pastor who do not have the *office* of pastor by being placed on a church staff."

20. SCRIPTURE REFERENCE AND DEFINITION: The Ministry/Gift of Pastors is mentioned only in Ephesians 4:11, but this ministry (as an office and as a gift) is everywhere demonstrated in the New Testament under different titles.

(a) According to the International Standard Bible Encyclopedia: "As used by the NT, 'pastor' designates both an endowment for ministry and the one who fills that ministry, but it implies no fixed office. The pastoral ministry may be exercised by a *presbyteros* (1 Pet. 5:1f.), an *episkopos* (1 Tim. 3:2), or even both (cf. Acts 20:17,28). Rather than an office, it suggests a moral or spiritual relationship. A pastor must be faithful to Christ the Chief Shepherd (1 Peter 2:25; cf. Heb. 13:20), self-sacrificing (cf. Jn. 10:11), seeking the lost (cf. Mt. 18:12-14). Secular usage also connotes governance. So Paul instructs the Ephesian elders 'to care for' (Gk. *poimainein*) the church of God and to protect it from heretical 'wolves' (Acts 20:28f.)."

(b) The New Testament demonstrates that Christ plans to have several pastors in every local church. This means several mature members who have the *gift* of pastor, working with the church leader who occupies the *office* of pastor.

21. The person with the Gift of Pastor is given the ability to perform four roles:

(a) Parent – feeder, nurturer (1 Thess. 2:7, 11,12)

(b) Pedagogue – teacher (Acts 20:20, 27)

(c) Pattern – example (1 Pet. 5:2,3)

(d) Protector – guardian (Acts 20:28,29)

22. One manifestation of the Gift of Pastor, which we need to apply more consistently, is discipling. Every Christian has the duty and privilege of "making disciples", a process which involves (a) witnessing to a non-Christian and helping him to receive Christ as Lord and Savior; (b) giving the new Christian spiritual nurture after he receives Christ; (c) training him to serve Christ. In the process of making disciples, a Christian will fulfill the four roles of parent, pedagogue, pattern, and protector.

23. Two factors will combine to bring out the Gift of Pastor in a person:

(a) INNER FACTOR: The person will develop more and more a shepherd's heart; he will continue to show concern for the spiritual growth of persons he has won to the Lord; God will put the burden on his heart to be responsible for the spiritual life of these persons.

(b) OUTER FACTOR: A growing number of Christians will look to him for spiritual nurture and guidance. God will put in the hearts of these Christians the desire to follow this person as their spiritual leader. These Christians may be in his Sunday School class, in his Bible study, in his cell group, or certain members in the church who have received his spiritual ministry.

24. BIBLE EXAMPLES

Besides Christ, our Chief Shepherd, Timothy and Titus are prominent examples of pastors in the New Testament. Paul's letters to them are detailed instructions on the life and work of pastors.

25. EXAMPLES TODAY

From your own experience, give one or two examples of local church pastors, who have exercised pastoral care over you.

26. In Fig. 1A we place the Ministry of Pastors in BODY PART #4, which involves the digestive and circulatory systems, which maintain the growth and health of the body.

TEACHERS

27. **SCRIPTURE REFERENCE AND DEFINITION:** The Ministry/Gift of Teachers are mentioned in all three major lists of gifts (Rom. 12:7; 1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11). The Gift of Teaching is the ability given by the Holy Spirit to impart God's timeless Word; to teach the whole counsel of God as it applies to all of life.

This gift involves instruction, training, and direction for the purpose of developing a pupil's character, talents, and abilities. Teaching is applying to life the uses of inspired Scriptures as stated in 2 Timothy 3:16,17.

28. The gift of Teaching works closely with, but is distinguished from, other basic ministry gifts:

(a) The teacher is related to, but different from, the prophet. The prophet proclaims the timely Word; the teacher gives the timeless Word. The prophet gives God's Word for specific needs, specific persons, in specific situations. The teacher gives the whole Word of God as the framework and reference of a believer's entire life.

(b) The teacher is related to the pastor. Greek scholars point out that only one person is meant by the title pastor-and-teacher in Ephesians 4:11. This is because the pastor must always be a teacher, and he must perform the ministry of teaching if he is to nurture his flock.

(c) Still, the scriptures list teaching as a separate gift. There are people in the church who are teachers and yet are not pastors. However, teachers must always function in partnership with pastors in order for their respective ministries to bring the whole church to perfection in the faith.

29. BIBLE EXAMPLES

(a) In the Old Testament, Ezra presents the ideal picture of a teacher: "For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments" (Ezra 7:10).

(b) Christ is the Master Teacher (Matt. 4:23; 7:28,29; John 14:6). In Christ the subject matter and method of teaching are one: He himself is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He imparted TRUTH such that people adopted it as a WAY of life, and as a result they discovered and experienced true LIFE.

(c) Barnabas and Paul were both prophets and teachers (Acts 13:1; 15:35).

30. EXAMPLES TODAY

From your own experience, can you mention one or two Bible teachers who have made an impact on your life?

31. We place the Ministry of Teachers in BODY PART #5 in Fig. 1A on the left hand to show that teachers work closely with prophets in giving God's Word to God's people.

YOUR MINISTRY

32. To which of these five ministries is God calling you to serve him in a special way? Is God calling you to exercise your gifts in the area of ...

- (a) APOSTLES -- to help plant churches?
- (b) PROPHETS -- to declare God's timely Word of encouragement, warning, and direction?
- (c) EVANGELISTS -- to proclaim the Gospel to unreached peoples and places?
- (d) PASTORS -- to take care of God's flock in a local church?
- (e) TEACHERS -- to teach the whole counsel of God and to train believers to obey God's Word fully in their lives?

BEFORE THE NEXT SESSION ...

1. FOR THOSE ON THE WEEK-END PLAN:

(Break between sessions will be 15 minutes.)

- (a) Get together with one person in your BODY COVENANT LIST and share your evaluation chart. Explain why you evaluated yourself as you did. Pray for each other.
- (b) Quickly read through Lesson Seven before the next session.

2. FOR THOSE ON THE WEEKLY PLAN:

- (a) Pray for everyone listed in your BODY COVENANT LIST. On Monday, pray for those in column 1; Tuesday, those in column 2; etc. If you have time, try to fellowship with one person on this list personally or by phone; share and pray (as in the WEEK-END PLAN, 1.a).
- (b) Study Lesson Seven.

**HOW TO COMPLETE THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS
EVALUATION CHART**

GIFTS FOR BASIC MINISTRIES

Remember, there are five GIFTS FOR BASIC MINISTRIES.

- APOSTLES (Eph. 4:11; 1 Cor. 12:28). Holy Spirit-given position and ability to lay the foundations of new missions and local churches and to exercise spiritual authority over them. Ex.: Christ (Heb. 3:1; Col. 1:18); Twelve apostles (Luke 6:12-16); missionaries (1 Cor. 3:9-11; 9:2).
- PROPHETS (Eph. 4:11; Rom. 12:6; 1 Cor. 12:10,28,29). Holy Spirit-given position and ability to fore-tell and forth-tell God's timely Word. Ex.: Christ (Matt. 24); John (Rev. 1-22)
- EVANGELISTS (Eph. 4:11). Holy Spirit-given position and ability to proclaim the gospel to masses, groups, and individuals. Ex.: Christ (Luke 4:16-21); Philip (Acts 4:4-40).
- PASTORS (Eph. 4:11). Holy Spirit-given position and ability to shepherd God's flock in the role of spiritual parent, pedagogue, pattern, and protector. Ex.: Christ (John 10:1-30); Peter and the other elders (1 Pet. 5:1-4).
- TEACHERS (Eph. 4:11; Rom. 12:7). Holy Spirit-given position and ability to impart the whole counsel of God, God's time-less Word, and to apply it to all of life. Ex.: Christ (Matt. 5-7); Priscilla and Aquilla (Acts 18:24-26).

INDICATORS

There are six indicators that may show the presence of a gift or gifts in your life. These include:

- AWARENESS - When the Holy Spirit gives a gift, he also makes you aware of your ability to serve God in a certain way.
- BURDEN - You are burdened or motivated by the Holy Spirit to use your gift.
- CAPABILITY - You are enabled by the Holy Spirit even as he opens opportunities for you to use your gift.
- DELIGHT - You and those to whom you minister experience joy and spiritual growth as you exercise your gift.
- ENCOURAGEMENT - Other Christians will notice your gift and its results on the Body of Christ. The Holy Spirit will use these Christians, specially your spiritual leaders, to confirm your gift.
- FRUIT – God will confirm your gift/s by giving you fruit or results (souls won, disciples built up, God magnified) as you exercise your gift.

CHART

Using the following scale of 1 – 5, rate the presence of the indicators for each gift in your life.

1 – Never 2 – Once or twice 3 – Several times

4 – Often 5 – Almost always

In Chart A below use the 1 – 5 scale to show how often you are Aware, Burdened, Capable, Delighted or Encouraged or observed Fruit or results from the exercise of each gift . You should place a number (1 – 5) in every blank square.

For example, to the right of the gift of “APOSTLE” if you are “often” Aware of this gift in your life you would place the number 4 in that square; you may also “often” feel Burdened and would place a 4 in the second square also. Perhaps you have only felt Capable of exercising this gift only “once or twice” (2), you would place the Number 2 in the third square. In the fourth square you place 3 for Delighted. In the fifth square you write 2 for Encouraged. In the sixth square write 3 for Fruit. Then add your scores (example, 4 + 4 + 2 + 3 + 2 + 3 = Total score - 18). Then divide the total (18) by six (6) to get your average score (3) for the Gift of Service.

SAMPLE GIFTS SCORE CHART A
SAMPLE GIFTS SCORE CHART

GIFTS FOR BASIC MINISTRIES	INDICATORS						Total	Average
	Awareness	Burden	Capability	Delight	Encouragement	Fruit		
16. APOSTLES	4	4	2	3	2	3	18	3

In Lesson 8, you will transfer your average scores to the SPIRITUAL GIFTS INVENTORY GRAPH.

Now, fill out your chart for BASIC MINISTRIES:

GIFTS FOR BASIC MINISTRIES	INDICATORS					Total	Average
	Awareness	Burden	Capability	Delight	Encouragement		
16. APOSTLES							
17. PROPHETS							
18. EVANGELISTS							
19. PASTORS							
20. TEACHERS							

LESSON 7

DEVELOPING AND DEPLOYING YOUR GIFTS

LEARNING GOALS

After completing this lesson, you should be able to:

- Follow nine principles in developing your spiritual gifts;
- Perform three actions in deploying your spiritual gifts.

DEVELOPING YOUR GIFTS

1. Like physical abilities, spiritual gifts and ministries are developed by constant and correct use.

(a) What was Timothy encouraged to do with his gifts? (2 Tim. 1:6).

(b) What charge was given to Timothy regarding his ministry? (2 Tim. 4:5)

2. To develop and use your spiritual gifts and ministry, follow nine principles.

PRINCIPLE 1: AVAILABILITY

You develop your gifts and ministry as you make yourself available to serve when God calls you. From the following verses, who failed and who passed the principle of availability?

Matthew 4:18-22 _____

Luke 9:59-62 _____

PRINCIPLE 2: TEACHABILITY

You develop your gifts and ministry as you seek to learn more and more, and as you allow others to teach you. How did Apollos develop his gift and ministry further? (Acts 18:24-26)

PRINCIPLE 3: FAITHFULNESS

You develop your gifts and ministry as you exercise them faithfully. Study Luke 16:10-13 and explain the four tests of faithfulness.

Verse 10: Test of Small Responsibilities

Verse 11: Test of Material Service

Verse 12: Test of Service Under a Leader

Verse 13: Test of Singlehearted Loyalty

PRINCIPLE 4: EXCELLENCE

You develop your gifts and ministry as you strive for excellence in quality and quantity of service. How did Paul apply the principle of excellence in his life?

Phil. 3:12-14 _____

Romans 15:17-21 _____

1 Cor. 9:24-27 _____

PRINCIPLE 5: LOVE

After discussing spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians 12, the apostle Paul went on to discuss the importance of love in chapter 13. Study 1 Corinthians 13; then answer the following questions:

(a) What gifts and works are useless when done without love?

(b) What qualities and attitudes of love should we demonstrate as we exercise our spiritual gifts and ministry?

PRINCIPLE 6: UNITY

The over-arching truth governing spiritual gifts and ministries is the Body of Christ. The truth of the Body of Christ gives us the Principle of Unity and three other principles:

(a) MEANING: There is only One Body. When we become Christians we are placed into the Body of Christ (Romans 12:5; 1 Corinthians 12:13).

(b) APPLICATION: As you discover, develop, and use your spiritual gifts, know that these are not private, personal treasures that you own for your enjoyment, but for the benefit of the Body. Spiritual gifts are given by the Holy Spirit not to cause division but to maintain the integrity and wholeness of the Body.

PRINCIPLE 7: DIVERSITY

(a) MEANING: There is one Body but it consists of different members. When we were placed into the Body, we received two things: (1) a function (ministry) and (2) abilities (spiritual gifts). Unity does not mean uniformity; diversity does not mean disunity. There is unity of membership in one Body; at the same time there is diversity of ministries and gifts.

(b) APPLICATION: As you discover, develop, and use your spiritual gifts, remember that no one else is exactly like you; and that you have been given a task, which no one else but you alone will perform. Use of the gifts that forces uniformity upon all members of the Body is equally suspect as that which destroys unity among members. Proper exercise of spiritual gifts will result in Christians realizing more clearly their unique functions and gifts.

PRINCIPLE 8: TEAMWORK

(a) MEANING: As with the physical body, so with the Body of Christ, God designed all the parts and functions to work together as a team. In Fig. 6, the whole circle represents the whole team of the Body of Christ. All members (represented by the slots) must work together.

(b) APPLICATION: You must discover, develop, and use your spiritual gifts in such a way that teamwork with other members is promoted.

PRINCIPLE 9: COMMON GOAL

(a) MEANING: The different parts of the one Body strive together in teamwork to achieve one common goal. This ONE GOAL has two aspects: first, the glory of the Head; and, second, the good of the whole Body

(b) APPLICATION: You must discover, develop, and use your spirituals gifts in such a way that the Body of Christ is built up to become Christ's effective instrument in accomplishing his purpose in the present age; and so that in the age to come it will serve as the eternal dwelling place of God in which he will forever be glorified (Eph. 2:22; 3:19-21; Rev. 21:9-23).

DEPLOYING YOUR GIFTS

3. To deploy means "to place in battle formation or appropriate positions" (Webster). You need to deploy or place your gifts in a position where you can achieve most personal growth and serve the Body of Christ best. To do this, take three actions:

ACTION 1: PERSONAL DISCIPLEMAKING

Write out a plan for developing your personal discipling ministry (using the NewLife Discipleship Training books or a similar program).

ACTION 2: LOCAL CHURCH INVOLVEMENT

Get actively involved in your local church. Analyze the current programs of your church and see where your spiritual gifts and ministry seem to fit in. Write down your thoughts. Then share your thoughts with your pastor; be open to his counsel and suggestions as to how best you can help in the church ministry.

ACTION 3: CHURCH PLANTING TEAM

For those who are involved in the entire NewLife Spiritual Journey Guide: Continue sharing the Gospel, using “The GIFT” Tract; then follow-up those you have witnessed to (whether or not they prayed to receive Christ) to attend an EVANGELISTIC BIBLE STUDY, using NewLife Book 1. Those who complete Book 1 will be encouraged to go continue studying the whole series Book 2-12.

BEFORE THE NEXT SESSION...

1. FOR THOSE ON THE WEEK-END PLAN:

(Break between sessions will be 15 minutes.)

- (a) Pray with one or two persons in your BODY COVENANT LIST. Share and discuss your actions plans.
- (b) Quickly read through Lesson 8 before you go to the next session.

2. FOR THOSE ON THE WEEKLY PLAN:

- (a) Pray for everyone in your BODY COVENANT LIST. On Monday, pray for those listed under BODY PART #1; Tuesday, for those under BODY PART #2; etc.
- (b) Meet with one person on your covenant list; share and discuss your action plans.
- (c) Study Lesson Eight.

LESSON 8

AFFIRMING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS AND MINISTRY

LEARNING GOALS

After completing this lesson, you will be able to:

- Identify your spiritual gifts and ministries with the help of the SPIRITUAL GIFTS INVENTORY GRAPH;
- Give and receive affirmation to one another in your study group regarding your spiritual gifts and ministries within the Body of Christ.

GIFTS INVENTORY GRAPH

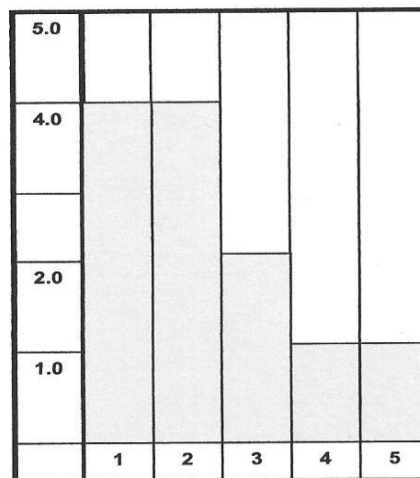
1. We have completed our study of 20 Spiritual Gifts. You have already filled out a personal SPIRITUAL GIFT SCORE CHART for all the gifts and ministries. You will now transfer your final scores (if you have not already done so) from the evaluation sheets on to the SPIRITUAL GIFTS INVENTORY GRAPH.

(a) On the appropriate bar for each gift, draw a line to indicate your corresponding SCORE.

(b) SHADE the bar below the line that you have drawn on each bar.

(c) When you have finished shading all the bars, the GRAPH will give you an idea where your gifts lie. The longer bars show your stronger gifts. For example, your scores are as follows: (1) Service, 4; (2) Helps, 4; (3) Giving, 2; (4) Mercy, 1; (5) Healings, 1. From the Graph it appears that your dominant gifts are Service and Helps.

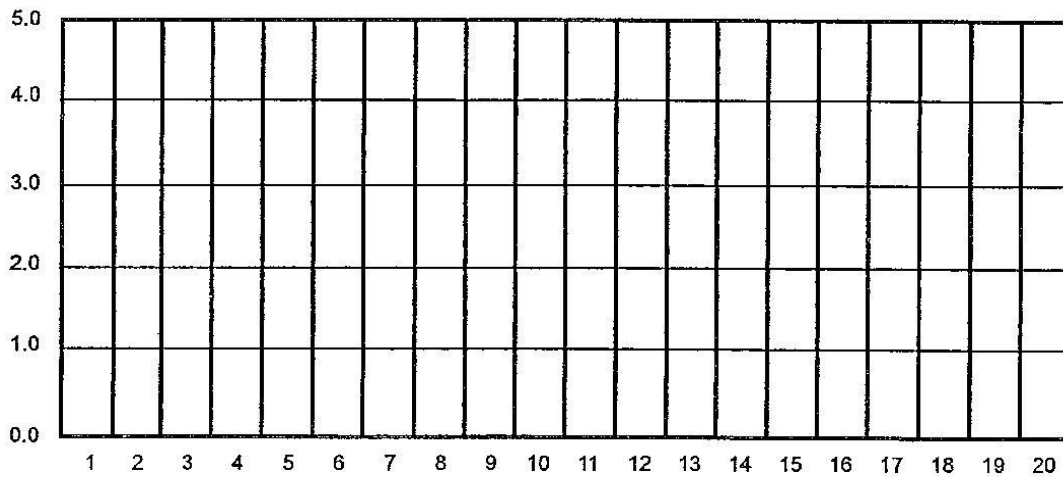
SAMPLE GRAPH



GIFTS OF SERVICE

- 1 Service
- 2 Helps
- 3 Giving
- 4 Mercy
- 5 Healings

SPIRITUAL GIFTS INVENTORY GRAPH



SERVING	TEACHING	LEADING	BASIC MINISTRIES
1 Service	6 Wisdom	11 Leadership	16 Apostles
2 Helps	7 Knowledge	12 Governments	17 Prophets
3 Giving	8 Exhortation	13 Faith	18 Evangelists
4 Mercy	9 Tongues	14 Miracles	19 Pastors
5 Healings	10 Interpretation of Tongues	15 Discernment	20 Teachers

AFFIRMING YOUR GIFTS

2. For this part of the session, group members will be requested to be seated in a circle, with no furniture of any kind in the middle of the circle. This is a time for affirming each other’s gifts. Follow these steps:

STEP 1: IDENTIFY YOUR GIFT.

(a) Take a clean sheet of paper. Write your name on the top of the paper. Then divide the paper into two columns with the following headings: COLUMN 1: MY GIFT(S), COLUMN 2: MY MINISTRY(IES)

(b) Carefully study your graph (FIGURE 7A). Then, from Gifts 1-15, under COLUMN 1 list one or more gifts that you definitely believe you have. Briefly explain why you believe you possess the gift(s).

COLUMN 1: MY GIFT(S)

(c) Carefully study your graph (FIGURE 7A) a second time. Then, from the five basic ministry gifts (16-20), under COLUMN 2 list the top two ministries which you strongly believe God is calling you to. Briefly explain why you believe God is calling you to these ministries.

COLUMN 2: MY MINISTRIES

STEP 2. SHARE WITH THE GROUP

After everybody has filled out their paper, the leader will call the members one by one, around the circle, to share what they have written down.

STEP 3. GROUP MEMBERS AFFIRM EACH OTHER'S GIFTS.

(a) Immediately after one member has done Step 2, two or more members will verbally affirm his/her gifts, explaining why they agree with his/her regarding the gifts; and, if they see other gifts in him/her, they will make him/her aware of this gift. The person who is being affirmed must write down on his/her paper any additional gift(s) that others see in him/her.

(b) After the affirmations, two people will pray a prayer of dedication, commissioning the member to go forth and use his/her gift for the Lord.

STEP 4. GROUP DEDICATION AND PRAYER

(a) After everyone in the circle has been commissioned, a chair will be placed in the center of the circle. The leader will explain, "In the Bible, particularly in the Old Testament, believers were in the habit of setting up altars on which they offered their offerings to God. Today we will offer to God our lives and our gifts and ministries in a fresh way. The chair in the middle will represent our altar. Please fold your papers neatly two times and then, again going around the circle, place your paper on the chair."

(b) After everyone has placed his/her paper on the chair, the leader will say, "Let us all individually and silently pray this prayer in our hearts (leader will give everybody a copy of the prayer, which was printed beforehand):"

Father God in heaven, I fully surrender anew my whole life to you, spirit, soul, and body, all that I am, all that I have, all my relationships, and all the days of my life. I am yours alone and yours forever.

Father God in heaven, you promised to give the Holy Spirit to all who ask. You also commanded me to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Therefore, I ask you, Father, to fill me, possess me, and control me with your Holy Spirit in a fresh and powerful way. By faith in your promise and in obedience to your command I ask for and claim again the filling of the Holy Spirit. Thank you for filling me now. And depending on the Holy Spirit, I will use my spiritual gifts to serve you in the ministries that you call me to do. In Christ's name. Amen.

(c) After the individual silent prayers of dedication, the leader will go to the center and place his hands on the papers on top of the chair and pray a closing prayer and pronounce the benediction.

(d) After the benediction, the whole group will sing together a hymn of dedication. (Suggested hymns: "I'll Go Where You Want Me to Go"; "Take My Life and Let It Be")

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BEFORE THE NEXT SESSION ...

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1. FOR THOSE ON THE WEEK-END PLAN:

(Break between sessions will be 15 minutes.)

(a) Pray with one or two persons in your BODY COVENANT LIST. Share and discuss your actions plans.

(b) Quickly read through Lesson 9 before you go to the next session.

2. FOR THOSE ON THE WEEKLY PLAN:

(a) Pray for everyone in your BODY COVENANT LIST. On Monday, pray for those listed under BODY PART #1; Tuesday, for those under BODY PART #2; etc.

(b) Meet with one person on your covenant list; share and discuss your action plans.

(c) Study Lesson 9.

3. FOR BOTH PLANS:

(a) Prepare a Graduation Ceremony: Group will vote on day, day, time, place, attire; who to invite; amount of contribution;

(b) Form the following committees:

- Invitation Committee: make a list of guests; print invitation fliers, with RSVP requested; keep tract of expected number of guests, provide number to the Refreshments Committee;
- Program Committee: plan the parts of the program (opening & closing prayers; welcome and opening remarks; scripture reading; opening and closing songs; two testimonies (male, female, 2-3 minutes long, about the most meaningful impact of the course in their life); definitely assign persons for the different parts; make sure you have the right music and music group/persons; design and print the program

LEARNING GOALS

After completing this lesson:

- Please write down and later share with the group which part of the life testimony of Barnabas encouraged and challenged you;
- Like Barnabas:
 1. Is there a young Christian in your church/fellowship group who needs encouragement and mentoring in basic discipleship and who is open to your help? Pray for the Holy Spirit's leading as to when and how to connect with this person.
 2. Is there a committed and gifted disciple younger than you in your church/fellowship who needs mentoring and who is open to your help? Pray for the Holy Spirit's leading as to when and how to connect with this person.

INTRODUCTION

1. What kind of disciple do we need in order to grow a healthy church, which will produce disciples that will go on to produce more disciples?
2. What would that disciple look like? What qualities would he/she have?
3. Let's make this personal: If I want to become that kind of a disciple, what knowledge, attitudes, skills and qualities should I develop in order to help my fellowship group, my cell group, or my church grow. Let me strongly suggest to you that we need **BARNABAS-TYPE DISCIPLES** to grow a healthy church, that will give birth to disciples that will multiply themselves.

A. GOOD AND GENEROUS

4. The Book of Acts tells us the story of the very first church in Jerusalem. It tells us stories of church members who helped build the church. And one of those members was Barnabas; he is one church member whose example we would like to follow; he was a disciple who built up his fellowship group, cell group and church. In Acts 11:24 we see three main qualities of Barnabas.: "For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith."
5. Barnabas was a good man. Who or what is a good man? Romans 5:7 gives us a clue. This verse contrasts a "righteous man" and a "good man"; it says, nobody would die for a "righteous man", but someone might be willing to die for a "good man". A righteous man is a person who is morally good by himself; he doesn't bother or burden anybody.

The picture is that of a monk or hermit living by himself in the middle of a desert; he is isolated from the world and its temptation and sin; he is isolated from society, so he's not a trouble to anybody -- but he doesn't help other people very much, does he? The monk is only helping himself.

6. Barnabas was a good man, not only in the sense that he maintained a good personal character, but he also got involved in the lives of other people. The idea of being a generous giver is contained in the description "a good man". This is what God had in mind when He promised Abraham, "I will bless you and you will be a blessing."

7. There are church members who are like a sponge -- they don't help the church to grow -- because their main motivation in coming to church is to be blessed -- to be pleased, to be entertained, to be attended to, to be inspired so that they go home spiritually happy and uplifted. They don't care if others are blessed, as long as they are blessed.

8. Barnabas not only wanted to be blessed; when he came to church he wanted to be a blessing. That's the meaning of being a good and generous person. This is the kind of church member God wants us to be -- like Barnabas... someone who seeks not only blessing for himself but who seeks to be a channel of God's blessing to others.

B. FULL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

9. Another quality of Barnabas is that he was full of the Holy Spirit. This is the disciple that will help a church grow -- filled and empowered by the Holy Spirit. There are church members who are full of spirit -- but it's not the Holy Spirit. They are full of fighting spirit, full of the proud spirit, full of the critical spirit, full of the spirit of gossip. Spirit also means wind or air-- some church members are just full of hot air.

10. In contrast, a disciple (like Barnabas) who is full of the Holy Spirit will always seek to promote love and joy and peace in the church. That member will always seek to glorify God, even if he/she is never noticed or thanked or praised for his/her service.

C. FULL OF FAITH

11. A third quality of Barnabas is that he was full of faith. How do we define faith? Sometimes it is mistaken for optimism -- you see the glass as half-full instead of half-empty. A better definition is the attitude of Joshua and Caleb versus the attitude of the other ten spies. The ten spies saw the giants, but Joshua and Caleb saw the Lord; the ten spies saw the problem, Joshua and Caleb saw the problem solver.. The ten spies saw themselves like grasshoppers, but Joshua and Caleb saw the giants as bread provided by the Lord for their nourishment -- not literal bread, of course, you know what I mean.

12. We need Barnabas members who have the faith to believe and claim what God can do with a fellowship group, a cell group or a church, no matter how small the beginnings might be. We need Barnabas members who have faith to look at a sinner and see God's

possibilities for that person becoming a saint; Barnabas-like members who can see a problem member, and envision the great leader God wants to make of that member.

13. With these qualities in mind -- a good man, full of the Holy Spirit, full of faith -- let us watch Barnabas in action.

D. BARNABAS THE GIVER

14. The very first time we see Barnabas in action was when he was doing something material and practical to help others in Acts 4:36-37: "And Joses (or Joseph), who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus, having land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet."

15. Like Barnabas, the disciple who will help build the church is a generous giver and a faithful tither.

16. Some Christians believe (wrongly) that we should NOT talk about money or tithing. However, as we study about Barnabas as a disciple who helps build up a church, is it an accident that the Bible shows us Barnabas first as a generous giver?

17. No, this is no accident. Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." This can also be stated: "Where your heart is, there your treasure will be also." If you love God and his church, you will give your tithes and offerings to support the church.

18. Did you hear about the man who, when he was baptized, held up his wallet above water?

19. A church member who has not surrendered his heart as well as his wallet to the Lord will always be a burden -- not a builder -- in the church. Prove me if I'm wrong... those who give the least criticize the most. Those who do not put God first in their finances are usually members who also put God last in all other areas of their life. But those who are faithful in giving their tithes and offerings are the most faithful in serving the Lord in church.

20. Barnabas was a member who helped build the church because he loved God not only with his heart but also with his money. But more than money -- it's stewardship. What is stewardship? Simply: stewardship is loving and serving God with what you have (little or much) right now. Let's ask God to forgive us for wasting our time in the past; let us also ask forgiveness for promising to serve God in the future. The only time we have is now, the only possession we have is what's in our hands or pockets right now... let us love and serve God right now... with what we have.

E. BARNABAS THE DISCIPLE-MAKER

21. But it was not his gift of giving that earned Barnabas a big place in New Testament church history. It was his gift of friendship. The second time we see Barnabas in action is in Acts 9:26-30.

22. The most violent persecutor of the church, Saul (before becoming Paul), had recently been converted on the road to Damascus. Immediately upon conversion in Damascus he started proclaiming boldly the Christ he formerly persecuted. So the Jews in Damascus plotted to kill him, and Saul escaped back to Jerusalem.

23. Let's read Acts 9:26-30. From this passage, did you notice what Barnabas did, because he was a good man, a Holy Spirit-filled man, a man full of faith? He was not afraid to welcome a former persecutor and vouch for him before the church. He overflowed with love from the Holy Spirit, and he had faith to see that this persecutor would someday become a great worker for Christ.

24. Today in our churches, we need a lot of friendly Barnabas-type members. Did you know that most visitors to our fellowship or cell or church do not return because none of the members took time to really welcome them and make them feel at home?

25. We need to form a lot of Barnabas welcome committees. Not because the pastor or church assigned us; but because we simply want to show Christ's love to newcomers.

26. You know, even among Christians everyone has his/her favorite group or clique. When you come to the fellowship group or church, you naturally go to your clique, and forget everyone else, specially the visitors.

27. If we want our fellowship or church to grow, if we want our visitors to return, let me challenge you: Every member must make it a lifestyle to welcome visitors before and after the service. And I mean, make it a lifestyle. This story is told about one visitor who experienced a strange thing in one church. The first Sunday that he visited, he was greeted by a person seemingly with great enthusiasm and love; the following Sunday the same person did not even so much as say "Hi" to him. Later on, he found out the reason: That member was only enthusiastic in greeting people on the Sunday that he was assigned to be greeter; on Sundays when he was not assigned, he did not bother to greet visitors. That is not what we mean by a welcoming Barnabas lifestyle. Assigned or not, be a Barnabas or a welcome committee to everyone. If nobody in the church sees the need, decide to become a WELCOME COMMITTEE OF ONE and be the Barnabas in our church every time its doors open.

28. I challenge us to try this: Let the whole church converge on a newcomer before and after the service; and let two or three invite the guest to lunch with you... we'll be amazed what this will do to your visitor.

29. In the church in Jerusalem, on the first service that Saul attended, the church almost lost a future great missionary... had not Barnabas stepped in.

30. And Barnabas went beyond more than just welcoming Saul. I'm quite confident that Barnabas took personal responsibility in giving Saul the basic discipleship follow-up he needed. Because of Barnabas, Saul found a spiritual home where he could grow and develop into a mature Christian. Saul stayed in Jerusalem until his bold witness got him in trouble there again, and so he had to flee to his home city in Tarsus. But by the time Saul left, we can be sure that Barnabas had given him the basic foundations of lifelong discipleship and service.

31. Basic follow-up, basic disciple-making, is a ministry we need to implement in our churches, if we want to grow. We need a lot of Barnabas-type members who know how to nurture and disciple new members.

F. BARNABAS THE TRAINER

32. The third time we see Barnabas in action is in Acts 11. Word got back to Jerusalem from Antioch that those who had been scattered by the persecution had won to Christ some non-Jewish people. And guess who the Jerusalem elders sent to help these brand new Christians? Barnabas. Let's read Acts 11:22-23: Then the news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord.

33. Again Barnabas exercised his ministry of basic follow-up and basic disciple-making. And again he did more than that. He knew that the work was too big for one person; and he also knew there was one worker who needed the opportunity to work. It was at this time that Barnabas remembered his friend and disciple Saul. What then did Barnabas do?

34. Let's read Acts 11:25-26: "Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul. And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch." Did you know that Barnabas probably traveled about 150 miles overland. In those days of travel by foot or by slow cart was a long way to travel. That's how committed Barnabas was as disciple-maker.

35. An African Christian traveled several days to bring a gift to a missionary. The missionary told him, "Sorry you had to travel hard and long to bring me the gift." The African Christian replied: "Travel, part of gift." Traveling was part of Barnabas' gift of making disciples.

36. what did Barnabas do with Saul, when he had finally brought him to Antioch? He trained Saul in ministry. Remember, in Jerusalem Barnabas welcomed Saul into membership and helped him grow toward maturity? Now, in Antioch, Barnabas trained Saul in ministry.

37. And how did Saul learn ministry? By watching his mentor, Barnabas.

38. We need Barnabas-type mentors in the church to train the younger members to serve the Lord in ministry.

39. Barnabas probably went through the 4 steps in mentoring with Saul:

Step 1: I do, you watch.

Step 2: I do, you help.

Step 3: You do, I help.

Step 4: You do, I watch.

40. If we want our church to grow, we must have mentors like Barnabas who will go through this four-step process of training with all the younger members of the church.

G. BARNABAS THE PARTNER

41. The fourth time we see Barnabas in action is as a partner in ministry with his disciple Saul, soon to be called Paul. One day while the leaders in the Antioch church were having their regular day of prayer and fasting, the Holy Spirit issues a missionary call. Let's read Acts 13:1-3.

42. Using Rick Warren's Purpose-Driven Model, it is enlightening to see how Barnabas helped Saul through the stages of his spiritual journey.. In Jerusalem we saw Barnabas guiding Saul from Membership to Maturity. At the beginning of Saul's stay in Antioch we see Barnabas helping him to move from Maturity to Ministry. And now toward the end of Saul's stay in Antioch we see Barnabas helping Saul (Paul) move toward the highest level of training, that of finding his Mission in life.

43. These are the four stages of the Christian life that all church members must strive to go through:

- Membership,
- Maturity,
- Ministry,
- Mission.

And we need Barnabas-type members to assist younger members to move forward in this process.

44. If we want our church to grow, these four stages of the Christian life must be clearly and continually set forth before all the members... and there must be an on-going process in which all members have the opportunity to participate so they can get started in their journey and continue in it until they find their mission in life. Rick Warren's two books (Purpose Driven Church and Purpose Driven Life) are very helpful. Actually, materials produced by the Navigators, Campus Crusades, IVCF, and other disciple-making ministries cover these basic stages using different terminologies. Whatever material you use, just be clear in your mind about the growth process and be committed to helping all

your members go through the whole process (Colossians 1:28-29). We highly recommend that you try using the NewLife Series, Books 1-14. You may request a FREE E-COPY of the whole series from pastorbien@gmail.com.

45. Back to Barnabas and Saul. Now we see these two mature disciples go as partners in the Mission that God gave them. But note carefully that Barnabas is always trying to encourage and train someone else. We read in Acts 13:5 a seemingly casual and passing observation: "They also had John as their assistant." This was John also called Mark, the younger cousin (other scholars say the nephew) of Barnabas. The trip proved too much for their young assistant, as Mark lost his nerve; he found the going tough, and he ran back home to mama.

46. Two things to notice about this first missionary journey. It was during this journey that Saul's name is changed to Paul (verse 9). Significantly, also during this journey, the leadership changes hands. Whereas in the beginning, it was Barnabas and Saul, now in Acts 11:43, it was Paul and Barnabas. The disciple has advanced beyond his mentor. And yet nowhere in the history of Barnabas do we see Barnabas becoming jealous or bitter.

47. This is the kind of disciple we need -- the kind that will build our church -- Barnabas-type members who will train others to become greater than themselves, to accomplish more than they have accomplished. And still they find joy and satisfaction in remaining in the background. Many Christians know about D. L. Moody as a great evangelist in the 1800s. Practically the whole world knows about Billy Graham as probably the greatest evangelist of all time. But who knows about the many Barnabas-type Christians who helped them at critical moments in their journey?

48. But we are not finished with Barnabas and Paul yet. Because we find Barnabas in action in yet another situation -- though this time it was very painful.

H. BARNABAS AND PAUL -- COMPLEMENTARY MINISTRIES

49. Let's read Acts 15:36-40.7. Here we see two spiritual giants -- Barnabas and Paul - - two great friends -- the mentor and his disciple; both of them Holy Spirit-filled and obedient to God's will. How then could this very sharp contention arise between two spiritual giants? Can't mature Christian leaders learn to settle their arguments lovingly? Were Barnabas and Saul committing sin in this sharp disagreement? Is there no way to avoid violent arguments between mature, Spirit-filled Christians?

50. Apparently, the answer is no! While still living in our mortal flesh and living in this world, there's no way to avoid arguments or disagreements even among mature Spirit-filled Christians.

51. The beauty of the Bible is that it gives us a very honest picture of Christians in their best moments and in their worst moments.

52. But from this incident in the life of these two spiritual giants, we see that as long as we are still in our imperfect human personalities, we will always have limited understanding of the whole picture. Only God sees the whole picture. And because of our limited understanding, there will arise disagreements.

53. Paul saw one side of the picture; Barnabas saw another. Here we also see contrasting personalities and ministries. Paul was goal-oriented; Barnabas was person-oriented. In the church we need both kinds of personalities and ministries.

54. For a goal oriented person, the important thing is to finish the task, and anyone or anything that hinders that must be removed. Paul-type personalities have this motto: "Shape up or ship out."

55. But the Barnabas-type Christian is person-oriented; he is interested in developing the person first before trying to finish the job. It doesn't matter if the job seems to be delayed a little bit, as long as we train and develop the person who will go on to finish the job.

56. But I repeat, while living in our mortal bodies, conflicts of personality cannot be avoided. Paul insisted, "We must finish the job. I won't have a coward and loser on my team." Barnabas insisted, "Mark's got potential. Let's give him another chance." And both insisted on their own principle and they had no choice but to sever their partnership. For Paul and Barnabas who have been very close friends and co-workers for a long time, that was probably one of the saddest days of their lives.

57. But let me ask you, who do you think was right? Who was wrong? Paul or Barnabas?

58. The answer: Neither men were wrong; both were right. Paul was right; he got the job done, and he started a missionary movement that reached all the way to the capital of the Roman empire and into Europe and to the end of the world, and into our day.

59. But Barnabas was also right -- and Paul agreed with him in the end. Mark needed a second chance, and with the help of Barnabas, he eventually grew from Membership to Maturity to Ministry until he found the life Mission God had planned for him from the beginning of time.

60. Towards the end of his life while awaiting in prison for his time of execution, Paul wrote to Timothy about Mark: "Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry." (2 Tim. 4:11). Mark found his place and mission -- not to be the leader, but to be a helper to the leader. But guess what was the greatest Mission of Mark? That's right... his mission was to write one of the four gospels, which now bears his name.

I. WHO WAS GREATER -- BARNABAS OR PAUL?

61. One final question: Who was greater -- Paul or Barnabas?

62. Well, judge for yourself: Without Barnabas, instead of 27 books of the New Testament, we would probably have only 13 books -- because we will be missing the Gospel of Mark and the 13 letters of Paul.

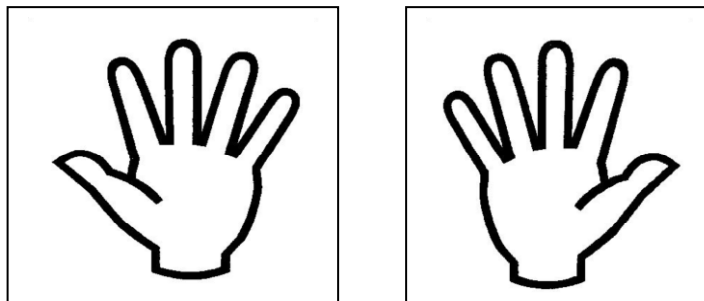
63. But in God's kingdom, greatness is not measured by comparing ourselves with one another. Rather, greatness is measured by how much we have become the kind of person God planned us to be.

64. God meant Barnabas to be an encourager, discipler, trainer, and co-laborer to men like Paul and Mark. The fact that he succeeded in making them the men God wanted them to be, that fact proves that he himself succeeded in becoming the man God wanted him to be.

65. Paul and Mark got the headlines here on earth. But I have a feeling that in heaven someday Barnabas might be given a bigger billing than these two men.

CONCLUSION

74. For churches to grow, we need members who will become Barnabases and Barnababes -- Christians who will challenge people to join in the discipleship process and to help people stay with the process: win people to Christ, welcome them to Membership, disciple them to Maturity, train them in Ministry, and launch them in their life Mission in the world.



EPILOGUE

Throughout this NewLife Course we have used the hand illustration. We will conclude by using the *pointing finger* one more time.

This entire course may be considered only as a *pointing finger*. The pointing finger cannot tell you all about the journey and what to do on the journey. But the pointing finger can at least indicate the general direction toward the right path and get you started on your journey.

If this NewLife Course serves as a pointing finger for anyone at all, the author has only one testimony:

"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us" (2 Corinthians 4:7).

To God be the glory! Great things He has done!