

GRACE-GIFTS SEMINAR

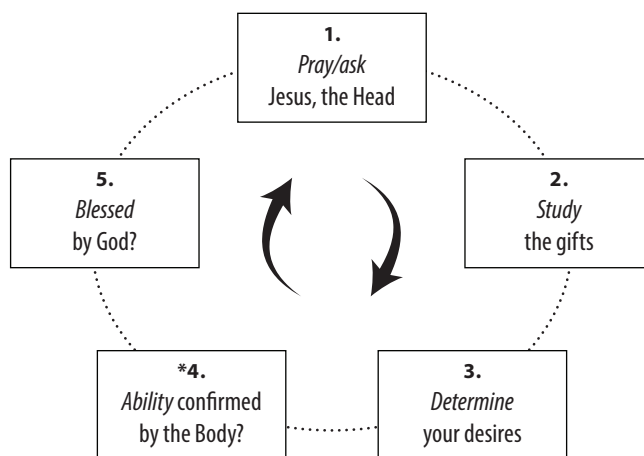
THIS SEMINAR IS DESIGNED TO LAST ABOUT 4 HOURS AS WE SYSTEMATICALLY GO THROUGH THE COURSEPACK AND COVER THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- First, we'll answer seven crucial questions about grace gifts explained in chapter 7 of *Sustainable Church*:
 1. **What** is a “grace gift” or “spiritual gift”?
 2. **Who distributes** the grace gifts?
 3. **Who gets** the grace gifts?
 4. **When** are the gifts given?
 5. **What is the basis** for the giving of the gifts?
 6. **Why** are the gifts given—for what purpose?
 7. **Why** do people with the same gift have **different effects** in ministry?
- Second, we'll go over the process of “Discovering Your Grace Gifts” explained in chapter 9 of *Sustainable Church*. The Seminar handout is on page 2 in this coursepack.
- Third, we'll look at the list of biblical passages on page 3 of this coursepack, entitled “Grace Gifts in the New Testament.” We'll also go over the “Summary of Each Grace Gift” on pages 4-5 of this coursepack. These gifts are explained more fully in chapter 8 of *Sustainable Church*.
- Lastly, we'll fill out the “Grace Gifts Inventory” available for free at www.sustainablechurch.org. We'll share our results with a group of 4-5 other grace-gifted saints!

DISCOVERING YOUR GRACE-GIFTS

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE CHAPTER 9 OF *SUSTAINABLE CHURCH: "HOW WE DISCOVER THE SERVING GRACE OF GOD"*

William McRae, in *The Dynamics of Spiritual Gifts* (Zondervan, 1976), suggests *five basic steps* in knowing your grace gifts. I'm suggesting that these actually function as "aspects" of a less linear process that is far more dynamic and flexible regarding its chronological order:



- 1. Begin by praying:** Avoid anxiety due to your past inability to determine your gift(s) by talking to the Head of the Body about His function for you in His Church. He wants you to discover your gifts far more than you want to discover them! So, ask Him to show you.
- 2. Study the Gifts of the Spirit in the Bible:** Study the biblical passages relating to gifts: Romans 12:6-8; Ephesians 4:11; 1 Peter 4:11; 1 Corinthians 12:6-10; 12:28; 12:29-30; 13:1-3; 13:8; 14:6; 14:26. Seek to understand the exact thrust of each gift. Understanding these gifts gives you a framework in which to ponder your own gifts.
- 3. Determine what your desires are:** Based on the knowledge of your study of what the individual gifts are, what particular gifts interest you most and strike a responsive chord in you? What gifts would you desire to have because you find them most fulfilling as you express them or when you see others express them? What are your desires?
- *4. See if your desires are confirmed by ability:** This means getting involved in ministry in your local church or Christian group and doing the things you desire to do. Try several different areas and types of ministry. Which area or areas are confirmed by real ability that you display? Especially important is the confirmation of your ability by the leaders/elders/mature members of your local church. This process takes time, so don't get impatient!
- 5. Determine if your efforts are accompanied by God's blessing:** If a grace-gift is exercised in submission to the Spirit of God, blessing will accompany it. There will be spiritual success obvious to you and others. What efforts in ministry is God blessing in your life? Which efforts seem to result in supernatural success each time?

"If high schoolers, housewives, working men and business women were to head out each day, not to school or housework or place of business, but to the ministry for which the Holy Spirit had equipped them, would not this help to make the day's employment purposeful, zestful, and abundant?"

(LESLIE B. FLYNN, *19 GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT* [VICTOR BOOKS, 1974] P. 7).

GRACE-GIFTS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

A MEMORY KEY FOR REMEMBERING THE LISTS OF GIFTS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT IS THAT THEY ARE IN THE TWO 4'S AND THE TWO 12'S: EPHESIANS 4 AND 1 PETER 4, THEN ROMANS 12 AND 1 CORINTHIANS 12 (INCLUDING CHS. 12-14). THESE ARE THE LISTS THAT FLOW RIGHT OUT OF THE BIBLICAL TEXT.

THE KEY LISTS:

Romans 12:6-8

Ephesians 4:11

1 Peter 4:10-11

1 Corinthians 12:6-10 / 12:28 / 12:29-30 / 13:1-3 / 13:8 / 14:6 / 14:26

LISTING OF THE 19 GRACE-GIFTS BY PASSAGE

Romans 12:6-8

Prophesying
Ministering/Serving
Teaching
Exhorting
Giving
Ruling/Leading
Showing Mercy

Ephesians 4:11

Apostleship
Prophesying
Evangelizing
Pastor-Teacher

1 Peter 4:10-11

Speaking
Ministering/Serving

1 Corinthians 12:6-10

Word of Wisdom
Word of Knowledge
Faith
Healing
Miracles
Prophesying
Discerning of Spirits
Kinds of Tongues
Interpreting of Tongues

1 Corinthians 12:28

Apostleship
Prophesying
Teaching
Miracles
Healing
Helping
Administering
Kinds of Tongues

1 Corinthians 12:29-30

Apostleship
Prophesying
Teaching
Miracles
Healing
Tongues
Interpreting of Tongues

1 Corinthians 13:1-3, 8

(a more casual list)
Tongues (2 times)
Prophesying (2 times)
Mysteries
Knowledge (2 times)
Faith Teaching
Giving

1 Corinthians 14:6

(a more casual list)
Tongues
Revelation
Knowledge
Prophesying

1 Corinthians 14:26

(a more casual list)
Teaching
Revelation
Tongues
Interpreting of Tongues

SUMMARY OF EACH GRACE GIFT

GIFT	DESCRIPTION	SPECIAL NOTE
Apostleship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Cor 12:12, 28-29 • Eph 2:20; 4:11 	<i>[provisional]</i> The special ability to initiate the work of the church in new areas or in new ways that provides extraordinary health, growth, and maturity through this leadership. (Or “the ability to communicate the Christian message across cultural [and frequently linguistic] barriers and plant a Christian church where there is no knowledge of the gospel....The rough modern equivalent is a pioneer missionary.”—Kenneth C. Kinghorn)	This gift is still being discussed as to whether it is uniquely foundational for the beginning of the church (Eph 2:19-20; 2 Cor 12:12) or if it continues to be given as a gift. If still given, these apostles are not as authoritative as the original ones re: keys to the kingdom.
Prophecy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Cor 12:10, 28-29; 13:2,8; 14:all; • Rom 12:6 • Eph 4:11 • Acts 13:1; 15:32; 21:8-9 	The ability to transmit Spirit-given, intelligible messages, usually in the gathered church, for the edification, encouragement, or consolation of the people. A part of this gift is providing divine direction and broad strategies for the Body’s wisest and most fruitful ministry.	This gift has been debated the last 30 years; the dfn. reflects the basic consensus. Prophecies should not be despised, but examined carefully (1 Thess 5:19-22).
Teaching <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Cor 12:28-29 • Rom 12:7 	The keen interest in the personal study of God’s Word and the capacity to communicate clearly the truths and applications of the Word so others may learn and profit.	
Helps/Serving <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Cor 12:28 • Rom 12:7 	The capacity to serve faithfully in practical ways doing “household duties” in the Lord’s work so that others are encouraged & strengthened spiritually. Hospitality may be one aspect.	In 1 Cor 12:28, the word “helps” has the added connotation of helping the weak, needy, and poor.
Mercy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rom 12:8 	The capacity to give undeserved aid joyfully, especially to those whom the majority ignores.	This includes emotionally connecting with the hurting
Evangelism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eph 4:11 	The capacity and overwhelming burden to present the gospel message with exceptional clarity and to train effectively others to do so.	This is one of the 4 equipping gifts of Eph 4:11-12.
Pastor-Teacher <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eph 4:11 	The capacity to shepherd God’s flock (feed, lead, and give heed to) and to prepare and serve a balanced spiritual diet that produces growth.	This gift, not office, enables both men and women to disciple others in many ways.
Leadership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rom 12:8 	The capacity to stand before others to lead them and to catalyze God’s people to action.	Leaders perceive the church’s next steps.
Administrations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Cor 12:28 	The capacity to stand behind others to guide them and to bring organization to the church’s work in an efficient and ordered way.	The distinction between this gift and “leadership” is the absence of the catalyzing function.

SUMMARY OF EACH GRACE GIFT (CONT.)

GIFT	DESCRIPTION	SPECIAL NOTE
Giving <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rom 12:8 	The capacity to distribute personal resources to the Lord's work and to His people in a very need-sensitive, consistent, generous, cheerful, and sacrificial manner.	Many times those who have this gift seem to have an ability to make money also.
Faith <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Cor 12:9; 13:2 	The capacity to trust God beyond the probable and to raise the vision of others.	This gift is expressed many times through intercessory or prayer ministries.
Exhortation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rom 12:8 	The capacity to encourage, comfort, and motivate people to action using God's Word. (e.g., Barnabus in Acts 4:36-37; 11:22-24)	This gift is expressed often in counseling ministries and also fostering worship.
Word of Wisdom <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Cor 12:8 	The special capacity to receive, understand, and apply the wisdom of God's Word to lifesituations.	Those with this gift tend to have greater discernment in sensing others' issues.
Word of Knowledge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Cor 12:8; cf. 13:8; 14:6 	This is very similar to or actually is another way of describing the gift of teaching. If it is a separate gift, it may be the ability to impart biblical knowledge to meet an immediate need.	This gift is not receiving new facts directly from the Spirit about a situation or person; that is prophecy.
Discerning of Spirits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Cor 12:10 	The capacity to distinguish between spirits of truth and error (Holy Spirit versus human and evil spirits) and to discern subtle forms of spiritual phoniness, especially in prophecies.	1 John 4:1-6 is the central N.T. exhortation for God's people to "test the spirits."
Miracles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Cor 12:10; cf. 2 Cor 12:12 	The capacity to perform acts contrary to natural laws with God's power which demonstrates His authoritative presence, especially in the gospel.	Plurals "workings of miracles" may signify various kinds/times for this gift.
Gifts of Healings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Cor 12:9, 28- 30 	The capacities to heal diseases miraculously. Perhaps one's gifting focuses on specific kinds of illnesses or perhaps it manifests at various times in light of the double plural expression of the gift.	The plural form of the words "gifts" and "healings" may also indicate that this is an ability that is given repeatedly—perhaps at special times, rather than on demand.
Speaking in Tongues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Cor 12:10, 28- 30; 13:1, 8; 14:all 	The capacity to speak to God or to His people in a known language in Acts 2 (and perhaps not in an earthly language in 1 Cor 14) which is unlearned by the speaker. Tongues should not be forbidden, but should be orderly in the assembly as a part of public prayer and praise (1 Cor 14:39-40).	Because the Corinthians abused this gift, Paul clarified that it is "the least" of the gifts (1 Cor 12:28), is not for all (12:30), and should not be desired like "the greater gifts" (12:31).
Interpreting Tongues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Cor 12:10, 30 	The capacity to interpret the meaning of a tongue, although the interpreter has not learned the language.	