

CONSIDERING OUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

FALL 2025



*Now to each one the manifestation of the
Spirit is given for the common good.
(1 Corinthians 12:7)*

www.emmanuelchurch.ca

Greetings!

Every believer has been entrusted with at least one spiritual gift. Yet, many Christians struggle to identify and/or apply their gift(s)! And so, this fall, the Emmanuel Church family will go on a journey to consider what gifts God has entrusted us with. Our prayer is that this process will bring a growing understanding about spiritual gifts, and a renewed commitment to use them in a God-glorifying way.

And so, most Sundays will feature a message related to this topic. I encourage you to attend services regularly this fall, as messages will 'build on each other'. If you do miss a service, access it online in the days following. You can find links to the recorded services on our website.

Then there is this booklet. It has been designed to go along with the Sunday messages. Each week will include some Scriptures to read and meditate on, as well as some probing questions and prayer prompts. Finally, where possible, we have included a practical exercise.

Space has been included for your personal notes. However, we recognize that some of you may require more space. If that's you, do your journaling in your regular journals.

Know that I'll be praying for you!

Sincerely,

Sweis Ubels
(Pastor)

WHY SHOULD I CONSIDER SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

WEEK 1: SEPTEMBER 14-20

Scriptures to Consider:

1 Corinthians 12:7-14

⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues,^[a] and to still another the interpretation of tongues.^[b] ¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines. ¹² Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For we were all baptized by^[c] one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. ¹⁴ Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

Ephesians 4:7, 11-16

⁷ But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.

¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Journal:

How do these passages challenge your view and practice of spiritual gifts? You may want to list the gifts you believe God entrusted to you and how you have used them in the past, and/or are using them in the present. What would you love to see changed?

Homework:

Take some time this week to consider spiritual gifts in our church family. Who do you see serving in their area of giftedness? What gifts do we need more of?

Prayer Prompts:

Pray for someone in our community who you see using their spiritual gifts and encourage them this week. Also, ask if the Lord wants to say something to you personally concerning your spiritual gifts.

More Homework:

Speak to a person about what you are learning, and briefly journal about how that conversation went.

WHAT ABOUT THE MIRACULOUS GIFTS?

WEEK 2: SEPTEMBER 21-27

Scriptures to Consider:

Mark 16:14-20

9 When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven demons. 10 She went and told those who had been with him and who were mourning and weeping. 11 When they heard that Jesus was alive and that she had seen him, they did not believe it.

12 Afterward Jesus appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking in the country. 13 These returned and reported it to the rest; but they did not believe them either.

14 Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating; he rebuked them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen him after he had risen.

15 He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. 16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. 17 And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; 18 they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."

19 After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. 20 Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.

1 Corinthians 12:8-10

8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears.

Journal:

What stands out in this week's Scripture readings? Is there anything new? What challenges your beliefs?

What are your personal beliefs about the miraculous gifts? And, what are the reasons for your convictions about this?

To Think Through:

Some Christians believe that the miraculous gifts are no longer active – that they ceased to operate with the death of the last apostles. Many of them look to 1 Corinthians 12:10 as proof (see page 6.) However, when does ‘completeness’ come? What evidence are you aware of that miraculous gifts are active today?

Prayer Prompt:

Ask God to give you the courage to be challenged on your convictions regarding spiritual gifts.

Homework:

Ask around if people have experienced a miracle. And, if they have, ask them to tell their story.

Alternatively, watch some YouTube videos on the subject.

THE DIVERSITY OF GIFTS & THE BEST

WEEK 3: SEPTEMBER 28-OCTOBER 4

Scriptures to Consider:

Romans 12:6-8

6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your[a] faith; 7 if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8 if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead,[b] do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

1 Corinthians 13:8-10

8 To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, 10 to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues,[a] and to still another the interpretation of tongues.

Ephesians 4:11-13

11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

1 Peter 4:9-11

Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. 10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 11 If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Journal:

What other gifts are you aware of?

Which gift(s) has God entrusted to you? Which gifts do you wish you had? How are you currently using the gifts entrusted to you?

Prayer Prompt:

If you don't know what spiritual gifts you have, ask God to reveal your gifts. Read the lists again and take note of which ones grab your attention - these may be the ones that God has empowered you with.

Homework:

Ask another Christian (preferably someone belonging to Emmanuel Church) about their spiritual gifts. Try to lead into an encouraging conversation about this topic.

More Scripture to Consider:

1 Corinthians 12:31-13:8a

31 Now eagerly desire the greater gifts.

And yet I will show you the most excellent way.

1 If I speak in the tongues[a] of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast,[b] but do not have love, I gain nothing.

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

8 Love never fails.

Journal:

How does love play into the way you use your gifts?

EAGERLY DESIRE THE GIFTS

WEEK 4: OCTOBER 5-11

Scriptures to Consider:

Exodus 31:1-11

1 Then the Lord said to Moses, 2 “See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, 3 and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills— 4 to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, 5 to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of crafts. 6 Moreover, I have appointed Oholiab son of Ahisamak, of the tribe of Dan, to help him. Also I have given ability to all the skilled workers to make everything I have commanded you: 7 the tent of meeting, the ark of the covenant law with the atonement cover on it, and all the other furnishings of the tent— 8 the table and its articles, the pure gold lampstand and all its accessories, the altar of incense, 9 the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils, the basin with its stand— 10 and also the woven garments, both the sacred garments for Aaron the priest and the garments for his sons when they serve as priests, 11 and the anointing oil and fragrant incense for the Holy Place.

1 Corinthians 13:27-31a

27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. 28 And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? 30 Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues[d]? Do all interpret? 31 Now eagerly desire the greater gifts.

1 Corinthians 14:18-19

18 I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. 19 But in the church I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue.

Journal:

The first text is from the Old Testament, long before the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came to dwell in believers. How does that text encourage you?

What gifts do you 'eagerly desire'? If granted, how would you use them?

What obstacles get in the way of people eagerly desiring to grow in their giftedness? What obstacles are the most significant for you?

Homework:

Talk with someone you see using their gifts and ask them how they overcame the obstacles and stumbling blocks they faced. Reflect on that conversation

Prayer Prompt:

Ask Holy Spirit to reveal the source of the obstacles and stumbling blocks in your life - seeking forgiveness where needed. In faith, ask for an increased desire for God's will for your life

If fear is an obstacle, meditate on 1 John 4:16-18.

16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

17 This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. 18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

A HEART OF GRATITUDE

WEEK 5: OCTOBER 12-18

Scriptures to Consider

Romans 12:6-8

6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your[a] faith; 7 if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8 if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead,[b] do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

Ephesians 4:11-13

11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. 14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. 15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. 16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Journal

In what ways would the local church be different without spiritual gifts?

Homework / Prayer:

Write a prayer of thanksgiving for the spiritual gifts that God has entrusted to our local church. Feel free to use names of people who are clearly using their gifts well!

DISCOVERING MY GIFT THROUGH SELF-EXAMINATION

WEEK 6: OCTOBER 19-25

Scriptures to Consider

Luke 5:1-11

1 One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret,[a] the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. 2 He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. 3 He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."

5 Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

6 When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. 7 So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

8 When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" 9 For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, 10 and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." 11 So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

1 Corinthians 12:7-14

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Journal:

Peter's job as a fisherman prepared him for his ministry of being a fisher of men. How might your life thus far have prepared you for what is next?

Consider your life in general, and more specifically as part of the Emmanuel family... What activities and roles give you joy, peace, and fulfillment? Write these realizations down asking the Lord to speak to you about each one.

Homework:

Pay close attention and journal daily about how you tend to help others (use the spiritual gift lists!)

A Note about Spiritual Gift Surveys....

You may have noticed we have talked very little about ‘spiritual gift surveys’. There are several reasons for this. Here are a few:

- The lists provided in Scripture are incomplete, so inevitably, the survey will not recognize those gifts
- The survey only sees a ‘snapshot’ of your life. You may answer questions very differently at a later point
- We are all a ‘work in progress’ – God’s calling on a person may change over time
- There is a tendency to just ask the teachers to do the teaching, but as Ephesians 4 shows us, teachers are to help others teach.... This applies to other gifts as well

That said, these surveys can be helpful, so here are a couple:

<https://gifts.churchgrowth.org/spiritual-gifts-survey/>

<https://gatewaypeople.com/spiritual-gifts-assessment/assessment/866409/edit>

DISCOVERING MY GIFT WITH OTHER PEOPLE'S HELP

WEEK:7: OCTOBER 26-NOVEMBER 1

Scriptures to Consider

2 Tim 1:6-7

6 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. 7 For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

Romans 12:1-8

12 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. 4 For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5 so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. 6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your[a] faith; 7 if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8 if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead,[b] do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

1 Timothy 4:14

Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you.

Journal:

Just like Paul encouraged and reminded Timothy of his giftings, ask the Lord to bring to mind a person(s) that could help you be encouraged, reminded, and/or discover your gifts.

Name(s) of person God brought to mind:

Homework:

Go to the person(s) God brought to your mind and discuss your journey with spiritual gifts. What possible gifts do they see in you? Pray together.

Prayer Prompt:

Pray for yourself and others to have the courage to follow through with this very important step of discovering your spiritual gifts.

APPLYING MY GIFT

NOVEMBER 2-8

Scripture to Consider:

Matthew 25:14-30

14 “Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. 15 To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag,[a] each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. 16 The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. 17 So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. 18 But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

19 “After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. 20 The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’

21 “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

22 “The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’

23 “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

24 “Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’

26 “His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? 27 Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

28 ““So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. 29 For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. 30 And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

Journal:

Which servant am I like in the way I use my spiritual gift(s)?
In what ways do you wish you were different?

Pray Romans 12:1-2

12 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Homework

Develop and commit to a goal(s) for how you will use your spiritual gifts. Write out your goals below

"I'm a fool for Christ - whose fool are you?"

John Wimber

Determine not to let your fear of failure stop you from being the beautiful gift you are to the Body of Christ.

If in the end we look foolish - oh well - we will be fools for Christ!