

Many churches are filled with people who approach church life as if they were at a ball game.

**What Are Spiritual Gifts?** Four main passages speak directly of them:

Romans 12:3-8

1 Corinthians 12:1-31

Ephesians 4:7-16

1 Peter 4:10-11

A working definition: "Abilities that God has granted to Christians for the edification of others in the body and the evangelization of those outside of the body" (p. 146).

Yet note well: Spiritual gifts never allow us to neglect our basic responsibilities as a Christian (Public Worship; Private Worship/Personal piety; Service; Witness; Giving/stewardship), as if I could say, "I'm just not gifted in that area."

**Who Gives Spiritual Gifts?**

<sup>NKJ</sup> **Romans 12:6** Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us...

<sup>NKJ</sup> **1 Corinthians 12:11** But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

<sup>NKJ</sup> **Ephesians 4:7** But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

<sup>NKJ</sup> **1 Peter 4:10** As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

*Why is it important to view your spiritual gifts as coming from God? What difference will this make in your attitude towards them?*

**To Whom Have Spiritual Gifts Been Given?**

John 3:34-35 - "There was only one man who ever walked the earth who had every spiritual gift in the greatest degree" (p. 151).

Every Believer has some indispensable giftedness (1 Cor. 12:14-27)

Yet, not all Christians have the same giftedness

Why do some believers think that [they] do not have any spiritual gifts?

**Why Are Spiritual Gifts Given?**

Why to leaders? Ephesians 4:11-12 - A specialized role of equipping.

Why to members? Ephesians 4:16- Note how p. 156 fleshes this out in a practical way.

1 Peter 2:9

## **What Are the Results of Using Our Gifts?**

Care of the entire body

Unity and love in the body

Maturity and wisdom in the body

Effectiveness as the body

## **How Can We Discover Our Spiritual Gifts?**

1. Study the Bible - There seem to be two basic categories of spiritual gifts:

Word gifts and Deed Gifts

2. Pray

3. Examine your motives

4. Evaluate your abilities -Make a list: "Can Do" "Have Done" "Doing Better" "Want to Do"

*Resonance...the A string verse the E flat*

5. Ask others

6. Take opportunities to serve

7. A word of caution about "Spiritual Gift Surveys"

## **A Final Reminder - Ephesians 4:7-8**

### My Abilities

Can Do	Have Done	Doing Better	Want to Do