

Walk With Scripture - Scripture Lesson

Title: *Understanding and Using the Gifts from God*

Introduction to the Topic

The gifts from God, often referred to as spiritual gifts, are divinely granted abilities for serving others and glorifying God. These gifts are discussed extensively in Scripture, particularly in Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, and Ephesians 4. Understanding these gifts is crucial for the believer to effectively build up the church and live a purpose-driven life in Christ.

Commentary: According to Grudem (2000), spiritual gifts are "any ability that is empowered by the Holy Spirit and used in any ministry of the church" (p. 1017). These gifts vary widely but share the common purpose of edifying the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:7). **Source:** Grudem, W. (2000). *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. Zondervan.

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, We thank You for gathering us here today to study Your Word and grow in understanding. We invite Your presence among us and ask for wisdom as we explore the gifts You have given us. Help us to recognize, appreciate, and use these gifts for Your glory and to serve others. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Focus Scripture

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

Commentary: This verse emphasizes that spiritual gifts are not for self-promotion but for the benefit of the church as a whole (Fee, 2014). The "manifestation of the Spirit" suggests that these gifts reveal God's presence and work among His people. **Source:** Fee, G. D. (2014). *The First Epistle to the Corinthians*. Eerdmans.

Bible Verses for Discussion (20 minutes)

1. **Romans 12:6 (ESV):** "Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith."
Romans 12:6 (NIV): "We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith."

Commentary: This passage highlights the diversity of spiritual gifts and the responsibility to use them. Paul underscores that these gifts are granted by God's grace (Stott, 2001). **Source:** Stott, J. (2001). *The Message of Romans*. InterVarsity Press.

Walk With Scripture - Scripture Lesson

2. **Ephesians 4:11-12 (ESV):** "And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ."

Ephesians 4:11-12 (NIV): "So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up."

Commentary: This scripture emphasizes the purpose of spiritual gifts: equipping believers and strengthening the church (O'Brien, 1999). **Source:** O'Brien, P. T. (1999). *The Letter to the Ephesians*. Eerdmans.

3. **1 Peter 4:10 (ESV):** "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."

1 Peter 4:10 (NIV): "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

Commentary: Peter focuses on stewardship, reminding believers that their gifts are entrusted by God and should be used for service (Marshall, 2004). **Source:** Marshall, I. H. (2004). *1 Peter*. InterVarsity Press.

Discussion Questions (15-20 minutes)

1. What gifts has God given you, and how are you currently using them in your life?
2. How can you discern the gifts that God has placed within you?
3. In what ways can you use your spiritual gifts to strengthen the community or the church?

Life Application (10 minutes)

Each man should take time this week to pray and reflect on the gifts God has given them. Consider seeking input from trusted friends or church leaders to identify your gifts. Make a commitment to use at least one of these gifts in a tangible way to serve others this week, whether in your family, church, or workplace.

Reflection and Encouragement (5-10 minutes)

God has uniquely equipped each of us with gifts to fulfill His purposes. While these gifts may vary, they all originate from the same Spirit and aim to build up His kingdom. Trust that God will provide opportunities to use your gifts as you step out in faith.

Closing Verse

- **Hebrews 13:20-21 (ESV):** "Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will."

Walk With Scripture - Scripture Lesson

- **Hebrews 13:20-21 (NIV):** "Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will." (Hebrews 13:20-21)

Commentary: This benediction assures believers that God provides all they need to accomplish His will (Bruce, 1990). **Source:** Bruce, F. F. (1990). *The Epistle to the Hebrews*. Eerdmans.

Closing Prayer

Gracious Father, Thank You for the gifts You have so generously given to each of us. Help us to recognize and use them for Your glory and the benefit of others. Strengthen our faith and give us boldness to step out in service. Bless our efforts this week as we apply what we've learned. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Takeaway Challenge

Spend 15 minutes each day in prayer and Scripture, asking God to reveal your spiritual gifts. Commit to using one gift in a specific, practical way this week to serve someone in your community.