

GRACE
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MESS



Holy Design

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Discovering the Power of Spiritual Gifts

Chapter 1: You Were Never Meant to Sit on the Sidelines

There is a sacred truth tucked into the fabric of Scripture that many Christians live their whole lives without ever fully grasping:

You were created on purpose, with purpose, and for a purpose.

But this purpose is not self-generated. It's not something you discover through personality quizzes, life hacks, or career assessments. It is something far more divine — a unique expression of God's Spirit within you, given freely at the moment you placed your faith in Jesus Christ.

This sacred deposit is called a spiritual gift. And it's not just for pastors, missionaries, or platformed voices. It's for you. Right now. Today. Whether you've been following Jesus for two days or two decades.

Sadly, many Christians live unaware of this reality. They attend church faithfully, serve occasionally, and give generously — but inside, they feel more like spectators than participants. They admire the work God is doing in others but wonder silently, *"Where do I fit in?"*

The answer, according to Scripture, is beautifully clear: you fit in the Body of Christ — because you are a part of it. And God has equipped you with supernatural power, tailor-made to contribute to His mission on earth.

Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 12:

"Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed." (v.1)

He's writing to the early church — a church that was experiencing the presence of God but lacked understanding about how to live out that presence in unity, love, and power. They were misusing the gifts, elevating some, ignoring others, and turning what was meant to unite into a cause for division.

Sound familiar?

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Even today, spiritual gifts are one of the most underutilized tools in the life of the believer. Some churches ignore them altogether. Others elevate only the “miraculous” ones. Many believers disqualify themselves, saying things like:

- “I’m not gifted.”
- “I’m too new in my faith.”
- “I don’t have anything special to offer.”

But Scripture reveals something radically different. The truth is this:

If the Spirit of God lives in you, the gifts of God work through you.

You may not feel special, but the Spirit in you is. You may not know your gift yet, but it’s there — waiting to be discovered, developed, and deployed.

And that’s what this book is about.

Chapter 2: What Spiritual Gifts Are — and What They Aren’t

Before we go any further, we need to be clear: What exactly is a spiritual gift?

A spiritual gift is not the same as a personality trait, a natural talent, or a learned skill. While God can certainly use all of those, spiritual gifts are something entirely different. They are supernatural capacities given by the Holy Spirit to every believer, for the express purpose of building up the Body of Christ and accomplishing His mission on earth.

Paul defines this more fully later in chapter 12:

“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord... Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.” (vv. 4–7)

Let’s unpack that.

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- Different gifts, same Spirit: There is no hierarchy of holiness when it comes to gifts. The person who teaches isn't more important than the one who shows mercy. The evangelist isn't more spiritual than the administrator. The same Spirit empowers them all.
- Gifts are for service: Gifts are never about status. They are tools, not trophies. They're meant to bless others — not to build personal platforms.
- Each one receives: This is crucial. If you are in Christ, you are not the exception. You have been gifted. There are no spiritual benchwarmers in the Kingdom of God. You are on the field — and heaven is waiting for you to play your part.
- Given for the common good: Spiritual gifts were never meant to isolate or elevate individuals. They are for the health, unity, and flourishing of the church.

Here's another way to say it:

Spiritual gifts aren't about making you look good — they're about making Jesus look glorious through your life.

Now, let's be clear about what spiritual gifts are not:

- They are not natural abilities (though those can be used in harmony with your gifts).
- They are not spiritual merit badges earned by maturity or time in church.
- They are not for personal gain, control, or comparison.
- And they are not optional for living a full, Spirit-empowered Christian life.

Chapter 3: A Supernatural Blueprint for Your Life

Have you ever wondered why some Christians seem to come alive in certain areas of ministry, while others struggle to stay engaged?

The answer is often simple: some are operating in their gifting; others are not.

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When you're walking in the area of your spiritual gift, something clicks. Ministry feels meaningful. Passion returns. Fatigue fades. Your faith gets activated because you're finally functioning the way God designed you to function.

That's not a coincidence. That's by divine design.

Paul uses the image of a body — a living, breathing, interconnected system where every part matters. Listen to his words:

“Just as a body, though one, has many parts... so it is with Christ... Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.” (1 Cor. 12:12, 27)

You are not just in the Body. You are the Body.

That means the Body suffers if you don't show up. When you stay on the sidelines, something vital is missing.

In a physical body, even the smallest parts have enormous impact. Ever stubbed your pinky toe? It throws your entire balance off. The church is the same way. No part is insignificant. No role is unimportant.

Your presence and participation matter.

You are not an accident.

You are not invisible.

You are not disqualified.

You are designed.

And once you discover your spiritual gift, you'll begin to see your life — and your faith — through a brand new lens.

Chapter 4: The Gifts Themselves — A Divine Toolkit for Impact

The apostle Paul doesn't leave the idea of spiritual gifts in the abstract. He names them. Lists them. Repeats them. Emphasizes their uniqueness. Not to create hierarchy — but to create harmony.

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In three key passages — Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, and Ephesians 4 — Paul lays out a variety of gifts. They are not exhaustive, but they form a mosaic of God’s creative genius in building His church.

Here are some of the core spiritual gifts taught in Scripture:

- **Prophecy:** Speaking truth from God with boldness and clarity. This isn’t about predicting the future — it’s about declaring divine truth in love and power.
- **Teaching:** The ability to communicate God’s Word with depth, structure, and clarity. Teachers illuminate truth and anchor the church in sound doctrine.
- **Exhortation (Encouragement):** Uplifting others with practical steps of faith. These believers are the wind in your sails when you’re ready to give up.
- **Generosity (Giving):** A supernatural capacity to joyfully release financial and material resources for Kingdom work.
- **Leadership:** Leading with divine vision and responsibility. These are the ones who go first and invite others to follow.
- **Mercy:** Compassion in action. The mercy-gifted feel the pain of others deeply and move to comfort and restore.
- **Faith:** A confident trust in God that defies circumstances. These are the mountain movers and the risk takers for the gospel.
- **Wisdom and Knowledge:** Wisdom is knowing how to apply truth; knowledge is understanding divine insight. Together, they build strong foundations.
- **Healing and Miracles:** God-empowered acts that bring restoration — physically, emotionally, and spiritually.
- **Discernment:** The Spirit-given ability to distinguish truth from deception, purity from manipulation.
- **Tongues and Interpretation:** Speaking and interpreting a Spirit-given language for the edification of the church.

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- **Administration:** Supernatural skill in organizing people, plans, and processes for effectiveness.
- **Shepherding** (Pastoring): Caring for and guiding others spiritually, often through discipleship and relational ministry.
- **Evangelism:** A divine urgency and effectiveness in sharing the gospel and leading people to Christ.

Each of these gifts is a tool in God's hands. And He has distributed them with precision and intention.

“But one and the same Spirit is active in all these, distributing to each person as He wills.” (1 Cor. 12:11)

It's not about choosing your favorite gift. It's about recognizing the one God has chosen for you — and trusting that it's exactly what the body needs.

Some gifts may seem more visible, more applauded. But don't be deceived. Paul reminds us:

“The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I don't need you.’ And the head cannot say to the feet, ‘I don't need you.’ On the contrary, those parts of the body that are weaker are indispensable.” (1 Cor. 12:21–22)

Let that sink in.

The gifts that seem small — the quiet prayer warriors, the behind-the-scenes helpers, the mercy-givers who cry with the grieving — are often the ones holding the church together.

Conclusion: You Were Made for This

The Body of Christ is not a place to sit — it's a place to serve.
It's not a stage for spectators — it's a mission field for ministers.

You don't need a platform to be powerful.

You don't need a title to be used.

You don't need to feel ready to be chosen.

The truth is — you already are.

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If you are in Christ, the Spirit of Christ lives in you.

And if the Spirit lives in you, then the power of God works through you.

And that means... you are equipped. You are empowered. You are essential.

This is not just theology — it's destiny.

So wherever you are, whatever your background, however unqualified you may feel — now is the time to take your place in the Body.

Don't wait to be discovered.

Don't wait to be invited.

Don't wait to feel "anointed."

You are already called.

Discover your gift.

Develop it with joy and humility.

Deploy it with boldness and love.

Because someone else's breakthrough may be waiting on your obedience.

And the church is never complete until every part is fully alive.

So rise. Serve. Shine.

For the glory of God, and the good of His church.

"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."

— 1 Corinthians 12:27

Amen.

