

Some Relevant Quotes Related to Spiritual Gifts

—“It’s important that as followers of Christ, we remember that we are part of a larger organism. We are not just a group of individuals each doing our own thing.” —**Tom Constable**

—“I think what has happened is, we view, in the Church, many times, spiritual gifts as, like, a dessert bar. You know? The real meat and potatoes are, you walk with God, you pray, you obey, you do the best you can. And then, yeah, some people really know their gifts. But it’s kind of like dessert: You don’t really need it for the meal. It’s a nice addition.” —**Chip Ingram**

—“The real purpose of your giftedness is not for you. It’s for the common good. It’s for the purpose of the symphony. That’s why every gift and every member is important!” —**Erwin Lutzer**

—“When Christians serve in their area of giftedness, they generally function less in their own strength, and more in the power of the Holy Spirit. Thus, ordinary people can accomplish the extraordinary.” —**Christian Schwartz in *Natural Church Growth***

—“A willing heart is the first step in finding God’s will in our lives. We cannot expect God to force us or to plead with us about the calling in our lives.” —**David Jeremiah**

—“God does not reveal His will to those who are curious. He reveals His will to those who are obedient. God guides those who are concerned about His glory.” —**Warren W. Wiersbe**

—“The mark of spiritual maturity is not how much you understand, but how much you use. In the spiritual realm, the opposite of ignorance is not knowledge but obedience. The miracle of the ministry is that God handpicked us to be his representatives to this generation.” —**Howard G. Hendricks**

—“God is still in the process of dispensing gifts, and He uses ordinary individuals like us to develop those gifts in other people.” —**Howard G. Hendricks**

—“Oftentimes, what is required on our part is taking a step, making the move, doing the thing that God has asked us to do without the accompanying emotions to go along with it. However, as you continue to walk by faith in the direction God has called you, your emotions are soon to follow.” —**Tony Evans**

—Some Questions for Personal Reflection & Discussion—

—**1}** In 2 Timothy 3:16–17 we read a detailed description & definition about the origin and purpose of the Bible. Any time we study God’s Word, it’s appropriate and advantageous to remind ourselves that it’s always trustworthy and true. In our study about spiritual gifts we find that the three main individual lists of these gifts (1 Corinthians 12–14; Romans 12:6–8; & Ephesians 4:11) aren’t identical. With this in view, why is it important for us to recognize that God’s Word is accurate? —As a side note that you should find to be both a benefit & blessing, what does Paul tell us about the ways in which the Bible is productive & profitable for our spiritual lives in 2 Timothy 3:16–17? How does this apply to us in a personal and practical way?

—**2}** Directing our attention to Romans 12:6–8, it was pointed out in the Sunday sermon that “***Everyone* is expected to employ their gifts **EFFICIENTLY!**” This is based on the wording in 12:6 where we find the phrase ***since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly.*****

—What does this seem to suggest about God’s intentions in giving us the individual abilities we have?

—Therefore, why is it essential for everyone to employ their gifts?

—What are some steps we might take to encourage one another to use the abilities God has given us to benefit the Church and bless God in a way that gives Him greater honor and glory?

—What does this show us about the value of everyone being involved in the ongoing ministries of the Church? What does it suggest about the role the Church is intended (by God) to fulfill in our culture?

—**3}** There were three recommendations given in last Sunday’s study. Before anything else, we should maintain a consistent prayer life, asking for wisdom! Then the **first step** supports what Romans 12:1–2 teaches. **SURRENDER to God’s authority; SUBMIT to His will by SERVING Him in obedience!** No one will ever find their **giftedness** by sitting back! The **2nd step** = **STUDY** the **SCRIPTURES** to **SEEK** God’s will! Then **3rd** whenever you **SEE** needs, **SERVE** to meet them!

—What are some reasons why people are hesitant to get involved in ministry? How can we help one another find the specific areas where God might be able to use them in an effective way?