Some Relevant Quotes Related to Spiritual Gifts

—"True faith means holding nothing back. It means putting every hope in God's faithfulness to His Promises." **—Francis Chan**

—"It must not be tolerated that Christ should be unknown through our silence, and sinners unwarned through our negligence."
—Charles Spurgeon

—"My significance, my identity, my role within the purposes of God is on account of who God is and what God has done, not on account of what I am and what I'm seeking to do for God." **—Alistair Begg**

—"Properly using our spiritual gifts is one of the primary ways we exercise our faith in the Lord. Our dependence on God is seen with clarity when God is glorified by the ministries we do without seeking any of the credit for ourselves." **—GAD**

—"The personal desire for preeminence is one of the most destructive forces that hinders the effectiveness of ministry in our contemporary culture." **—from surveys done among pastors**

— "God will meet you where you are in order to take you where He wants you to go." **—Tony Evans**

—"I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in Me—and I in him—bears much fruit because apart from Me, you can accomplish nothing." **—Jesus speaking in John 15:5**

—"Faith is deliberate confidence in the character of God whose ways you may not understand at the time." **—Oswald Chambers**

—"The will of God is found in the Word of God. The more a person grows, the more he begins to think instinctively and habitually from a divine perspective." **—Howard G. Hendricks**

—"Other men may preach the gospel better than I, but no man can preach a better gospel." **—George Whitefield**

— "The task of the preacher is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable." **—Vance Havner**

—"Relying on God has to begin all over again every day as if nothing had yet been done." **—C. S. Lewis**

—Some Questions for Personal Reflection & Discussion—

—1} John 13–16 provides us with some highlights of what Jesus told His disciples on the night before He was crucified. In this section, we read several important Truths about the ministry of the Holy Spirit. One portion is found in John 16:5–11. What do these verses teach us about the Spirit's role in our lives? Why is it important for us to know about this? How does this relate to the gifts we receive from Him?

—2} Romans 8:1–39 explains many things about how the indwelling Spirit impacts our lives. We have security and assurance of our being saved from sin because of the Spirit's work in our lives; we've been adopted into God's family and the Spirit affirms that for us. Please notice what 8:31–32 says. A summary of this might express, "Through the ministry of God's indwelling Spirit, **we are given everything** we need to serve and glorify God!" What does this teach us about the value of our spiritual gifts? What personal thoughts do you have about this?

—3} Over the past few weeks, there have been many statements made about the connection between humility and properly using our spiritual gifts. Most everyone is sometimes tempted to allow pride to set in when we've been able to do something in ministry. Why is this a problem or concern that we need to address in a personal way? What's the difference between a sense of fulfillment & gratitude or an attitude that comes across as arrogant or boastful? How do we guard against this? How could comparing ourselves with one another tend to contribute to allowing pride to take control of us?

—4} During the past 30–40 years, polls and surveys have indicated that the culture in churches has become more consumer conscious. Relevant analysis shows that it's common for people to look for a church that satisfies their needs. There might be a few valid reasons for this, but from a biblical perspective this isn't exactly what God's Word teaches us, especially with regard to our spiritual gifts. Every faithful follower is called to contribute by recognizing the needs and getting involved by employing their gifts. Two questions: (1) Are our gifts adjustable according to the needs a church has? (2) How does God make it possible for all the concerns and needs to be addressed?