

### ***Some Relevant Quotes Related to Spiritual Gifts***

—“Spiritual gifts, no matter how exciting and wonderful, are useless and even destructive if they are not ministered in love.”

—**Warren W. Wiersbe**

—“We have just enough religion to make us hate, but not enough to make us love one another.”

—**Jonathan Swift (author of *Gulliver’s Travels*)**

—“Truth without love often leads to brutality, but love without truth typically results in hypocrisy.”

—**adapted from a statement made by Warren W. Wiersbe**

—“When we employ our spiritual gifts with a heart filled with love, and within a culture that’s characterized by compassion and caring, it brings great honor to God, encourages and energizes the body of Christ, and elevates the effectiveness of ministry. However, when love is missing, the results almost always will be negative.” —**GAD**

—“The love of God is a love for the utterly unworthy. ... It’s a love which proceeds from a God who Himself is love. It’s a love lavished on others without a thought of whether they’re worthy to receive it or not. It proceeds rather from the nature of the lover, than from any merit in the beloved.” —**Leon Morris**

—“Love is a servant of our wills, not a victim of our emotions.”

—**John Stott**

—“We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. 17 By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. 19 We love, because He first loved us. 20 If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. 21 And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.”

—**1 John 4:16–21**

### **—Some Questions for Personal Reflection & Discussion—**

—**1}** It’s always helpful for us to take time to carefully observe the passages we’re studying by correlating what they say in relationship to one another. Romans 12:1–9; 1 Corinthians 12:27–14:3; and Ephesians 4: 1–16 have enough in common that it’s very helpful to compare and contrast what they say about using spiritual gifts and demonstrating proper love to God and one another. 1 John 4 & John 13–16 also provide some important truths that relate to this. If you have time, please observe these passages and consider what they are saying about the best way to exercise our God-given gifts & abilities in an effective way. How does this affect your personal view and understanding of spiritual gifts? Why are our spiritual gifts important? What personal thoughts do you have about the connection between exercising our gifts with love and being effective in ministry?

—**2}** How can our expressions of love for others involve a hidden agenda or a desire to manipulate people for our own desires? How might this take place in what we would consider an innocent effort toward evangelism or spiritual growth/maturity?

—**3}** Why is humility essential in the exercise of spiritual gifts? What can happen when it is forgotten?

—Why is love essential in the exercise of spiritual gifts? What can happen when it is forgotten?

—**4}** Would you agree that every faithful follower of Christ is “in the ministry”? What impact or influence should the reality of having spiritual gifts have on whether a person is “assigned” a particular task or role by God? If so, what is it? What practical implications would come from the impact of being gifted in a specific way?

—**5}** How would our church be different if every member viewed himself or herself as a servant with a ministry to fulfill?