

Some Relevant Quotes Related to Spiritual Gifts

—“A gift can never be the source of spiritual pride. Because it’s a gift!” —**Alistair Begg**

—“A willing heart is the first step in finding God’s will for our lives. We can’t expect God to force us or to plead with us about the calling in our lives. He has every right to expect obedience from us!”

—**David Jeremiah**

—“God has gifted us for His glory. When we properly employ and exercise the abilities and talents He has provided, we become skilled instruments in His hand, fulfilling His purposes in ways that will stretch our faith and strengthen our faithfulness!” —**GAD**

—“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**

—“All the ways of a man are clean in his own sight,
But the Lord weighs the motives.
Commit your works to the Lord
And your plans will be established.”

—**Proverbs 16:2–3**

—“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**

—“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**

—“The moment you come to a passage of scripture and say, ‘Oh, I know this one already,’ you’re in deep trouble.”

—**Howard G. Hendricks**

— “You will be held responsible for the stewardship of your gift(s). There is a day when we will stand before what’s called the Bema Seat, or the Judgment Seat of Christ, and we will be judged. This is not a judgment for salvation. That’s taken care of at the Cross, and when we trusted in Christ. But each of us will be judged, as followers of Christ, for our rewards.” —**Chip Ingram**

—Some Questions for Personal Reflection & Discussion—

—**1}** In Hebrews 10:24–25 we’re exhorted to “***stimulate each other toward love and good deeds, not abandoning our meetings, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other.***” Some people are gifted in the area of encouragement and others feel as if they struggle when they try to encourage or exhort one another.

—How would you distinguish or differentiate between what it means to exhort or to encourage someone?

—Why is it important for us (as faithful followers of the Lord) to talk to one another with the desire or intention to exhort or encourage?

—How does our accountability toward one another and to the Lord relate to the role of exhorting someone who might be falling into habits or routines that could be harmful?

—How might this be connected to exercising and employing our spiritual gifts? (Notice what Romans 12:4–5 says about us being one body in Christ and individually members one of another, meaning we are dependent on each other’s contributions to the body.)

—**2}** Focusing on Romans 12:1–8, it was stated in the Sunday sermon that “We can never **fully grasp** the **entire extent** of God’s will without pledging ourselves to live our lives in obedience to the Lord!” & “There’s a **direct connection** between our **submission** to the Lord’s **authority** and how much our minds have been **transformed** or **renewed** by the Holy Spirit.”

—What’s involved in pledging ourselves to obedience?

—How does a lack of preparation and commitment interfere with properly employing our spiritual gifts? Why would this lead to chaos?

—The Holy Spirit is intimately involved in every aspect of exercising and employing our gifts. Why is this an important reminder for us?

—**3}** God wants each of us to maintain an accurate appraisal of ourselves in view of our association with Him. This requires honesty, humility, and holiness. It also leads to hope!

—How could our natural tendency toward pride & selfishness hinder the proper use of our spiritual gifts?

—How do our spiritual gifts increase our faith and assurance in God’s promises? How would that provide a greater desire for us to employ our gifts in a faithful manner?