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Gifts of the Spirit



Opening worship

Read **Psalm 143** together for your opening worship. This psalm is one of the seven penitential psalms. With a broken heart that confesses sin and pleads for God's forgiveness, we receive God's grace and the leading of his Holy Spirit.

What are spiritual gifts?

The Holy Spirit gives gifts to his people. Many of these gifts are enumerated in Scripture. God gives them, and he instructs us to use them. What are these spiritual gifts? How can we identify the specific gifts that God has given to us? How can we use God's gifts? We will seek answers to these questions and more, as we study God's Word together.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-6. Where do spiritual gifts come from?

What point is especially emphasized in verses 4-6? Why is this so important to remember?

Read each of the following sections of Scripture. Identify each spiritual gift listed, and fill in the blanks with the gifts spoken of:

1 Corinthians 12:7-10 _____

Romans 12:3-8 _____

1 Corinthians 7:7 _____

1 Corinthians 12:28-31 _____

1 Corinthians 13:13 _____

In Christian literature theologians through the history of the Church have specifically identified “Seven Gifts of the Spirit.” These seven gifts are prophesied in **Isaiah 11:1-3**. Based on the Greek Septuagint and the Latin Vulgate, these seven gifts are: Wisdom, understanding, counsel, power, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord.

Read Exodus 4:10, 11. Where do natural talents come from? (See also Matthew 25:14-30.) Identify some differences between natural talents and spiritual gifts.

Is the listing of spiritual gifts you identified from various sections of Scripture exhaustive, or are there other spiritual gifts that are not listed? Explain your answer.

Read Galatians 5:22, 23. List the fruits of the Spirit in the space below:

Explain the difference between gifts of the Spirit and fruits of the Spirit.

Read 1 Corinthians 14:1. What should be our attitude toward gifts of the Spirit? (See also 1 Corinthians 12:31.)

For discussion

Are all gifts of the Spirit still given by the Holy Spirit today, or are there some gifts that were specific to the time of the apostles?

What is the purpose of spiritual gifts – or in other words, why does the Spirit give gifts to God’s people?

Are some spiritual gifts greater than others? Explain your answer.

Coming in Lesson 2: We’ll discuss each spiritual gift in greater detail, identifying the meaning of each gift of the Spirit and how it might be used.