



What Do We Believe?

Lesson 39

What Do We Believe?

Lesson 39: Spiritual Gifts: God's Blessing and Human Accountability

Scriptures:

Exodus 31:1-11; Romans 12:1-8; I Corinthians 12:1-11; 13; 14:1-33; Galatians 5:22, 23; Ephesians 4:1-13; Hebrews 2:3, 4; James 1:17

Lesson Goals:

To assist the learner to know about the gifts of the Holy Spirit
To assist the learner to know about the fruit of the Spirit
To understand responsibility for demonstrating these fruit and using spiritual gifts

Scripture Memory:

Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts... I Corinthians 14:1a

The Lesson:

Do you like to get gifts? Isn't it wonderful to get something just because someone really cares about you? How about getting a gift with which you can help other people? How about getting a gift that makes you happy and with which you can make someone else happy? What if someone gave you a gift so great that you could never earn it for yourself...could never afford it...could never deserve it? Well, there is news for you:

God has given you a gift that fits all of the above. The Bible says that every believer gets a present from God. God's Holy Spirit is a gift. He is God's gift, sent at the request of Jesus, to be our helper. God's Holy Spirit, in turn, provides us with gifts, the skills/abilities we need, to carry out God's assignments for our lives.

Those gifts, as the old saying goes, keep on giving. Isn't it just like God to do that? Isn't it just like God to bless us so that we can bless others? Our spiritual gifts are talents or abilities that we can use to serve our Lord as we serve others. It might be good to quote the prophet Zechariah (4:6) here when he wrote, "Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord Almighty." All the good things that we accomplish are done in cooperation with God's Holy Spirit.

The Old Testament is full of stories about how God gifted certain individuals with abilities that would make them effective in carrying out God's work. Noah became a boat builder. King David was a great military man and obviously had the gift of administration. Isaiah was a gifted prophet who not only spoke to what was happening in his day, but told about a coming "suffering servant" who would redeem humanity. He told about Jesus more than 700 years before Jesus was born!

The Bible, in I Corinthians 12, lists the kinds of gifts God's Holy Spirit gives believers. This list of gifts includes: the message of wisdom, message of knowledge, faith, healing, miraculous powers, prophecy, the ability to distinguish between spirits, speaking in different kinds of tongues, and the interpretation of tongues. However, this should not be seen as a complete list. Other abilities are mentioned in the Bible as coming from God. For instance, Ephesians 4:11 says God's Holy Spirit equips some as apostles, prophets, evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers. And Romans 12:6-8 lists prophecy, service, teaching, exhortation, giving, leadership, and mercy. Since that time the church has recognized additional gifts such as music, counseling, creative arts, and other talents that are a spiritual blessing.

Paul, in I Corinthians 12-14, makes it clear that the most desirable gifts bring people together and no gift should be allowed to divide the people of God.

There are also lists of "the fruit of the Spirit." These are characteristics of persons who are totally sub-

mitted to God's Holy Spirit. They are the behaviors that make us like Christ. Galatians, chapter five, lists love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. When we behave like this, the skills God's Holy Spirit provides to us are most effective.

The giving of gifts, according to the Bible, is not something God's Holy Spirit does because we ask for it. He does it independently as He wills. That is because He knows the things that we can handle and the opportunities we will have to glorify God with our gifts. We don't know those things. And, because God gives the gifts, we are responsible to Him for using the gifts with which He has blessed us.

Finally, there is a gift, given to all Christians, that is the most precious and greatest gift of all. It is the gift of love. I Corinthians, chapter thirteen, tells us that all the other gifts put together are ineffective if we do not have love. Actually the lack of love makes all other gifts worth nothing.

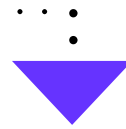
Life Application:

In I Corinthians 13, it says that love is patient and kind. It doesn't envy or boast. It isn't proud, rude or self-seeking. Love isn't angered easily. Can't you see how love would be necessary for my gifts and your gifts to work together in the body of Christ? Maybe you're wondering where that love comes from. I John 4 tells us that God is love. That means that God is patient and kind. He doesn't envy or boast, etc. Doesn't some of that list sound like the fruit of the Spirit? Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness . . . So, if those things are who God is, how do they happen in our lives? They don't happen apart from God. God must be present in our lives. I John 4 also says that everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. We don't have any idea of what love is apart from God. He is love. Will you invite Him into your life today?

And if you already know God, how does your life stack up against the fruit of the Spirit? Are you letting God's Spirit work in and through you? When He does, you will begin to see Him strengthening you for tasks in your church that need someone to do them. It may be that God is calling you to sweep or repair things. Maybe He wants you to begin teaching a class, or organizing events, or even starting a prayer ministry. Whatever it is, if He is calling you to do it, He will equip you with all that you could ever need. Will you let God have His way with you today?



Planning for Lesson 40
Prayer: Its
Importance



- ◆ **Memory Verse Activity** - Bring a gift to class. Wrap a box ahead of time, wrapping the top and bottom separately. Also print the memory verse ahead of time, cutting it apart word by word. Put the memory verse segments in the gift box. Decorate it with a bow. Present the gift to your students before class, asking whether or not they like to receive gifts. Allow someone to open the gift. Encourage your other students to unscramble the memory verse.
- ◆ Offer a “Spiritual Gifts Inventory” for your students. Analyze the inventory together and talk about possible places of service for each one.
- ◆ Sing “1 John 4:7-8,” “I Give You My Heart,” “I Surrender All,” “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling,” “Search Me, O God,” “Open My Eyes,” “Have Thine Own Way, Lord,” “Here is My Life,” “Create in Me,” and “How Beautiful.”
- ◆ **Dig Deeper:** Read the Scriptures listed at the beginning of the lesson. Make a list of the skills, talents, gifts, etc. that the Lord gives His people. Why were these skills given? How should they be used?
- ◆ **Dig Deeper Still:** Read I Corinthians 12-14. Discuss the chapters, focusing on why chapter 13 about love is found in the middle of a discussion about spiritual gifts. What can you learn from that?



**Pursue love,
yet desire earnestly
spiritual gifts...**

1 Corinthians 14:1a

Word Works

Find Galatians 5:22-23 in your Bible. Fill in the blanks below, spelling out the fruit of the Spirit. When completed, the puzzle will tell you where the fruit comes from and who gifts us to do the work God calls us to.

F	_	I	_	○	F	_	L	N	_	S	_
				○	D	_	E	_	S		
				○	O	_	E				
		J	_	○							
				○	E	L	_	.	.	.	
				○	E	_	C	E			
		P	A	○	E	N	_	E			
.	.	.	C	○	O	_					
				○	K	_	D	N	_	_	S
		_	E	○	L	_	_	E	S	_	

Word Works

Find Galatians 5:22-23 in your Bible. Fill in the blanks below, spelling out the fruit of the Spirit. When completed, the puzzle will tell you where the fruit comes from and who gifts us to do the work God calls us to.

F A I T **H** F U L N E S S
 G O **O** D N E S S
L O V E
 J O **Y**

S E L F . . .
P E A C E
 P A T **I** E N C E
 . . . C O N T **R** O L
 K **I** N D N E S S
 G E N **T** L E N E S S

Word Search



P	S	E	N	S	P	I	H	S	R	E	D	A	E	L	C	T	E
A	K	S	A	N	I	T	I	F	I	Y	A	T	G	O	N	H	V
S	T	R	A	E	V	I	T	A	E	R	C	I	D	E	C	G	A
R	T	O	E	O	U	O	S	E	R	I	V	R	E	R	T	J	N
D	D	T	R	O	I	V	A	H	E	I	D	V	L	G	D	O	G
O	N	S	D	O	D	P	R	E	N	A	A	H	W	O	R	B	E
F	E	A	L	G	Q	E	D	G	E	N	H	P	O	R	P	S	L
T	G	P	I	O	T	T	N	G	G	R	B	O	N	S	A	T	E
R	S	G	H	O	N	O	R	E	O	D	A	M	K	W	S	L	A
I	I	R	C	F	T	S	L	E	A	D	E	R	F	I	T	E	D
G	O	U	N	A	I	I	P	D	S	S	D	R	O	L	O	B	P
D	O	A	G	I	S	N	E	E	X	A	S	T	E	L	N	O	R
A	V	C	H	T	E	A	C	H	E	R	S	A	G	R	D	N	O
E	A	E	V	H	D	N	A	M	A	D	A	I	A	S	O	I	P
L	M	O	D	S	I	W	F	O	E	G	A	S	S	E	M	M	H
U	D	R	S	T	L	K	E	C	I	V	R	E	S	G	G	A	E
S	E	I	Q	S	M	A	L	B	N	E	S	S	E	I	D	T	C
M	E	S	S	A	G	E	O	F	K	N	O	W	M	E	R	C	Y

message of wisdom

service

evangelist

faith

creative arts

pastors

teachers

prophecy

leadership

giving

message of knowledge

mercy

Word Search



P	S	E	N	S	P	I	H	S	R	E	D	A	E	L	C	T	E
A	K	S	A	N	I	T	I	F	I	Y	A	T	G	O	N	H	V
S	T	R	A	E	V	I	T	A	E	R	C	I	D	E	C	G	A
R	T	O	E	O	U	O	S	E	R	I	V	R	E	R	T	J	N
D	D	T	R	O	I	V	A	H	E	I	D	V	L	G	D	O	G
O	N	S	D	O	D	P	R	E	N	A	A	H	W	O	R	B	E
F	E	A	L	G	Q	E	D	G	E	N	H	P	O	R	P	S	L
T	G	P	I	O	T	T	N	G	G	R	B	O	N	S	A	T	E
R	S	G	H	O	N	O	R	E	O	D	A	M	K	W	S	L	A
I	I	R	C	F	T	S	L	E	A	D	E	R	F	I	T	E	D
G	O	U	N	A	I	I	P	D	S	S	D	R	O	L	O	B	P
D	O	A	G	I	S	N	E	E	X	A	S	T	E	L	N	O	R
A	V	C	H	T	E	A	C	H	E	R	S	A	G	R	D	N	O
E	A	E	V	H	D	N	A	M	A	D	A	I	A	S	O	I	P
L	M	O	D	S	I	W	F	O	E	G	A	S	S	E	M	M	H
U	D	R	S	T	L	K	E	C	I	V	R	E	S	G	G	A	E
S	E	I	Q	S	M	A	L	B	N	E	S	S	E	I	D	T	C
M	E	S	S	A	G	E	O	F	K	N	O	W	M	E	R	C	Y

message of wisdom

service

evangelist

faith

creative arts

pastors

teachers

prophecy

leadership

giving

message of knowledge

mercy