

"As We Discover Our Gifts" / May 20, 2018

Join us next week as we continue our series on our Mission Statement.

WDLT, RtL, StF, DoG, CtW...

Video: "This is Discipling"

Your gifts, are God's expression, of His confidence in you, to do His work in & through you!

I hope you believe this! It is true. If were not, then your gifts and mine would be worthless and hidden – never to be used!

This morning you may say, "PD, I do not know my gift!" Well let's take a journey to begin to discover them.

First, I want to give you a couple of ways that you can discover and hone in on them...

- 1) **Free Spiritual Gifts assessment - <https://gifts.churchgrowth.org/spiritual-gifts-survey/>**
- 2) **DISC – Paul Hackett – paulahackett@hotmail.com**
- 3) **Simply asking yourself, "What do I like to do?"**
- 4) **While Doing Life Together – people will begin to confirm – what your gift may actually be!**

There are several scriptural ideas that I wanted to point out to you this morning...

- 1) **Gifts are different for each of us, but all given by God.**
 - a. **1 Cor. 12:4-5**, "4 There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. 5 There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord."
 - b. **Rom. 12:4-6**, "4 Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, 5 so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other. 6 In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you."
- 2) **Gifts are given to you for kingdom use, not our personal use!**
 - a. **Prov. 18:16**, "Giving a gift can open doors; it gives access to important people!"
 - b. **1 Pet. 4:10**, "God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another."
 - i. **Spiritual Gifts – 1 Cor. 12:7 – 11**, "7 A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. 8 To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge. 9 The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing. 10 He gives one

person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, while another is given the ability to interpret what is being said. ¹¹ It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.”

3) Gifts are given to lead the church.

a. Preaching –

- i. Eph. 4:11, “Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers.”

b. Pastoring –

- i. Eph. 4:11, “Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers.”
- ii. 1 Pet. 5:2-4, “2 Care for the flock that God has entrusted to you. Watch over it willingly, not grudgingly—not for what you will get out of it, but because you are eager to serve God. 3 Don’t lord it over the people assigned to your care but lead them by your own good example. 4 And when the Great Shepherd appears, you will receive a crown of never-ending glory and honor.”

c. Leadership –

- i. Rom. 12:8, “If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.”
- ii. 1 Cor. 12:28, “Here are some of the parts God has appointed for the church: first are apostles, second are prophets, third are teachers, then those who do miracles, those who have the gift of healing, those who can help others, those who have the gift of leadership, those who speak in unknown languages.”

d. Faith –

- i. 1 Cor. 12:9, “The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing.”
- ii. Eph. 3:20, “Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.”

e. Wisdom –

- i. 1 Cor. 12:8, “To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge.”

- ii. **1 Cor. 2:15&16**, ¹⁰ But it was to us that God revealed these things by his Spirit. For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God's deep secrets. ¹¹ No one can know a person's thoughts except that person's own spirit, and no one can know God's thoughts except God's own Spirit. ¹² And we have received God's Spirit (not the world's spirit), so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us. ¹³ When we tell you these things, we do not use words that come from human wisdom. Instead, we speak words given to us by the Spirit, using the Spirit's words to explain spiritual truths. ¹⁴ But people who aren't spiritual can't receive these truths from God's Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them and they can't understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means. ¹⁵ Those who are spiritual can evaluate all things, but they themselves cannot be evaluated by others. ¹⁶ For, "Who can know the Lord's thoughts? Who knows enough to teach him?" But we understand these things, for we have the mind of Christ."

f. **Discernment** –

- i. **1 John 4:1&2-6**, ¹ Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world. ² This is how we know if they have the Spirit of God: If a person claiming to be a prophet acknowledges that Jesus Christ came in a real body, that person has the Spirit of God. ³ But if someone claims to be a prophet and does not acknowledge the truth about Jesus, that person is not from God. Such a person has the spirit of the Antichrist, which you heard is coming into the world and indeed is already here. ⁴ But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world. ⁵ Those people belong to this world, so they speak from the world's viewpoint, and the world listens to them. ⁶ But we belong to God, and those who know God listen to us. If they do not belong to God, they do not listen to us. That is how we know if someone has the Spirit of truth or the spirit of deception.
- ii. **1 Cor. 12:10**, "He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, while another is given the ability to interpret what is being said."

4) **Gifts are given to lead people.**

a. **Teaching** –

- i. **Eph. 4:12-13**, ¹² Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. ¹³ This will continue

until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ."

- ii. **Rom. 12:7**, "If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well."

b. **Encouragement** –

- i. **Acts 14:22**, "where they strengthened the believers. They encouraged them to continue in the faith, reminding them that we must suffer many hardships to enter the Kingdom of God."
- ii. **Rom. 12:8**, "If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly."

c. **Wisdom** –

- i. **1 Cor. 2:10-16**
- ii. **1 Cor. 12:8**, "To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge."

d. **Discernment** –

- i. **1 John 4:1-6**
- ii. **1 Cor. 12:10**, "But it was to us that God revealed these things by his Spirit. For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God's deep secrets."

5) **Gifts that Communicate God's Word**

a. **Preaching** –

- i. **1 Cor. 14:3**, "But one who prophesies strengthens others, encourages them, and comforts them."
- ii. **Eph. 4:11**, "Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers."

b. **Evangelism** –

- i. **Eph. 4:11**, "Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers."
- ii. **Acts 8:26 – 40** – Philip and Ethiopian Eunuch

c. **Missions and Church Planting** –

- i. **1 Cor. 9:19-23**, "¹⁹ Even though I am a free man with no master, I have become a slave to all people to bring many to Christ. ²⁰ When I was with the Jews, I lived like a Jew to bring the Jews to Christ. When I was with those who follow the Jewish law, I too lived under that law. Even though I am not subject to the law, I did this so I could bring to Christ those who are under the law. ²¹ When I am with the Gentiles who do not follow the Jewish law, I too live apart from that law so I can bring them to Christ. But I do not ignore the law of God; I obey the law of Christ. ²²

When I am with those who are weak, I share their weakness, for I want to bring the weak to Christ. Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some. ²³ **I do everything to spread the Good News and share in its blessings.**"

- ii. **Acts 13:2-3**, "2 One day as these men were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Appoint Barnabas and Saul for the special work to which I have called them." 3 So after more fasting and prayer, the men laid their hands on them and sent them on their way."
- iii. **Rom. 15:20**, "My ambition has always been to preach the Good News where the name of Christ has never been heard, rather than where a church has already been started by someone else."

6) **Gifts that Demonstrate God's Love**

a. **Service** –

- i. **Acts 6:2-4**, 5-7, "¹ But as the believers rapidly multiplied, there were rumblings of discontent. The Greek-speaking believers complained about the Hebrew-speaking believers, saying that their widows were being discriminated against in the daily distribution of food. ² So the Twelve called a meeting of all the believers. They said, "We apostles should spend our time teaching the word of God, not running a food program. ³ And so, brothers, select seven men who are well respected and are full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will give them this responsibility. ⁴ Then we apostles can spend our time in prayer and teaching the word." ⁵ Everyone liked this idea, and they chose the following: Stephen (a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit), Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas of Antioch (an earlier convert to the Jewish faith). ⁶ These seven were presented to the apostles, who prayed for them as they laid their hands on them. ⁷ So God's message continued to spread. The number of believers greatly increased in Jerusalem, and many of the Jewish priests were converted, too."
- ii. **Rom. 12:7**, "If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well."

b. **Mercy** –

- i. **Luke 10:30-37** – The Good Samaritan
- ii. **Rom. 12:8**, "If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly."

c. **Hospitality** –

- i. **1 Pet. 4:9-10**, "⁹ Cheerfully share your home with those who need a meal or a place to stay. ¹⁰ God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another."

d. **Pastoring** –

- i. **1 Pet. 5:2-3**, 4, “2 Care for the flock that God has entrusted to you. Watch over it willingly, not grudgingly—not for what you will get out of it, but because you are eager to serve God. 3 Don’t lord it over the people assigned to your, care but lead them by your own good example. 4 And when the Great Shepherd appears, you will receive a crown of never-ending glory and honor.”

e. **Giving** –

- i. **2 Cor. 8:1-7**, “¹ Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia. ² They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity. ³ For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will. ⁴ They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem. ⁵ They even did more than we had hoped, for their first action was to give themselves to the Lord and to us, just as God wanted them to do. ⁶ So we have urged Titus, who encouraged your giving in the first place, to return to you and encourage you to finish this ministry of giving. ⁷ Since you excel in so many ways—in your faith, your gifted speakers, your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your love from us — I want you to excel also in this gracious act of giving.

- ii. **Rom. 12:8**, “If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.”

f. **Encouragement** –

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Title Slide: If you are clueless as to your gift...

God is good, and He doesn’t make junk...Regardless of what you have smoked, drank, stolen, how you have thoughts, what you have said, no matter what your past looks like... Know this...

Let me tell you the words of the Apostle Paul...

Rom. 5:6-9, ⁶ When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. ⁷ Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though

someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. ⁸ But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. ⁹ And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's condemnation.

Title Slide – Whether you feel like you have nothing to offer. Or even if you feel as though you are junk. Now is the time to say yes to Jesus! And begin to know what unconditional love is truly all about...

Come join us down here at these altars... Salvation Altar Call...