

Spiritual Fitness — Do I Use My Gifts in the Church?

February 12, 2023

Good morning CrossWinds! This morning, we continue our series on spiritual fitness. Next week will be the last message in that series. After that, we will begin 2 Samuel. I loved 1 Samuel so I am looking forward to 2 Samuel.

For those of you who are new to the spiritual fitness series, this is a series where we are learning what it looks like to live a healthy Christian life.

To give us an outline for the series, we said healthy Christians have six W's in their life.

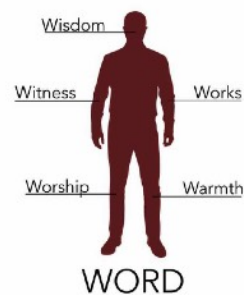
These are six qualities of a healthy Christian, that all begin with the letter W.

Since repetition is the mother of all learning, at the beginning of each message in this series, I am taking a few minutes to review these words and what they mean. Let's do that this morning.

Word — A healthy Christian knows God through the applied word of God under the direction and empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

As Christians, we want to be in the Bible not just on Sunday mornings but on our own throughout the week. When we read the Bible, God takes God's words and through the Holy Spirit, God applies the Bible to our life. God uses his word to create and sustain our relationship with God. Healthy Christians do not content themselves with only hearing a few brief words from the Bible on Sunday. They read the Bible on their own during the week. Just as we need to eat food

What Does A Healthy Christian Look Like?



every day, not just once a week. We need the Bible in our life every day, not just once a week.

Worship — A healthy Christian manifests a lifestyle of worship and prayer based on close daily communion with God.

In the second week of this series, we looked at worship. We looked at prayer and worship. We learned that prayer in a healthy Christian's life is like breathing for human life. It is something we do all the time. We may pray out loud or in our hearts. We may pray with friends or alone. We talk to God in prayer in the good times of life and the hard times of life.

In addition, we looked at worship. Worship is not just something Christians do on Sundays. For healthy Christians, worship is a way of life. We try to make choices every day of our life that are an act of worship to please Jesus. In addition, whatever we do for Jesus, we give our best. Giving our best to Jesus is one of the ways we worship Jesus. Our God is the best. He deserves our best.

Warmth — A healthy Christian engages in meaningful life-on-life relationships that reflect the love of God and leave people impacted and changed.

By warmth, we are not talking about temperature warmth but relational warmth. Warmth is how we treat one another. We learned that healthy Christians are known for the way they love one another in the church. The church is to be a relationally warm place. The world is drawn to the church because of the way people love one another in the church.

Witness — A healthy Christian lives under the commission of Christ to win and grow disciples, integrating outreach into all aspects of life.

We looked at this topic last week. This means healthy Christians tell others about Jesus and God's love for them. We don't hide Jesus from them. We tell them about God's love for them, even if there is a little suffering and social ridicule for talking about Jesus. Since we love Jesus, and we love people, we tell people about Jesus.

Works — A healthy Christian builds up the body of Christ through their spiritual gifts and passions.

This is where we are this morning.

Wisdom — A healthy Christian manages their skills, money, and time putting them under the Lordship of Jesus.

Today is Super Bowl Sunday. Tonight the Kansas City Chiefs and the Philadelphia Eagles will face off in the Super Bowl. Both are amazing teams. Both teams are equally matched and have star athletes. The game will be decided by which team has players that know and play their positions well and which team can work together to function as a unit. If an athlete doesn't play well in their position or they go rogue and don't follow the playbook, that team will lose. In this high-stakes game, there is little room for mistakes.

Did you know the church is like a football team? Our success is tied to how well we know our gifts, use our gifts, and play our positions in the church. When we use our gifts to play our positions in the church well, the church will enjoy success. In addition, as a church, we cannot use our gifts to platform ourselves. We must use our gifts to play as part of the team serving one another.

Victory for a football team is the Vince Lombardi trophy. By this time next year, most of us will have forgotten who played in last year's Super Bowl. Victory for the church when we understand our gifts, use our gifts, play our role, and function as a unit, is much greater. Our victory is that, as a church, all of us will become more like Jesus. That a prize worth fighting for.

This morning, we will talk about spiritual gifts in the church. I have 13 points, which seems to be a bit much, but it will move fast. Let's begin.

What are spiritual gifts?

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. 1 Corinthians 12:1 (ESV)

Paul didn't want the Corinthians to be ignorant about the spiritual gifts. He wanted them to know what they are and how they should be used. This means we also should not be ignorant of spiritual gifts. We must know what they are and how they are used in the church.

When it says, "I do not want you to be uninformed," in other parts of the New Testament, Paul uses that phrase when he is about to discuss an important issue of the faith, not a periphery issue of the faith. Paul wants us to know that understanding spiritual gifts and how they work in the life of the church is important. This is not a topic we can ignore.

What are spiritual gifts? Let me give you a definition.

A spiritual gift is any ability empowered by the Holy Spirit and used in ministry to build up the church.

This is a broad definition that purposefully includes gifts related to our natural abilities, like teaching and administration, not just the more miraculous gifts such as prophecy or healing. Some people prefer a narrower definition of

spiritual gifts that only includes miraculous gifts. I don't think that fairly represents the Scriptures. This morning you will see why I think a broader definition that includes our natural gifts is a more authentic picture of what the Bible teaches. Let's see what kinds of spiritual gifts are mentioned in the Bible.

What are the different spiritual gifts mentioned in the Bible?

The New Testament has a few passages where spiritual gifts are listed. This will help us understand what spiritual gifts look like. We will look at those passages in a moment. Before that, there are a few things I want us to know about them.

Each list is different.

No one list has all the gifts or the same gifts. The gifts of prophecy is the only gift common to all the lists. This means that when Paul wrote these lists, he was not giving an exhaustive list of all the spiritual gifts in existence. These are representative lists. Paul was giving samples of what some spiritual gifts look like and how they work. This is important to remember. As we go through these lists, you may know God has given you a gift you are using in the church, such as an artistic gift, but you don't see it in these lists. That is ok. These lists are samples. They are not intended to tell us the only ways God can gift his people to serve the church.

Spiritual gifts fall into two categories.

My favorite way to think about spiritual gifts comes from 1 Peter 4:11.

...whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies.... 1 Peter 4:11 (ESV)

Peter puts all spiritual gifts into two categories. There are speaking gifts, such as the gift of teaching. There are serving gifts, such as the gifts of encouragement, mercy, administration, or the gift of helps. So as we look at the lists of spiritual gifts in the Bible, remember that God gifts people either to serve one another in the church or to teach one another in the church. Sometimes he gifts people in both of those areas. If we think about God gifting people in one of those two broad categories, that is helpful.

Some gifts are miraculous, while others are ordinary.

As we run through these lists, you will notice that some gifts are more miraculous while others are ordinary. This morning, I am not going to get into a discussion of the miraculous gifts and if they are valid today. I will say this, God is the one who chooses to give spiritual gifts. He chooses when to give them and to whom he wants to give them. God chooses to give to the people in a church whatever gifts the people in the church need to grow and become healthy in their walk with Jesus. That means that if God hasn't given the people in a church a miraculous gift, such as the gift of tongues or the interpretation of tongues, that apparently means God doesn't think that the church needs that gift right now to be a healthy church. Remember that these are God's gifts that he gives to his people. He gives the people in his churches whatever gifts they need when they need those gifts.

Maybe the miraculous gifts were more necessary in the first-century churches. Maybe the more miraculous gifts are more necessary in missions as the gospel breaks into a new culture. Maybe the more miraculous gifts are more

needed in some churches today. They are all God's gifts. He gives them when they are needed. That is up to God. I just know that God gives both miraculous gifts and ordinary gifts to Christians when they are needed in a church for it to be healthy.

Let's read through the gifts listed in the Bible. Some will be more miraculous. Others are more ordinary, but all are needed.

And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. 1 Corinthians 12:28 (ESV)

Here we have gifts of healing and various kinds of tongues listed right next to the spiritual gifts of administration and helps.

For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 1 Corinthians 12:8–10 (ESV)

Here we have the ordinary gifts of wisdom, knowledge, and faith listed next to gifts of tongues and healing.

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, Ephesians 4:11 (ESV)

Here we have gifts of apostles and prophets listed next to those gifted with evangelism, shepherding, and teaching.

Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. Romans 12:6–8 (ESV)

Here Paul lists a number of ordinary gifts. The gift of encouragement, leadership, mercy, teaching, and service.

We use our gifts to function like a body.

When we read the letter of 1 Corinthians, we see they were a church with many spiritual gifts. Many people were given the more miraculous gifts by God while some were given rather ordinary gifts. The problem is they were not getting along well together. The people with the miraculous gifts were thinking of themselves as better than the people with the ordinary gifts. They were stepping on one another, not building up one another. Paul told them they needed to think of the church like a body. They were a team. They needed to learn to function together and to support one another.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. 1 Corinthians 12:27 (ESV)

When Jesus was on earth, he had a human body. When he went back to heaven, Jesus left a different body on earth. The church is the body of Jesus on earth today. Paul told the Corinthians, as a local church, you are the body of Christ in your community. You are individual members of one body. That means people in the church are connected together in the church and in that collective format, where we work together, we form the presence of Christ on earth today.

Just as the human body has different parts with different gifts and abilities, the church, as the body of Christ, is composed of different parts with different members who have different gifts and abilities. In a physical body, some body parts are feet, others hands, and others eyes. Jesus' body, which is the church, also has different parts, and those different parts are distinguished by having

different gifts. Just as the different parts of the human body need to use their gifts and work together to support one another and function well, the different members of the church, all of whom are given different gifts by Jesus, need to work together to function well.

If you think about it, each part of our physical body is gifted, not to serve itself, but to serve the other parts of the body. When our body parts are functioning well and serving the rest of the body, the entire body is healthy. Think about the stomach. It has a very behind-the-scenes role, at least for most of us. The stomach doesn't serve itself. It takes in the nutrition of food to serve the hands, the feet, the brain, and the rest of the body. It is only when the stomach is not serving itself, but the rest of the body, that the entire body is healthy and strong. The same is true for every other part of the human body. It does not exist to serve itself. It exists to serve the rest of the body.

The same is true for the church. We are not gifted to serve ourselves. We are gifted by God to serve the rest of our church body. It is only when we focus on using our gifts to serve the rest of the body that the entire body can be healthy and strong. If you are an eye, the rest of the body benefits from you using your gift. Your gift is not given to serve yourself. It is given for us to serve others. In the same way, you need other people with their gifts helping and serving you. You need a hand to help. You need the mouth to eat.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. 1 Corinthians 12:12–13 (ESV)

We may be very different, Jews or Greeks, slaves or free, young or old, blue collar and white collar, but through Jesus, in the church, we were made into one body. We need each other to use our gifts to serve one another for the entire body of Christ to become more like Jesus in our community.

For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 1 Corinthians 12:14–16 (ESV)

In the church, which is Christ's body today, we need to remember that all parts of the body are important. All parts of the body are connected together and belong together in the church, even if we are very different.

If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? 1 Corinthians 12:17 (ESV)

If we think someone in the body, even if that person has rather ordinary gifts from God, is unimportant, we misunderstand the body. Does anybody have a part of their body today they would like to get rid of? Anybody want to get rid of their nose? Anybody want to get rid of their ears? Anybody want to get rid of a pinky finger? Absolutely not! All parts of the body are important. All parts of the body have an important role to play, even if they don't appear as important as other parts, all parts are necessary.

We need other people in the church to use their gifts for us to become mature in Christ.

We cannot be healthy Christians without other Christians in the church using their gifts to help us become more like Christ. They also need us to use our gifts to help them to become more like Christ. Any Christian that chooses to live

disconnected from a local church or uninvolved in their local church will not grow to full maturity in Christ. We need others using their gifts for us to grow in Christ. They need us using our gifts in the church for them to grow in Christ. An eye by itself sitting in the corner disconnected from a body doesn't do any good. It needs the rest of the body to function. The rest of the body needs an eye for it to be healthy and strong.

As I was thinking about this, my mind kept thinking about the shift in our culture where so many people are content to watch church online at home rather than attending church. This is not good. Watching church but staying uninvolved in a church will not result in spiritual maturity for the church and for the one who stays at home. We need one another and their gifts. We are a body that need one another.

I have mentioned a few times that it is the members of the church using their gifts to serve and build up one another in the church that leads to the full maturity of the church. Where is that found? Let's look at the book of Ephesians.

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, Ephesians 4:11–13 (ESV)

The result of people using their gifts is unity in the faith, greater knowledge of Jesus, and Christians growing to the full measure of their stature in Christ.

Think of the church as a greenhouse that enables Christians to grow to their full capacity in Jesus as everyone in the church uses their gifts in the church.

The Holy Spirit gives and empowers spiritual gifts.

All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills. 1 Corinthians 12:11 (ESV)

Where do spiritual gifts come from? The Bible tells us they come from the Holy Spirit, who gives them to us when we trust in Christ. God's Holy Spirit is the one who chooses what gifts he will give us. Just as we did not choose our height or hair color, but they were given to us by God, in a similar way, when we trust in Jesus, the Holy Spirit empowers us to serve others in the church in a unique way. The Holy Spirit chooses what gifts he wants to give us.

I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another. 1 Corinthians 7:7 (ESV)

Spiritual gifts do not equal spiritual maturity.

Just because somebody has a particular spiritual gift, that does not mean they are necessarily spiritually mature. Spiritual gifts are simply the channels God has chosen to use us to serve others in the church. We all know people who have a natural speaking gift or musical gift but they lack spiritual maturity. We also know others who are humble and serve in a quiet way but are incredibly mature in Christ.

One way to demonstrate that spiritual gifts do not necessarily equal spiritual maturity is to simply look at the church of Corinth. Paul wrote to that church about their spiritual gifts. They had many gifts operating, even sensational gifts, like tongues, healings, and all the wild stuff. While they had plenty of gifts, their spiritual maturity was not good. This is why Paul says to them.

But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. 1 Corinthians 3:1 (ESV)

Paul said they were acting like kids, mere children in their maturity in Christ. Yes, they had lots of spiritual gifts, even the wilder gifts, but they were not using their gifts to build others up. They were using their gifts to build themselves up.

Paul eventually told them what they needed that was far more important than spiritual gifts, that was love for one another.

...And I will show you a still more excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:1-2 (ESV)

Far more important than the possession of spiritual gifts is loving other people in the church. Spiritual maturity in the church is seen when people love one another in the church. That is far more important than even the most sensational spiritual gifts.

Spiritual Gifts can be ignored.

God gives each of us at least one spiritual gift, but we can ignore that gift. We can let that gift grow weaker over time, not stronger. A good example of someone who neglected their gift was Timothy. Apparently, he had a spiritual gift God gave him, but for whatever reason, he had chosen not use it or develop it. Look what Paul said to Timothy.

Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. 1 Timothy 4:14 (ESV)

I do not know what gift Timothy was given, but I do know Paul told him to get busy using it and to stop neglecting it. That is a good challenge for all of us.

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, 2 Timothy 1:6 (ESV)

Timothy needed to fan his gifts back to life. He needed to go back to building it and strengthening it, not ignoring it.

Another verse I find challenging as we look at the topic of ignoring our spiritual gifts is 1 Peter 4:10.

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: 1 Peter 4:10 (ESV)

Peter begins by reminding us that each of us has received a spiritual gift from God. That gift is not for ourselves. It was given to us to serve others in the church. Then Peter reminds us that we are stewards of the gifts given to us by God. The gifts are not our gifts. They are loaned to us by God and God expects us to make a return on the investment he made in us.

One day we will stand before Jesus and give an answer for what we did with the gifts given to us by Jesus. That is a sobering thought. At that moment, none of us want to be seen as someone who ignored their God-given gifts.

God gifts us to serve the church in a variety of ways.

Earlier, I talked about why I don't believe the gift lists in the New Testament were meant to be complete lists. They are sample lists. In addition, we saw in 1 Peter 4:11, that Peter says all spiritual gifts break into either teaching or serving gifts. This implies there is a great variety of gifts. When we turn to 1 Corinthians 12, Paul tells us there is a great variety of spiritual gifts, all given by God's Holy Spirit to the church by the many varied ways the Holy Spirit works in the people of the church.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. 1 Corinthians 12:4–6 (ESV)

Paul says there is a great variety of spiritual gifts, but it is the same Holy Spirit who empowers us to use those gifts. With those gifts, there are a variety of different ways we can serve in the church with those gifts. Maybe your gift is teaching. You can teach an adult class on Sunday morning. You can teach children. You can facilitate a Life Group. There are a great variety of ways for us to use our gifts. He also says there are a variety of activities. The word activities mean something God's Holy Spirit energizes. There are all kinds of projects and activities God gets behind in the church with his Holy Spirit to bring about its success. He helps people in those areas.

The key word in these verses is varieties. God works in his people in the church in a variety of ways.

Spiritual gifts vary in strength.

Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; Romans 12:6 (ESV)

When we hear about spiritual gifts, many think about them as if they were a light switch. They are not either on or off. You either have a gift or you don't have a gift. That is not the way it works. Spiritual gifts are more like the volume control on your radio. You either have more or less of a gift. Let's say you have the gift of mercy. All of us are commanded to be merciful. Most of us show mercy at a level of one to three. Others of us are gifted in showing mercy. We naturally show it in the seven to ten level. All of us are commanded to encourage one another. Most of us encourage one another in the two to five strength level.

Others who have the gift of encouragement encourage people at the eight, nine, or ten levels. They are gifted in encouragement. They are very encouraging people.

Spiritual gifts can be developed.

While we may naturally have a spiritual gift, we can still develop and improve that gift.

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, 2 Timothy 1:6 (ESV)

We don't know the gift Timothy had but we do know Paul told him to work on it, to develop it, and to improve it. Maybe Timothy's gift was in the area of teaching. Timothy was to teach, then get feedback to see how he could be a better teacher. He was to work on his teaching and improve his teaching.

We see this all the time when it comes to people with musical gifts. They need to practice to become all they can be. Those with gift of administration also need to develop and improve. Those with the gift of encouragement can also develop and improve. This is true for all of us.

I can ask for spiritual gifts.

But earnestly desire the higher gifts... 1 Corinthians 12:31 (ESV)

While we are given spiritual gifts when we come to Christ by the Holy Spirit, Paul says we can desire other spiritual gifts. We can even ask God for additional spiritual gifts. Paul just reminds us that if we are going to ask for more gifts, make sure we ask for the higher gifts, that is the gifts that can build up the church the most.

That being said, we need to be ok with God choosing not to give us a gift when we ask for a gift. Years ago, when my children were young, Cindy and I ran a program for elementary school children in the church I pastored called Club 345. It was for third, fourth, and fifth graders. Our children were in the program, so I was motivated. We had game time, teaching time, and singing time. The problem was that nobody could play the guitar or sing. Wanting to have a great program for our kids, I bought a guitar and began to practice. I asked God to help me play guitar and sing. God said, Kurt... you don't have that gift. I am not giving you that gift. I took a lot of time learning songs and practicing but I sounded like a cross between a howling coyote with a stomach ache and a scratching record. It was terrible. God said, you don't have that gift and I am not giving you that gift. I needed to focus on the gifts God gave, not the gifts he hadn't given.

Behind-the-scenes gifts are important.

Some people have more up-front gifts. Others have behind-the-scenes gifts. Some of you are gifted at fixing things and repairing things. Others of you are great at serving and helping. Many times those with behind-the-scenes gifts think of themselves as unimportant compared to those with up-front gifts. That is not true! God has built the church in such a way that those with behind-the-scenes gifts are the most important in the church. Look what Paul says about this.

On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division

in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. 1 Corinthians 12:22–25 (ESV)

Paul reminds us that in our physical body, it is the hidden parts that are indispensable parts. It is the parts of the body that are never out in public that we treat with special modesty and care. This is the way it works in the church. Those who are not in front of everyone but are quietly working behind the scenes are making the biggest difference.

On a Sunday, after church, I sometimes see people talking in the foyer. Across the room, I can tell someone is sharing their heart with someone who loves them. Then the person stops and prays for them and hugs them. Let me tell you that on that Sunday when they go home, they will not remember a thing I said or a thing they sung. What they will remember is the ordinary person who cared about them, who listened to them, and who prayed for them. I tell you, God has composed the church in such a way that it is the behind-the-scenes people in the church who make the most difference. If you are here this morning thinking you are an ordinary person who doesn't make much of a difference in this world, that is not true. God builds his church in such a way that you are incredibly important for the spiritual health of others.

How do I discover my gifts?

At this point, all of us are interested in our gifts and finding ways to use our gifts. It feels like we need a spiritual gift test. Interestingly, Paul never gives one. He assumes people in the church already know their gifts and he simply commands us to use our gifts.

Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them...
Romans 12:6a (ESV)

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another,... 1 Peter 4:10 (ESV)

I think this is helpful. Instead of taking a spiritual gift test, the best way to discover our gifts is simply to get involved in the church in an area that interests us and see how it goes. Once we are moving, God has a way of steering us into our gifts. It is like a boat. When it sits in dock, you can move the rudder but it doesn't change things. Once the boat is moving, you can move the rudder and it will steer the ship. In a similar way, it is when we begin serving in the church that God grabs the rudder and steers us into the area of our giftedness in the church.

As I was thinking about this, I thought about how I ended up as a pastor. I never planned to pastor a church. It started after college when a Jehovah's Witness tried to convert me. I read his little booklet, studied it, and found out it was wrong. As a result, I wanted to tell people it was wrong. Eventually I had a chance to lead a little summer Bible study in a small church after a pool party for junior and senior high students. It was me sitting on the diving board with seven or eight teens around the pool. That led to a part time job as a youth pastor. That led to a full-time job as a youth pastor. That led to pastor position in a small church and about fifteen years ago God brought me here. All that God needed was for me to begin moving. From there he did the steering. The same is true for each one of us. Begin serving and God will steer you into the area of your gifting.

Conclusion

If you want to remember one thing from our study on spiritual gifts, remember that we are gifted to be part of the church. Everyone needs us to use

our spiritual gifts in the church. It is when we use our gifts that, together the entire church becomes more and more like Jesus. My friends, that is a prize better than winning the Super Bowl and the Vince Lombardi trophy.



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