



Spiritual Health – Do I Use My Gifts In The Church?

February 12, 2023

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

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

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

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

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

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

What Does A Healthy Christian Look Like?



Spiritual Gifts

1. What are spiritual gifts?

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

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

2. What spiritual gifts are mentioned in the Bible?

...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)

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)

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)

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

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)

3. We use our gifts to function like a body.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

1 Corinthians 12:27 (ESV)

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)

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)

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)

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

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)

5. The Holy Spirit empowers and gives 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)

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)

6. Spiritual gifts do not equal spiritual maturity.

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)

...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)

7. Spiritual gifts can be ignored.

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)

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)

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)

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

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)

9. 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)

10. Spiritual gifts can be developed.

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)

11. I can ask for spiritual gifts.

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

12. Behind-the-scenes gifts are important.

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)

13. How can I discover my spiritual 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)

Conclusion

Life Group Questions

1. Review the message on your sermon handout. What did you learn that was new? What parts were review?
2. 1 Peter 4:11 says spiritual gifts fall into two broad categories. There are teaching gifts and serving gifts. As you look at your life, do you have teaching gifts, serving gifts, or both? Have the people in your group tell you the gifts they see in you. (If you need to be reminded about the gifts, see point 2 in the sermon outline for the spiritual gifts mentioned in the Bible.)
3. **Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-20 and 1 Peter 4:10.** 1 Corinthians 12 describes the church as the body of Christ. What can we learn about the way God puts people in local churches and gifts people in those churches from this passage? How does knowing you are gifted to serve the body and that your gifts are needed for a healthy body change how you think about involvement in CrossWinds?
4. If someone is unsure of their spiritual gifts, how would you instruct them to discover them?
5. **Read 1 Corinthians 12:21-26.** This talks about the importance of behind-the-scenes gifts. What are behind-the-scenes gifts? What do we learn about the behind-the-scenes gifts in this passage? Why has God structured the church so these gifts are important?
6. **Extra Credit:** What is the difference between spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12) and the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)?