

The Gifts that Keep on Giving: Part 3

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- **The Gifts that Keep on Giving: Developing Your Spiritual Gifts**
- First, eagerly desire spiritual gifts.
 - o **1 Corinthians 12:27-31, 1 Corinthians 14:1**
 - Paul clearly instructs the believers in Corinth to eagerly desire spiritual gifts. We should desire this too!
- Second, fan your gifts into flame.
 - o **2 Timothy 1:3-8**
 - Paul laid his hands on Timothy and Timothy received a spiritual gift.
 - Timothy was the pastor of the church in Ephesus, apparently.
 - Paul had commanded Timothy to deal with church issues there in Ephesus. **1 Timothy 1:3-7**
 - Does that sound like fun?
 - o Timothy's struggles are extremely common today. The gift and the calling are there, but there are difficult obstacles and challenges that are threatening to derail God's plan for Timothy's life.
- Years ago I remember noticing how many churches couldn't find pastors and how many individuals who wanted to be pastors couldn't find work. Odd I thought.
 - o There is a big skill/character gap that must be jumped to make it in ministry.
 - This is also true to various extents in organized volunteer service.
- My Top Ten most important things for developing your Spiritual Gifts:
 - o 1) Don't Quit.
 - It takes time and it takes community. Frustration and offense are not excuses to quit.
 - o 2) Be willing to start small.
 - Be faithful in the little things. Even the hidden/unnoticed things.
 - o 3) Come to peace with how God made you.
 - Don't covet other people's giftings. Do value your giftings and the roles God has given you.
 - o 4) Be teachable.
 - You are literally stuck where you are if you can't receive feedback and learn from mistakes.
 - o 5) Value and celebrate everyone else's giftings too!
 - Pride will mess you up. "Talent gets you there, character keeps you there."
 - The fruit of the Spirit trumps the greatest Spiritual Gifts. **1 Cor 13:1-3**
 - o 6) Trust in the pure plan of God.
 - Do not let your heart be corrupted by the corruption you see.
 - Don't let the pure purpose fade away. Purpose Statements.
 - o 7) You must submit to authority.
 - In fact, you will have to submit to flawed authority. (Why?)
 - Submit your plan to God's plan. This isn't about what you want to do.
 - o 8) You must be confident AND totally dependent on God at the same time.
 - My roller coaster experience with preaching.
 - o 9) It's hard work.
 - "Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard."
 - Even with divine help, competency is a constant struggle. Look at the Disciples!
 - o 10) Don't quit!!
 - The cause of Christ needs you! This is so important I put it on my list twice!!
- **John 15:5-8**
 - o If you want God to be honored, then abide in the vine and bear much fruit!
 - o This isn't about you, it is about honoring your Heavenly Father.
- Pray for each other before you finish up!