



DISCOVERING YOUR DIVINE DESIGN

*UNCOVERING PURPOSE
&
UNIQUENESS IN YOUR LIFE*

SOME THINGS TO PONDER:

- ▶ YOU ARE UNIQUELY CRAFTED, POSSESSING A SET OF GIFTS, PASSIONS, AND ABILITIES THAT COLLECTIVELY FORM YOUR DIVINE DESIGN.
- ▶ DISCOVERING YOUR DESIGN INVOLVES SELF-EXPLORATION AND A WAY TO CONNECT WITH YOUR SENSE OF PURPOSE AND FULFILLMENT.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER:

- ▶ WHO AM I?
- ▶ WHERE DO I BELONG?
- ▶ WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?



YOUR DIVINE DESIGN CONSISTS OF TWO THINGS:

▶ AN EXTREME MAKEOVER

▶ AN ULTIMATE MAKEOVER

APOSTLE PAUL ALLUDES TO AN *EXTREME MAKEOVER*

- ▶ Therefore, if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new (2 Cor. 5:17).
- ▶ GOD WANTS TO TRANSFORM US INTO SOMETHING AND SOMEONE BEAUTIFUL!

2 COR. 5:17 SELF-EXAMINATION PROMPTS:

- ▶ HOW HAS FOLLOWING JESUS CHANGED HOW YOU SEE YOURSELF?
- ▶ WHAT PART OF YOUR IDENTITY DO YOU FEEL GOD IS RESHAPING RIGHT NOW?
- ▶ WHERE DO YOU FEEL GOD INVITING YOU TO GROW?
- ▶ WHAT'S SOMETHING JESUS HAS FREED YOU FROM—OR IS FREEING YOU FROM?

PAUL GIVES US A CLEAR PICTURE OF AN *ULTIMATE MAKEOVER*

- ▶ **EPH 2:1-3** DESCRIBES WHO WE WERE **BEFORE** SALVATION.
- ▶ WE WERE *DEAD* IN SIN, *SEPARATED* FROM GOD, *PRISONERS* OF THE WORLD'S SYSTEM AND ALL ITS DYSFUNCTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS; AND *ADDICTED* TO OUR OWN CRAVINGS, MANIPULATION AND PEOPLE-PLEASING HABITS.

OUR *ULTIMATE* MAKEOVER (CONTINUED)

- ▶ **EPH 2:4-6** DESCRIBES WHO WE ARE **AFTER** SALVATION.
- ▶ NO LONGER OBJECTS OF GOD'S WRATH
- ▶ WE HAVE NEW STANDING WITH GOD AS RIGHTEOUS AND CLEAN.
- ▶ WE HAVE A NEW IDENTITY, POWER, FUTURE, PURPOSE, PRIVILEGES, AND INHERITANCE.

GOD'S OBJECTIVES IN MAKING US OVER (EPH 2:7-9)

- ▶ GOD WANTS TO REVEAL THE RICHES OF HIS GRACE
- ▶ THE MAKEOVER IS A REVELATION OF HIS NATURE—HIS GOODNESS, KINDNESS, COMPASSION, LOVE, WISDOM, AND POWER
- ▶ HIS **EXTREME MAKEOVER** HAS BROUGHT YOU INTO A RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS TO SHAPE YOU INTO HIS IMAGE

GOD'S OBJECTIVES IN MAKING US OVER (EPH 2:7-9)

- ▶ ULTIMATELY, IN LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU WILL DISCOVER THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS HIS SPIRIT HAS PLACED IN YOU TO MAKE THE “**AFTER**” OF YOUR LIFE A BEAUTIFUL, FULFILLING PICTURE FOR ALL TO SEE!

YOU ARE A MASTERPIECE IN THE MAKING

- ▶ **PROOF OF YOUR MASTERPIECE:** *FOR WE ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP, CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS UNTO GOOD WORKS, WHICH GOD HATH BEFORE ORDAINED THAT WE SHOULD WALK IN THEM (EPH. 2:10).*
- ▶ THE WORD “**WORKMANSHIP**” CONVEYS A MASTERPIECE, A WORK OF THE FINEST CRAFTSMAN.

A MASTERPIECE IN THE MAKING

(EPH 1:3-6)

- ▶ BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD, GOD KNEW YOU & LOVED YOU
- ▶ GOD SAVED YOU, UNDERSTANDS YOU, AND WANTS TO RESTORE TO YOU ALL HIS GOOD PURPOSES FOR YOUR LIFE
- ▶ HE IS CALLING YOU TO MAINTAIN A DEEP RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST

WHAT ROLE DOES THE CHURCH PLAY IN THE MASTERPIECE PROCESS?

- ▶ THE CHURCH IS THE CRAFTSMAN'S STUDIO WHERE MASTERPIECES ARE MADE
- ▶ THE CHURCH IS THE LIVING, BREATHING, CALLED-OUT PEOPLE OF GOD WHO ARE LIVING IN COMMUNITY TOGETHER, DOING LIFE TOGETHER IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT BASED ON GOD'S WORD.

THE POWER OF TOGETHERNESS

- ▶ WHEN GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER AROUND HIS WORD, LIVES CHANGE (**EPH 3.10-11**)
- ▶ GOD'S OVERARCHING PLAN IS FOR HIS PEOPLE TO BECOME *DEMONSTRATIONS* OF HIS WISDOM & CHARACTER SO THAT THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE CAN SEE THE AMAZING MAKEOVERS THAT GOD'S GRACE AND POWER CAN PRODUCE.

TAKE NOTICE:

- ▶ WHEN HUMAN BEINGS ARE REMADE FROM BEING “DEAD IN THEIR TRANSGRESSIONS AND SINS” (**EPH 2:1**) INTO TROPHIES OF GOD’S GRACE, THE WHOLE UNIVERSE IS IN AWE.
- ▶ GOD WANTS EVERYONE ON PLANET EARTH TO SEE WHAT HE DOES IN HIS PEOPLE AND THINK, WOW!

A MASTERPIECE IN THE MAKING

- ▶ GOD DOES EXTREME MAKEOVERS IN TWO PLACES:
 - ▶ **THE CHURCH** – WHICH GOD BUILDS UP AS HIS DWELLING PLACE
 - ▶ **THE HUMAN HEART** – WHICH GOD IS ALIGNING WITH HIS HEART

A MASTERPIECE IN THE MAKING

- ▶ IN **EPH 3:16-19**, PAUL PRAYED THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT WOULD EMPOWER BELIEVERS SO THAT THEY IN FAITH WOULD EXPERIENCE THE INDWELLING IN THEIR HEARTS OF CHRIST HIMSELF, ALL FOR GOD'S LARGER PURPOSES

WHAT DOES OUR LIFE AS A MASTERPIECE IN CHRIST LOOK LIKE?

- ▶ IN SUMMARY FORM, **EPH 4** POSITS:
 - ▶ THE NEED TO EMBRACE THE NATURE & CHARACTER OF GOD (**vv. 2-6**)
 - ▶ THE NEED TO RECEIVE THE GIFTS GOD HAS GIVEN (**vv. 7-13**)
 - ▶ YOU HAVE BEEN ENDOWED WITH GRACE (**v. 7**)

WHAT DOES OUR LIFE AS A MASTERPIECE IN CHRIST LOOK LIKE?

- ▶ IN SUMMARY FORM, **EPH 4** POSITS:
 - ▶ YOU HAVE AN ENDOWMENT, THAT IS, A SHARE IN THE PLUNDER OF CHRIST'S VICTORY OVER SIN & DEATH (**v. 8**)
 - ▶ THE GIFTS THAT COME FROM CHRIST'S VICTORY ARE SUPERNATURAL (**vv. 9-10**)

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PRECEDING GIFTS, AS SEEN IN EPH 4:11-13

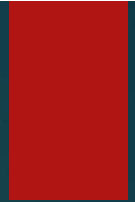
- ▶ BETWEEN THE TIME OF HIS DEATH ON THE CROSS AND RESURRECTION FROM THE GRAVE, JESUS PROCLAIMED VICTORY OVER SATAN, SIN, AND DEATH
- ▶ THE EVIDENCE OF JESUS' WONDERFUL, MIRACULOUS WORK IS THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS HE GIVES TO EVERY CHRISTIAN

AS GOD'S MASTERPIECE IN THE MAKING, WHAT'S OUR TASK AT HAND?

- ▶ TO **DISCOVER, DEVELOP, AND DEPLOY** OUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS ACCORDING TO GOD'S DESIGN
- ▶ GOD HAS GIVEN SPECIFIC GIFTS TO EACH BELIEVER TO FULFILL THEIR SPECIFIC PURPOSES, AS SEEN IN **1 COR 12:11**

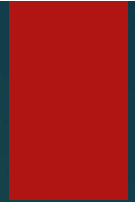
HOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE?

- ▶ DISCOVERING THE GIFTS THAT ARE YOURS IS A PROCESS THAT INVOLVES **STUDY**, MUCH **PRAYER**, AND EVIDENCE OF **FRUITFULNESS**
- ▶ YOU RECEIVED YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS AT THE MOMENT OF SALVATION
- ▶ YOU ARE A PAINTBRUSH IN THE MASTER ARTIST'S HANDS!



TEN PRINCIPLES FOR UNDERSTANDING SPIRITUAL GIFTS

1. EVERY CHRISTIAN HAS ONE OR MORE GIFTS
2. MANY CHRISTIANS HAVE RECEIVED MORE THAN ONE GIFT
3. SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE GIVEN AT THE MOMENT OF REGENERATION, BUT THEY MAY LIE UNDISCOVERED AND DORMANT FOR A LONG PERIOD OF TIME



TEN PRINCIPLES FOR UNDERSTANDING SPIRITUAL GIFTS

4. SPIRITUAL GIFTS CAN LIE DORMANT OR BE NEGLECTED, BUT THEY CANNOT BE LOST
5. SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE NOT THE SAME AS THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
6. SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE NOT THE SAME AS THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT
7. SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE NOT THE SAME AS NATURAL TALENTS

TEN PRINCIPLES FOR UNDERSTANDING SPIRITUAL GIFTS

8. SOME GIFTS ARE MORE USEFUL IN LOCAL CHURCHES THAN OTHERS BECAUSE THEY RESULT IN GREATER EDIFICATION OF THE BODY
9. CHARISMATA LITERALLY MEANS “GRACE GIFTS”; THE HOLY SPIRIT SOVEREIGNLY AND UNDESERVEDLY GIVES THESE GIFTS

TEN PRINCIPLES FOR UNDERSTANDING SPIRITUAL GIFTS

10. SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE GOD'S
SPIRITUAL EQUIPMENT FOR
EFFECTIVE SERVICE AND
EDIFICATION OF THE BODY

DISCOVERING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

- ▶ SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE UNIQUE AND DIVERSE
- ▶ YOUR GIFTS WILL LOOK DIFFERENT FROM THOSE GIVEN TO OTHERS
- ▶ EVEN THOSE WHO HAVE THE SAME GIFTS AS YOU WILL EXPRESS THEM DIFFERENTLY

DISCOVERING YOUR PRIMARY SPIRITUAL GIFT

- ▶ BASED ON BIBLICAL TEACHINGS, THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE YOU HAVE MORE THAN ONE SPIRITUAL GIFT, AND PERHAPS TWO OR THREE
- ▶ ONE OF THEM WILL BE **PRIMARY**
- ▶ IT'S IMPORTANT TO KNOW WHICH ONE IS PRIMARY

SPIRITUAL GIFTS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- ▶ THERE ARE FOUR MAJOR PASSAGES IN THE NT ON SPIRITUAL GIFTS:
 - ▶ ROMANS 12:4-8
 - ▶ 1 CORINTHIANS 12
 - ▶ EPHESIANS 4:11-13
 - ▶ 1 PETER 4:10-11
- ▶ DIFFERENT PASSAGES INCLUDE DIFFERENT TERMS AND CONTEXTS.

HINDRANCES TO DISCOVERING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

- ▶ **IGNORANCE** – VAGUE AWARENESS
- ▶ **CONFUSION** – DISAGREEMENT OVER WHICH GIFTS ARE PERMANENT OR TEMPORARY, WHICH ONES ARE ESSENTIAL FOR ALL BELIEVERS OR NONESSENTIAL FOR ANYONE

LEST WE FORGET

- ▶ DISCOVERING THE GIFTS THAT ARE YOURS IS A PROCESS THAT INVOLVES **STUDY**, MUCH **PRAYER**, AND EVIDENCE OF **FRUITFULNESS**
- ▶ GIFTS ARE **SOVEREIGNLY BESTOWED** BY GOD AS AN **ACT OF GRACE**
- ▶ BELIEVERS CAN DEVELOP THEIR GIFTS AT ANY POINT IN THEIR WALK WITH CHRIST

WHAT 1 COR 12:4-6 REVEALS:

- THERE ARE DIFFERENT KINDS OF GIFTS, BUT THE SAME SPIRIT DISTRIBUTES THEM
- THERE ARE DIFFERENT KINDS OF ADMINISTRATIONS (SERVICE), BUT THE SAME LORD
- THERE ARE DIFFERENT KINDS OF OPERATIONS (WORKINGS), BUT IN ALL OF THEM AND IN EVERYONE IT IS THE SAME GOD AT WORK

WHAT 1 COR 12:4-6 REVEALS:

- ▶ DIFFERENT KINDS OF GIFTS (**MOTIVATIONAL**)
 - ▶ *CHARISMATA*—GOD'S GRACE GIFTS
- ▶ DIFFERENT KINDS OF ADMINISTRATIONS (**MINISTRY**)
 - ▶ *DIAKONIA*—"A WAITER OF TABLES"—THOSE WHO SERVE
- ▶ DIFFERENT KINDS OF OPERATIONS (**MANIFESTATION**)
 - ▶ *ENERGEMATON*—EXPRESSES ENERGY

MOTIVATIONAL	MINISTRY	MANIFESTATION
CHARISMATA ROM 12:6-8	DIAKONIA EPH 4:11; 1 COR 12:28	ENERGEMATON 1 COR 12:8-11
- PROPHECY - SERVICE - TEACHING - ENCOURAGEMENT - GIVING - LEADERSHIP - MERCY	- APOSTLES - PROPHETS - EVANGELISTS - PASTOR/TEACHER - TEACHERS - WORKING OF MIRACLES - HEALING - HELPING - TONGUES - ADMINISTRATION/LEADERSHIP	- WORD OF WISDOM - WORD OF KNOWLEDGE - FAITH - HEALING - MIRACLES - PROPHECY - DISCERNMENT - TONGUES - INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES

MOTIVATIONAL GIFTS DEFINED

1. PROPHECY – A DIVINE ABILITY TO PROCLAIM GOD'S TRUTH WITH POWER AND CLARITY IN A TIMELY AND CULTURALLY SENSITIVE FASHION FOR CORRECTION, REPENTANCE, OR EDIFICATION—"STRENGTHENING, ENCOURAGING AND COMFORT" (1 COR. 14:3).

MOTIVATIONAL GIFTS DEFINED

PEOPLE WITH THE **PROPHETIC** MOTIVATIONAL GIFT:

- ▶ TEND TO BE PERSUASIVE SPEAKERS
- ▶ READ PEOPLE WILL
- ▶ CAN COME ACROSS AS OPINIONATED OR INSENSITIVE
- ▶ CAN DEPEND ON THEIR SPEAKING ABILITY RATHER THAN ON THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IF NOT CAREFUL

MOTIVATIONAL GIFTS DEFINED

- ▶ PEOPLE WHO HAVE THIS GIFT OFTEN ASK THE QUESTION, *WHAT WENT WRONG HERE?*
- ▶ THEY HAVE A GOD-GIVEN SENSE OF WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN TO MAKE IT RIGHT.
- ▶ THOSE WHO LISTEN TO THESE PEOPLE CAN SUDDENLY FEEL AS THOUGH THEY SEE THINGS CLEARLY.

MOTIVATIONAL GIFTS DEFINED

2. SERVICE – THE DIVINE ABILITY TO ATTACH SPIRITUAL VALUE TO ACCOMPLISHING PHYSICAL TASKS IN THE BODY OF CHRIST. IT'S THE ABILITY TO DEMONSTRATE LOVE BY MEETING PRACTICAL NEEDS THAT FACILITATE OTHER CHRISTIANS IN THEIR MINISTRY.

PEOPLE WITH THIS GIFT INTUITIVELY ASK, *WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?*

MOTIVATIONAL GIFTS DEFINED

PEOPLE MOTIVATED WITH THE GIFT OF **SERVICE**:

- ▶ DO NOT SEEK PUBLIC RECOGNITION
- ▶ ARE CONTENT TO WORK BEHIND THE SCENES, THOUGH THEY DO WANT TO KNOW THAT PEOPLE CARE
- ▶ WILL OFTEN OVERLOOK THEIR OWN DISCOMFORT OR NEEDS IN ORDER TO SERVE
- ▶ CAN BECOME BITTER WHEN THEIR HARD WORK IS NOT RECOGNIZED

MOTIVATIONAL GIFTS DEFINED



3. TEACHING – THE GIFT OF TEACHING IS THE DIVINE ABILITY TO UNDERSTAND AND GIVE A DETAILED EXPLANATION OF BIBLICAL TRUTH.

PEOPLE WITH THIS GIFT OFTEN INTUITIVELY ASK,
*WHAT IS THE TRUTH ON THIS ISSUE? WHERE DID YOU
GET THAT? WHY?*

MOTIVATIONAL GIFTS DEFINED



PEOPLE MOTIVATED WITH THE GIFT OF **TEACHING**:

- ▶ LOVE TO STUDY AND DO RESEARCH
- ▶ ARE DOCTRINE-ORIENTED
- ▶ MAY NEGLECT THE APPLICATION OF TRUTH AND BE INATTENTIVE TO NEEDS OF STUDENTS
- ▶ MAY BECOME PROUD OF THEIR KNOWLEDGE

MOTIVATIONAL GIFTS DEFINED

4. ENCOURAGEMENT – THIS GIFT IS A DIVINE ABILITY TO COME ALONGSIDE PEOPLE AND REASSURE, STRENGTHEN, AFFIRM, AND CHALLENGE THEM AND STIMULATE FAITH.

PEOPLE WITH THIS GIFT OFTEN ASK, *WHAT MUST BE DONE TO FIX THIS? HOW CAN WE MOVE THIS PERSON TO WHOLENESS?*

MOTIVATIONAL GIFTS DEFINED

PEOPLE MOTIVATED WITH THE GIFT OF
ENCOURAGEMENT/EXHORTATION:

- ▶ ARE GIFTED COUNSELORS
- ▶ KNOW HOW TO APPLY SCRIPTURE PRACTICALLY
- ▶ INITIATE, IMPLORE, AND CALL US TO GODLY LIVING
- ▶ CAN SPEND TOO MUCH TIME WITH PEOPLE WHO WANT ONLY TEMPORARY SOLUTIONS
- ▶ MIGHT BECOME DISCOURAGED AT THE LACK OF RESULTS

MOTIVATIONAL GIFTS DEFINED

5. GIVING – A DIVINE ABILITY TO EARN MONEY, MANAGE IT WELL, AND CONTRIBUTE WISELY, CHEERFULLY, AND GEREROUSLY TO GOD'S WORK.

PEOPLE WITH THIS GIFT OFTEN ASK, *WHAT CAN I GIVE TO MEET THIS NEED?* THE ANSWER IS NOT ALWAYS MONETARY, BUT THIS GIFT WILL ALMOST ALWAYS BE REFLECTED IN A PERSON'S FINANCES.

MOTIVATIONAL GIFTS DEFINED

PEOPLE MOTIVATED WITH THE GIFT OF **GIVING**:

- ▶ GENERALLY, AVOID THE SPOTLIGHT AND GIVE ANONYMOUSLY
- ▶ WANT TO KNOW THE RETURN ON THEIR INVESTMENT
- ▶ AVOID HIGH-PRESSURE TACTICS
- ▶ MIGHT HAVE A TENDENCY TO BE PRIDEFUL

MOTIVATIONAL GIFTS DEFINED



PEOPLE MOTIVATED WITH THE GIFT OF
GIVING (CON'T):

- ▶ CAN OVEREMPHASIZE MATERIAL NEEDS
OVER SPIRITUAL NEEDS
- ▶ MIGHT JUDGE OTHERS BY THEIR BANK
ACCOUNTS

MOTIVATIONAL GIFTS DEFINED

6. LEADERSHIP – THE DIVINE ABILITY TO NOTICE WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE, SET GOALS TO GET IT DONE, AND THEN ATTRACT, MOTIVATE AND LEAD PEOPLE WHO CAN ACCOMPLISH THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY.

PEOPLE WITH THIS GIFT OFTEN ASK, *WHAT IS THE GOAL? WHERE ARE WE TRYING TO GO? HOW DO WE GET THERE?*

MOTIVATIONAL GIFTS DEFINED



PEOPLE MOTIVATED WITH THE GIFT OF
LEADERSHIP:

- ▶ ENJOY RESPONSIBILITY AND TAKING CHARGE
- ▶ SEE A NEED AND ENVISION A PLAN TO MEET THE NEED
- ▶ MOBILIZE AND DELEGATE TASKS TO OTHERS

MOTIVATIONAL GIFTS DEFINED



PEOPLE MOTIVATED WITH THE GIFT OF
LEADERSHIP (CON'T):

- ▶ MIGHT HAVE A TENDENCY TO USE PEOPLE TO ACHIEVE GOALS
- ▶ CAN BECOME PROUD OF THEIR POWER
- ▶ SOMETIMES FORGET THE SPIRITUAL PURPOSE BEHIND THE PROJECT

MOTIVATIONAL GIFTS DEFINED

7. MERCY – THE DIVINE ABILITY TO MINISTER CHEERFULLY AND APPROPRIATELY TO PEOPLE WHO ARE SUFFERING OR UNDESERVING AND TO SPARE THEM THE CONSEQUENCES THEY MIGHT DESERVE.

PEOPLE WITH THIS GIFT OFTEN ASK, *HOW CAN I MAKE THESE PEOPLE FEEL BETTER?*

MOTIVATIONAL GIFTS DEFINED

PEOPLE MOTIVATED WITH THE GIFT OF
MERCY:

- ▶ DETECT AND DISCERN PEOPLE'S FEELINGS
- ▶ SEEK DIRECT MINISTRY TO RELIEVE SUFFERING
- ▶ PROVIDE A COMPASSIONATE BUFFER IN MINISTRY
- ▶ MIGHT HAVE A HARD TIME BEING FIRM

MOTIVATIONAL GIFTS DEFINED

PEOPLE MOTIVATED WITH THE GIFT OF **MERCY**
(CON'T):

- ▶ CAN FEEL THAT THEIR DESIRE TO HELP IS
OFTEN MISUNDERSTOOD
- ▶ MIGHT TEND TO RESENT THOSE WHO DON'T
HAVE THE GIFT OF MERCY

RESPONDING IN YOUR MOTIVATIONAL GIFT (AN ILLUSTRATION)

PICTURE SEVEN TABLES AT A CHURCH BANQUET. AT EACH TABLE IS A REPRESENTATIVE WHO HAS ONE OF THE SEVEN MOTIVATIONAL GIFTS. THE PARTICIPANTS HAVE FINISHED THEIR MAIN COURSE, AND THE WAITSTAFF IS BEGINNING TO CLEAR THE TABLES IN PREPARATION FOR THE DESSERT COURSE.



JUST THEN, A WAITER COMES INTO THE HALL
CARRYING A HUGE TRAY. UNFORTUNATELY,
HE COLLIDES WITH ONE OF THE STAFF
CLEANING UP A TABLE. HE SPINS AND FALLS,
AND THE DESSERTS ON THE TRAY GO FLYING.

*HOW DOES EACH OF THE SEVEN
REPRESENTATIVES REACT TO THE SCENE?*



PROPHECY

"I COULD SEE THIS COMING FROM A MILE AWAY. IT WAS A MISTAKE FROM THE BEGINNING. YOU CAN'T TAKE AWAY PLATES AND BRING DESSERTS AT THE SAME TIME."

MOTIVATION: TO CORRECT LIFE



SERVICE

“LET ME HELP YOU WITH THAT! I’LL WIPE YOU OFF AND WE’LL CLEAN UP THE MESS TOGETHER.”

MOTIVATION: TO FULFILL A NEED



TEACHING

“THE REAL REASON THIS HAPPENED WASN’T BECAUSE THEY WERE TAKING UP PLATES AS THE DESSERT WAS BEING BROUGHT IN. I’VE ANALYZED THIS AND OBSERVED THAT THERE WERE SEVEN DESSERTS ON ONE SIDE OF THE TRAY AND FIVE ON THE OTHER SIDE.



TEACHING (CON'T)

THAT THREW OFF THE WAITER'S BALANCE. FURTHERMORE, HE WAS WEARING THE WRONG KIND OF SHOES, MAKING IT EVEN MORE LIKELY HE WOULD STUMBLE AND FALL, RUINING OUR DESSERTS."

MOTIVATION: TO DISCOVER WHY IT
HAPPENED



ENCOURAGEMENT

*“I HAVE AN IDEA. NEXT TIME JUST SERVE
THE DESSERT WITH THE MEAL.”*

MOTIVATION: TO CORRECT THE FUTURE

GIVING

“THE MAIN SPEAKER’S SUIT JACKET IS RUINED. DISHES ARE BROKEN AND THE CARPET IS DESTROYED. HERE, WEAR MY JACKET WHILE YOU SPEAK, AND I’LL BUY YOU A NEW SUIT TOMORROW. THIS CHURCH CARPET SHOULD HAVE BEEN REPLACED YEARS AGO. I’LL THROW IN \$5,000 AND THE REST OF YOU CAN JUMP IN WITH ME.”

MOTIVATION: TO GIVE TO RELIEVE A NEED

LEADERSHIP

“JOE, FIND A MOP. BETTY, GET SOME PAPER TOWELS. BEN, HELP THE WAITER UP. LET’S HAVE THE WORSHIP LEADER PLAY ONE MORE SONG AS WE GET THIS CLEANED UP. EVERYONE ELSE—WE’LL BE READY TO GO IN FIFTEEN MINUTES.”

MOTIVATION: TO GET BACK ON TRACK TO ACCOMPLISH THE INTENDED GOAL



MERCY

“OH, DON'T FEEL BAD! THIS COULD HAVE HAPPENED TO ANYONE. IT'S OKAY.”

MOTIVATION: TO RELIEVE EMBARRASSMENT

RESPONDING IN YOUR MOTIVATIONAL GIFT (CONCLUSION)

- ▶ KNOWING WHICH OF THE GIFTS ENERGIZES YOU WILL SPARE YOU A LOT OF **FRUSTRATION AND FUTILITY.**
- ▶ WHEN YOU ANCHOR YOURSELF IN YOUR MOTIVATIONAL GIFT, YOU EXPERIENCE TWO IMPORTANT **F's—FULFILLMENT AND FRUITFULNESS.**

DEVELOPING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS FOR THE KINGDOM

FIVE REASONS TO DEVELOP YOUR SPIRITUAL
GIFTS:

1. DIRECTION AND PURPOSE
2. FREEDOM TO EMBRACE AND ENJOY
WHO YOU ARE
3. JOY
4. AFFIRMATION OF YOUR VICTORY WITH
CHRIST
5. ACCOUNTABILITY

DEVELOPING YOUR GIFTS BEGINS WITH CLARITY

- ▶ THE HOLY SPIRIT DETERMINES HOW YOUR GIFTS WILL BENEFIT PEOPLE
- ▶ UNDERSTANDING YOUR PRIMARY MOTIVATIONAL GIFT BRINGS CLARITY
- ▶ TO DEVELOP YOUR MINISTRY GIFTS, YOU'LL NEED A BASIC UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT EACH GIFT IS AND HOW IT WORKS

MINISTRY GIFTS AND MANIFESTATIONS

APOSTLESHIP—THE ABILITY TO START CHURCHES OR OTHER MINISTRIES AND OVERSEE THEIR DEVELOPMENT

- ▶ THE NT MAKES A DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE *OFFICE* OF APOSTLE AND THE *MINISTRY GIFT*
- ▶ PAUL WROTE THAT THE CHURCH WAS BUILT ON THE FOUNDATION LAID BY THE APOSTLES, ALONG WITH THE PROPHETS (EPH. 2:20)
- ▶ PAUL WAS SPECIFICALLY REFERRING TO THE 12 WHO WERE WITH JESUS AND *WITNESSED* HIS RESURRECTION

MINISTRY GIFTS AND MANIFESTATIONS

PROPHECY—A DIVINE ABILITY TO PROCLAIM GOD'S TRUTH WITH POWER AND CLARITY IN A TIMELY AND CULTURALLY SENSITIVE FASHION FOR CORRECTION, REPENTANCE, OR EDIFICATION (1 COR. 14:3)

- ▶ PROPHECY CAN BE A PRIMARY MOTIVATIONAL GIFT, BUT IT CAN ALSO SERVE AS A MINISTRY GIFT

MINISTRY GIFTS AND MANIFESTATIONS

PROPHECY (CON'T)

- ▶ THERE IS A DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE *OFFICE* OF PROPHET AND THE *PROPHETIC MINISTRY* OF PROCLAIMING GOD'S TRUTH FOR THE PURPOSE OF LIFE CHANGE
- ▶ WE DON'T GET NEW REVELATION AS BIBLICAL PROPHETS AND WRITERS OF SCRIPTURE DID, BUT WE CAN STILL RECEIVE BIBLICAL INSIGHTS, AS STATED IN 1 COR. 14:1

MINISTRY GIFTS AND MANIFESTATIONS

EVANGELISM—THE ABILITY TO EFFECTIVELY LEAD UNBELIEVERS INTO A SAVING KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS

- ▶ ALL CHRISTIANS ARE CALLED TO HAVE SOME ROLE IN EVANGELISM, BUT EVANGELISTS ARE GIFTED SPECIFICALLY FOR THE TASK
- ▶ THEY HAVE TWO GOALS: THAT LOST SOULS BE SAVED, AND THAT OTHER BELIEVERS LEARN TO EVANGELIZE TOO

MINISTRY GIFTS AND MANIFESTATIONS

PASTOR/TEACHER—THE ABILITY TO LEAD ,
NOURISH, PROTECT, AND CARE FOR THE NEEDS
OF A FLOCK OF BELIEVERS

- ▶ PASTOR/TEACHER IS THE ONLY DUAL GIFT IN THE NT
- ▶ NOT EVERYONE IN THE ROLE OF PASTOR NEEDS TO HAVE THIS GIFT

MINISTRY GIFTS AND MANIFESTATIONS

TEACHING—THE DIVINE ABILITY TO UNDERSTAND AND GIVE A DETAILED EXPLANATION OF BIBLICAL TRUTH

- ▶ THIS CAN BE A PRIMARY *MOTIVATIONAL GIFT*, BUT IT'S ALSO A *MINISTRY GIFT* THAT FLOWS OUT OF OTHER MOTIVATIONAL GIFTS TOO
- ▶ SOME WITH THIS GIFT ARE MOTIVATED BY EXHORTATION, PROPHECY, OR LEADERSHIP, FOR EXAMPLE

MINISTRY GIFTS AND MANIFESTATIONS

MIRACLES—THE ABILITY TO SERVE AS AN INSTRUMENT OF GOD IN MANIFESTING HIS SUPERNATURAL POWER

- ▶ MIRACLES BEAR WITNESS TO GOD'S PRESENCE AND TRUTH AND OFTEN OCCUR IN ASSOCIATION WITH MISSIONARY ACTIVITY AS A MEANS OF DEMONSTRATING WHO HE IS

MINISTRY GIFTS AND MANIFESTATIONS

MIRACLES (CON'T)

- ▶ GOD SOMETIMES AUTHENTICATES THE GOSPEL MESSAGE WITH MIRACLES THAT OPEN THE DOOR FOR THE PROCLAMATION OF THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS THROUGH CHRIST
- ▶ ALTHOUGH GOD CAN DO MIRACULOUS WORKS THROUGH ANYONE, SOME PEOPLE ARE GIFTED IN PRAYING FOR, DECLARING, AND SEEING THIS KIND OF SUPERNATURAL ACTIVITY

MINISTRY GIFTS AND MANIFESTATIONS

HEALING—THE ABILITY TO SERVE AS A HUMAN INSTRUMENT FOR GOD TO CURE ILLNESSES AND RESTORE HEALTH

- ▶ A PERSON WITH THIS GIFT CAN'T SIMPLY HEAL ANYONE THEY CHOOSE, BUT GOD CAN HEAL THROUGH THEM WHENEVER *HE* CHOOSES
- ▶ GOD STILL HEALS, AND SOME PEOPLE ARE ESPECIALLY GIFTED IN PRAYING FOR HEALING

MINISTRY GIFTS AND MANIFESTATIONS

HELPING—THE ABILITY TO ENHANCE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE MINISTRY OF OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BODY

- ▶ 1 COR. 12:28 IS THE ONLY PLACE IN THE NT WHERE THE WORD *HELPING* (*HELPS*) IS USED, AND IT SEEMS TO BE DISTINCT FROM THE GIFT OF SERVICE
- ▶ SOME COMMENTATORS SUGGEST THAT *SERVICE* IS GROUP-ORIENTED AND THE GIFT OF *HELPS* IS MORE PERSON-ORIENTED

MINISTRY GIFTS AND MANIFESTATIONS

ADMINISTRATION/LEADERSHIP—THE ABILITY TO STEER A CHURCH, MINISTRY, OR GROUP TOWARD THE FULFILLMENT OF ITS GOALS BY MANAGING ITS AFFAIRS AND IMPLEMENTING ITS PLANS

- ▶ THE TERM USED HERE FOR ADMINISTRATION/LEADERSHIP IS DIFFERENT FROM THE ONE USED FOR THE MOTIVATIONAL GIFT OF LEADERSHIP
- ▶ A PERSON CAN HAVE THE GIFT OF LEADERSHIP WITHOUT THE GIFT OF ADMINISTRATION

MINISTRY GIFTS AND MANIFESTATIONS

WISDOM—THE ABILITY TO APPLY THE PRINCIPLES OF GOD'S WORD PRACTICALLY TO SPECIFIC SITUATIONS AND RECOMMEND THE BEST COURSE OF ACTION AT THE BEST TIME

- ▶ PEOPLE WITH THE GIFT OF WISDOM ARE ABLE TO TURN INSIGHT AND DISCERNMENT INTO EXCELLENT ADVICE

MINISTRY GIFTS AND MANIFESTATIONS

KNOWLEDGE—THE ABILITY TO DISCOVER, ANALYZE, AND SYSTEMATIZE TRUTH FOR THE BENEFIT OF OTHERS

- ▶ PEOPLE WITH THIS GIFT CAN SPEAK WITH PENETRATING UNDERSTANDING
- ▶ GOD ALSO MAY PROVIDE SUPERNATURAL PERCEPTION AND DISCERNMENT TO PEOPLE WITH THIS GIFT WHILE MINISTERING TO OTHERS

MINISTRY GIFTS AND MANIFESTATIONS

FAITH—THE ABILITY TO HAVE A VISION FOR WHAT GOD WANTS DONE AND CONFIDENTLY BELIEVE THAT IT WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED REGARDLESS OF WHATEVER CIRCUMSTANCES AND OBSTACLES SEEM TO BE IN THE WAY

- ▶ THIS GIFT TRANSFORMS VISION INTO REALITY
- ▶ SOMETIMES, THIS GIFT IS STIRRED UP BY SOMEONE ELSE'S MOTIVATIONAL GIFT

MINISTRY GIFTS AND MANIFESTATIONS

DISCERNMENT—THE ABILITY TO DISCERN THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH FROM THE SPIRIT OF ERROR

- ▶ GOD GIVES ALL OF US THE ABILITY TO DISCERN TRUTH WHEN WE SOAK OUR MINDS AND HEARTS IN SCRIPTURE
- ▶ HOWEVER, SOME PEOPLE HAVE THE GIFT OF A SPECIAL SENSITIVITY IN RECOGNIZING COUNTERFEITS, FALSE TEACHINGS, DEMONIC INFLUENCE, AND CARNAL MOTIVES

MINISTRY GIFTS AND MANIFESTATIONS

TONGUES—THE ABILITY TO RECEIVE AND IMPART A SPIRITUAL MESSAGE IN A LANGUAGE THAT THE RECIPIENT HAS NEVER LEARNED SO THAT OTHERS IN THE BODY CAN BE EDIFIED

- ▶ IN A MINISTRY SETTING, THE INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES IS NECESSARY; THE MESSAGE SHOULD BE INTERPRETED EITHER BY THE RECIPIENT OR SOMEONE ELSE WITH THE GIFT OF INTERPRETATION

MINISTRY GIFTS AND MANIFESTATIONS

TONGUES (CON'T)

- ▶ 1 COR 14 TELLS US THAT THIS GIFT IS IMPORTANT BUT POTENTIALLY DISRUPTIVE IF NOT HANDLED WITH CARE
- ▶ AT ITS BEST, THE GIFT OF *INTERPRETATION* DEMONSTRATES GOD'S POWER AND REVEALS HIS MESSAGE TO PEOPLE WHO WOULD NOT OTHERWISE UNDERSTAND IT

FOUR LEVELS OF EXPLORATION OF GROWTH TO CONSIDER FOR GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF GIFTS:

- ▶ INVOLVEMENT IN PEOPLE'S LIVES AND NEEDS
- ▶ INVOLVEMENT IN A SMALL-GROUP SETTING
- ▶ INVOLVEMENT IN ONGOING TRAINING AND EDUCATION
- ▶ INVOLVEMENT IN REGULAR RISK-TAKING OPPORTUNITIES

YOU ARE A PAINTBRUSH IN THE MASTER'S HAND



COMMON SIGNS OF ABUSE AND MISUSE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

1. WHEN SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE USED TO MANIPULATE OR EXERT POWER OR CONTROL IN RELATIONSHIPS
2. WHEN SOMEONE CLAIMS TO BE ABLE TO IMPART A SPECIFIC GIFT IF YOU FOLLOW A FORMULA
3. WHEN A GIFT IS TREATED AS UNIVERSAL EVIDENCE OF SPIRITUALITY, SALVATION, OR A UNIQUE SPIRITUAL BLESSING

COMMON SIGNS OF ABUSE AND MISUSE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

4. WHEN THE FOCUS OF A CHURCH SERVICE OR MINISTRY EVENT IS ON THE MANIFESTATION OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS **RATHER THAN ON THE GIVER AND HIS PURPOSES FOR THE CHURCH**
5. WHEN YOU COMPARE YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS WITH THE GIFTS OF OTHERS

COMMON SIGNS OF ABUSE AND MISUSE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

6. WHEN ANY EXTREME POSITION ON SPIRITUAL GIFTS IS TAUGHT AS THE SINGULAR RIGHT INTERPRETATION
7. WHEN YOU USE YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS IN YOUR OWN STRENGTH OR PUT THEM TO USE TO IMPRESS OTHERS OR SATISFY YOUR EGO
8. WHEN YOU OBSERVE A PERSON WITH A SPIRITUAL GIFT AND ASSUME THEY ARE SPIRITUALLY MATURE

COMMON SIGNS OF ABUSE AND MISUSE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

9. WHEN APPARENT MANIFESTATIONS OF THE SPIRIT ARE COUNTERFEITED BY HUMAN SCHEMES OR DEMONIC FORCES
10. WHEN A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY TEACHES THAT THE DISCOVERY, DEVELOPMENT, AND DEPLOYMENT OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS IS OPTIONAL

SPIRITUAL GIFT ACTION PLAN

1. **COMMIT** TO DISCOVERING, DEPLOYING, AND DEVELOPING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS IN YOUR LOCAL CHURCH
2. **PRAY** SERIOUSLY, SEEKING DIVINE GUIDANCE
3. **STUDY** THE GIFT PASSAGES IN THE BIBLE:
ROM 12:4-8; 1 COR 12; EPH 4:11-13; 1 PET 4:10-11
4. **SEEK** GOOD COUNSEL

SPIRITUAL GIFT ACTION PLAN



5. **TEST** THE WATERS FOR A FEW WEEKS OR MONTHS
6. **EXAMINE** THE FULFILLMENT FACTOR
7. **RECOGNIZE** GOD'S EVIDENT BLESSING

THE BIG 3 QUESTIONS:

▶ WHO AM I?

▶ *YOU ARE:*

- ▶ ETERNALLY VALUABLE
- ▶ FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE (PSALM 139:14)
- ▶ UNIQUELY CREATED BY GOD

THE BIG 3 QUESTIONS:

▶ WHERE DO I BELONG?

▶ *YOU BELONG:*

- ▶ TO GOD, AS HE HAS PLACED YOU IN HIS FAMILY
- ▶ UNCONDITIONALLY ACCEPTED (EPH 3:6, 14-19)
- ▶ OBJECT OF GOD'S AFFECTION

THE BIG 3 QUESTIONS:

- ▶ **WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?**
 - ▶ *YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO:*
 - ▶ FULFILL GOD'S PURPOSE, AS GIFTED BY HIM
 - ▶ YOU ARE IRREPLACEABLY SIGNIFICANT
 - ▶ YOU ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP (EPH 2:10)

YOU ARE ONE OF GOD'S MASTERPIECES

- ▶ GOD HAS CREATED YOU IN CHRIST JESUS
- ▶ GOD HAS PREPARED WONDERFUL WORKS FOR YOU TO WALK IN
- ▶ THOSE WORKS WILL BE LARGELY DETERMINED BY SUPERNATURAL ENDOWMENTS BY **JESUS**, ACTIVATED BY **THE HOLY SPIRIT**, IN ALIGNMENT WITH **GOD'S WORD**, SO THAT GOD IS GLORIFIED AND CHRIST IS EXALTED!!!