

**Xenos Christian Fellowship  
Christian Principles Unit 4  
Challenges and Opportunities of Spiritual Growth**

**Week 10: Moving Into Ministry**

**Introduction**

**(1 Cor. 12:4-6)** Now there are varieties of **gifts**, but the same Spirit. (5) And there are varieties of **ministries**, and the same Lord. (6) And there are varieties of **effects**, but the same God who works all things in all persons.

(Rom. 12; 1 Pet. 4:8-11; Eph 4:1-16)

**Spiritual Gifts:**

Definition: God-given capabilities to serve others so that they are impacted for and/or built up spiritually in Jesus Christ.

**(1 Cor. 12:7,11)** But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. . . (11) But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

Note:

**Ministries:** The use of spiritual gifts to serve others.

**Effects:** The outcome of our ministries; ministry fruit.

**Importance of Discovering and Exercising Gifts**

Discovering and exercising your gift(s):

1. ...gives you a greater sense of significance and purpose for your Christian life.

**(2 Timothy 4:6-8)** 6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; 8 in the future

there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing. As each one has received a **special** gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

2. ...provides more insight into God's will for your life.

**(1 Peter 4:10)** As each one has received a **special** gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

3. ...provides additional motivation toward spiritual growth.

**(2 Tim. 2:20-22)** Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware, and some to honor and some to dishonor. (21) Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work. (22) Now flee from youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

4. ...lets you experience the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Col. 1:28,29** And we proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man complete in Christ. 29 And for this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.

5. ...helps you overcome fearfulness and timidity in your service for Christ.

**(2 Tim 1:6-9)** And for this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which was given to you by the laying on of my hands. (7) For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline. (8) Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, or of me His prisoner; but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, (9) who has saved us and called us with a holy calling not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted to us in Christ Jesus from all eternity.

6. ...frees you from making unhealthy comparisons to others.

1 Cor 12:14-26<sup>14</sup> For the body is not one member, but many.<sup>15</sup> If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body.<sup>16</sup> And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body.<sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?<sup>18</sup> But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired.<sup>19</sup> And if they were all one member, where would the body be?<sup>20</sup> But now there are many members, but one body.<sup>21</sup> And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; or again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."<sup>22</sup> On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the

body which seem to be weaker are necessary;<sup>23</sup> and those *members* of the body, which we deem less honorable, on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our unseemly *members come to* have more abundant seemliness,<sup>24</sup> whereas our seemly *members* have no need *of it*. But God has *so* composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that *member* which lacked,<sup>25</sup> that there should be no division in the body, but *that* the members should have the same care for one another.<sup>26</sup> And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if *one* member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

7. ... increases healthy interdependence within the Body of Christ.

## Uniformity and Diversity

Areas of ministry uniformity (areas of ministry we have in common):

- \_\_\_\_\_ (Col. 4:2; Eph. 6:18)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Pet. 2:9; 1 Pet. 3:15; Col. 3:17-4:1; 1 Pet. 2:12-3:7; Titus 2:7-3:8; 1 Tim. 6:1,2)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (Matt. 28:19)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (Jn. 13:34) as unpacked by the New Testament "one another" passages (Rom. 12:10,15; 15:7; Gal. 6:2; Eph. 4:2; Col. 3:13; 1 Thess. 5:14; Heb. 10:24,25; Jas. 5:16).
- \_\_\_\_\_ (Lk. 12:33,34; Gal. 6:6; Eph. 4:28; 1 Tim. 5:17,18; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 8:7).

## Ways to discover your spiritual gifts

1. Become a servant within the church.

**(Mark 10:45)** For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

**(Philippians 2:3-5)** Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; 4 do not merely look out for your own personal

interests, but also for the interests of others.<sup>5</sup> Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,

<b>Servanthood</b>	<b>Selfishness</b>
<p>Theo-centric: "I want God's agenda for my life so I am willing to subordinate my own agenda to his." See Matt. 26:39; Mark 8:34.</p>	<p>Ego-centric: "This doesn't fit into my agenda so I refuse to consider it."</p>
<p>Fellowship with God: "I can know God better through this whether or not people are impressed with me."</p>	<p>Impress People: "If I do this, will they like me or think I'm spiritual?"</p>
<p>Whatever It Takes: "I am committed to excellence in my responsibilities to others, and I am willing to serve outside those areas in order to accomplish God's purposes." (Col. 3:23; Jn. 13:13,14)</p>	<p>Not My Job: "I'll do the minimum in my responsibilities to others, and I will not be inconvenienced by other tasks."</p>
<p>Humility: "God enables me to make a significant contribution and I want to be faithful to him so he is glorified through my service." (1 Cor. 15:10)</p>	<p>Pride: "I have a lot to offer and you should feel privileged that I'm involved." OR, "I can't do anything significant." "It doesn't matter if I'm here or not" (many Christians).</p>
<p>Other-Centered: "I am learning to trust God's care for me enough to begin to notice and seek out others' needs." See Jn. 13:3,4ff</p>	<p>Self-Protective: "I have to take care of myself first. If I don't, who will?"</p>

2. Ask God to reveal your gift(s) (Jas. 4:2)

3. Consider what do you want to do. (Phil. 2:13)

4. Consider what needs regularly come to your attention.

5. Envision how the Lord could use you in ministry.
6. Take steps of faith to attempt new ministries.
7. Consider what you enjoy doing, feel empowered doing, etc.
8. Consider where you are effective.

## **Fulfillment in Ministry**

### Introduction

What is fulfillment? *Fulfillment is a deep-seated sense of **blessing/ joy** arising from **total commitment** to something significant.*

### Total commitment

**(1 Cor. 9:23-27)** And I do all things for the sake of the gospel, that I may become a fellow partaker of it. (24) Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. (25) And everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. (26) Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; (27) but I buffet my body and make it my slave, lest possibly, after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.

### Blessing/ Joy

**(John 10:10)** . . .I came that you might have life and have it abundantly.

**(Phil 4:7,8)** But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ,

**(Heb.12:2)** ...fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Note:

### Conclusion

**(Luke6:46-49)** "And why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? 47 "Everyone who comes to Me, and hears My words, and acts upon them, I will show you whom he is like: 48 he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation upon the rock; and when a flood rose, the torrent burst against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. 49 "But the one who has heard, and has not acted accordingly, is like a man who built a house upon the ground without any foundation; and the torrent burst against it and immediately it collapsed, and the ruin of that house was great."

C. H. Spurgeon- "Have great faith! A little faith will bring you to heaven but great faith will bring heaven to you."

**Memory verses-** None.

**Assignments** Study for the exam!