

**Westland Free Methodist Church**  
**The Gifts of the Holy Spirit(Drama)-What you give**  
**October 14, 2007**

**Read Ephesians 4:11-13**

Upon salvation, we begin to enjoy God in our hearts, knowing that Christ died for us, and now gives us the ongoing presence of the Holy Spirit. Once we receive the Holy Spirit, and his presence becomes real, but then does something even greater. He gives us these gifts. Not the kind of gifts you open like at Christmas, but not so different either. It's like these abilities come to us like we've never had before. God loves to use each one of us to bring blessing into the lives of others.

This past week, I had the joy of spending the week with 6 other special people on a mission trip to Mississippi. We connected with Pastor Greg, a Free Methodist pastor planting a church in the Pass Christian, MS area, one of the most devastated places where Hurricane Katrina hit over 2 years ago. I was planning this message on the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and on Tuesday morning at devotions, Pastor Greg goes right into the text on spiritual gifts, talking about why we have so much to give as Christians. But he said something quite different than usual. He said why do we limit ourselves to the spiritual gifts in the Bible. Is it limited to those? Is this the end of the list, or were these given so that we might understand that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are really endless in nature. I will not list them today, but as the week went on, we began to explore as a team how various spiritual gifts developed in each one of us.

The foundation of our lives as Christians is really what each one of us bring to the kingdom of God. God loves to use for his glory. The basis of this message is found in the first phrase of this verse. It begins "his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers". But as we learned this week our spiritual gifts often go further. Forrest Peihl was one our team members, and we deemed his gift as the rerod gift. Watch and you will see why.

Show clip of Forrest on mission trip.

In Ephesians we see a list of at least some of these gifts. If you are like so many we ask why do we have them, and what are we supposed to do with them and those yet to be written on our hearts? Good question.

God is giving us new insights to serve him better, and even takes things away we do not need anymore to accomplish what God wants us to accomplish through us.

Things we should know about the Holy Spirit's presence:

- 1. Any spiritual gift used is for the glory of God, otherwise it is not a spiritual gift.**

I Corinthians 12:3 - "No one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit."

It is not for personal gain, or personal use, but for the good of all. God is working all things for the good of his kingdom. As Christians, there is not us and God, but us in God, creating the blessed presence of the Holy Spirit, thus spiritual gifts.

Think of it this way. You can do a lot of activity in life, and even in church, but when you are fully in tune with the spirit of God, your best help outside of the spirit is no help at all. On the flip side, the slightest effort in the spirit is huge in comparison. You don't get credit for some of your greatest efforts if it is not done for the glory of God.

I Peter 4:10 – “each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.”

Interview Rich Thomas. Rich then interviews Jack and Carol Ferguson who serve in the church.

Rich knows how to bring glory to God. Jack and Carol know how to bring glory to God. They point to Christ. They serve God through their spiritual gifts.

So first things first, it is only in the Holy Spirit that we can do or say anything of good in God's kingdom. It comes by the Holy Spirit's presence in us.

Things we should know about the Holy Spirit's presence:

**2. There are many gifts but only one Lord.**

Your gift is part of a working body that is about one thing, glorifying God. Functioning as an autonomous being is outside of the spirit. The only thing that counts is what you do when part of the greater body.

I Corinthians 12:4-7 “there are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.”

(Slide of team in front of Jesus is Lord banner on wall) This last week, 7 from our church went down to Mississippi on a mission trip to help build homes for the homeless. We met up with Free Methodist Church Pastor Greg Nitchmen and the effort he is spearheading there. Two of our team are going to come up and help us understand this point that there are many gifts but one Lord.

**Karen**, how did you see our team use their unique abilities to bless different needs? What would you say was most significant you about working with this team?

So you got to see this kind of spiritual truth in action this week, “many different kinds of gifts, yet one Lord.”

Things we should know about the Holy Spirit's presence:

**3. We are built to give and we are built to receive.**

There is a perfect verse which describes why this is so true for the Christian. But first Forrest is going help us see how relevant this truth is for the Christian.

**Forrest** came on this mission trip in a very unique time in his life. He is inbetween jobs right now, and in fact 3 of our team members are without jobs right now, which opened the door for them to go.

**Forrest** – You came on this trip in a time when you could say it is time to receive, not give, yet you blew right through that and agreed to go on this trip. How has this trip changed your life in light of giving and receiving? There was another significant moment on the trip that God gave you something of value. What was it?(Greg's devotional on

The idea behind this testimony is having the faith to give of yourself before you receive what you think you need first. God always takes care of our needs. It's our stepping out first that blesses God so much and causes him to want to bless us even more.

Jesus said to the 12 when he sent them out, "Freely you have received, freely give."(Matthew 10:8)

II Corinthians 5:7 says, "We live by faith, not by sight." How many times do we say, but I cannot see what is going on, or how do I know I will have enough next week, next month, next year. It's when we step out, that God notices the most. Just take the first step.

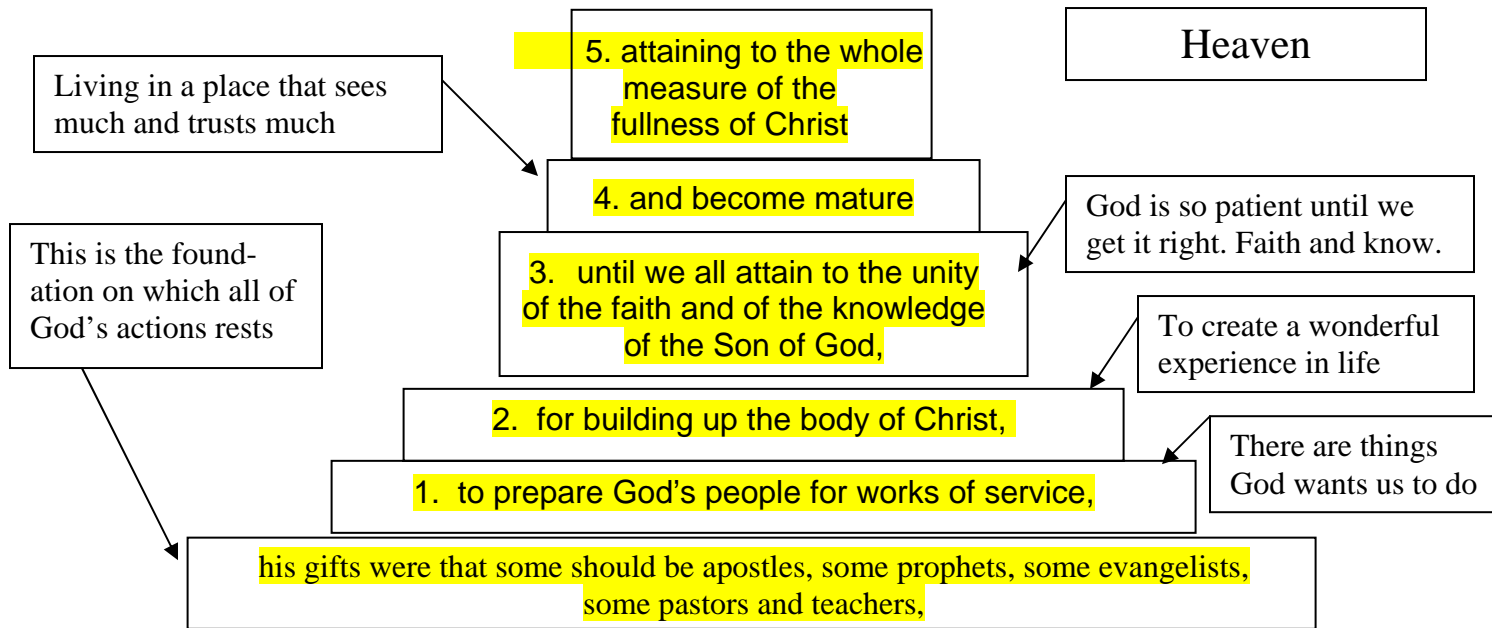
Acts 20:35 It was Jesus who said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Do we believe that. Do we? How many of you put your tithe in the offering this morning thinking, it was easier for me to give my 10% or more in the offering than the burden of spending the last 90%. You see, by the middle and end of the week, we would wake up and go to the sites of working for the homeless, asking ourselves, how can I do more, because seeing the need filled is such a cool thing in my heart.

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Let's read our basic text one more time:

Ephesians 4:11-13 – "It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, some to be pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup>to prepare God's people for works service, so that the body of Christ may be built up, until we all reach unity in the faith, and in the knowledge of the Son of God, and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of God."

How much does the presence of the Holy Spirit care about your life's success?



We had the pleasure of praying for Mrs. Bradley (slide). We did some things to help, but it took dozens of teams to make that house what it needed to be. We did so little, but enjoyed handing this family the keys. God's plan to instill spiritual gifts us, our service to others, is about the presence of the Holy Spirit. It made a huge difference for Mrs. Bradley.