

WOC INTERNATIONAL

Differentiating Gifts from Callings

Session 1 - May 16, 2022

Introduction

Gifts - Special Spirit given abilities given to perform works of service (i.e., graces)

Derives from Greek [charismata] and [pneumatika] = Spirit's "expressions of grace"

Callings - Various outlets the Spirit's uses to manifest these "expressions of grace"

Fruit - Gracious dispositions and habits the Spirit births gifts and callings in those He dwells

Lesson - Why must we differentiate spiritual gifts from spiritual callings and fruit?

Reason 1 - Ignorance of the difference leads to us reject the Spirit's delegative authority

1 Cor 12:4-6 "Now there are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. 5 Also there are different ways of serving, but it is the same Lord being served. 6 And there are different modes of working, but it is the same God working them all in everyone." CJB

What specific Kingdom realities stand out here regarding gifts, callings, and fruit?

Reality 1 - The Spirit gives us spiritual gifts as the Father's children

Reality 2 - He uses gifts via callings in us to serve other members of Yeshua's Body

Reality 3 - He uses gifts and callings via fruit to forcefully advance His Kingdom

Why is knowing the essential difference between the 3 important to Birth Pains servants?

Matt 24:24-25 "For there will appear false Messiahs and false prophets performing great miracles – amazing things! – so as to fool even the chosen, if possible. 25 There! I have told you in advance!" CJB

Reason 2 - Ignorance of the difference leads to misunderstanding a believer's role in the Body

Eph 4:4-6 "There is one body and one Spirit, just as when you were called you were called to one hope. 5 And there is one Lord, one trust, one immersion, 6 and one God, the Father of all, who rules over all, works through all and is in all." CJB

What specific Kingdom truths stand out here regarding our relationship and path?

Truth 1 - Yeshua's Body and the Spirit have a _____ relationship

John 5:19 "Therefore, Yeshua said this to them: "Yes, indeed! I tell you that the Son cannot do anything on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing; whatever the Father does, the Son does too." CJB

Truth 2 - This common Golgotha or suffering path _____ us as Yeshua's Body

John 13:15-17 "For I have set you an example, so that you may do as I have done to you. 16 Yes, indeed! I tell you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is an emissary greater than the one who sent him. 17 If you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."

Truth 3 - This ignominious "suffering" path leads to _____ at the end

Rom 8:16-17 "The Spirit himself bears witness with our own spirits that we are children of God; 17 and if we are children, then we are also heirs, heirs of God and joint-heirs with the Messiah — provided we are suffering with him in order also to be glorified with him." CJB

Notes 1

Reason 3 - Ignorance of the difference lets one serve in the flesh thinking it's the Spirit

Matt 7:21-23 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, only those who do what my Father in heaven wants. 22 On that Day, many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord! Didn't we prophesy in your name? Didn't we expel demons in your name? Didn't we perform many miracles in your name?' 23 Then I will tell them to their faces, 'I never knew you! Get away from me, you workers of lawlessness!'" CJB

It lets one think accepting Yeshua's authority & divinity affords him entrance into heaven

When we don't differentiate gifts, callings, and fruit, we fall prey to 3 satanic snares...

Snare 1 - Lack of unity creating uncertainty and unhappiness in our soul

John 17:22-23 "The glory which you have given to me, I have given to them; so that they may be one, just as we are one – 23 I united with them and you with me, so that they may be completely one, and the world thus realize that you sent me, and that you have loved them just as you have loved me." CJB

When I try to operate spiritual gifts apart from His Community or "One" Body

I'm rejecting divine authority and tacitly saying His gifts are mine to exercise as I see fit

1 Cor 12:21-23 "So the eye cannot say to the hand, 'I don't need you'; or the head to the feet, 'I don't need you.' 22 On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be less important turn out to be all the more necessary; 23 and upon body parts which we consider less dignified we bestow greater dignity; and the parts that aren't attractive are the ones we make as attractive as we can" CJB

Snare 2 - Ungodly theologies concerning spiritual gifts that sound logical

Myth 1 - Spiritual gifts are ranked according to visibility and obvious _____

To most, word & leadership gifts are more valuable than administration or service gifts

But Scripture does not concur with this "logical" ungodly slander

Rather it rebukes excessively prizing & using spiritual gifts in a disunifying way

1 Cor 14:26-28 "What is our conclusion, brothers? Whenever you come together, let everyone be ready with a psalm or a teaching or a revelation, or ready to use his gift of tongues or give an interpretation; but let everything be for edification. 27 If the gift of tongues is exercised, let it be by two or at most three, and each in turn; and let someone interpret. 28 And if there is no one present who can interpret, let the people who speak in tongues keep silent when the congregation meets – they can speak to themselves and to God." CJB

Myth 2 - Spirit only empowers gifts in _____ -related or ministry-minded activities

1 Cor 14:12 "Likewise with you: since you eagerly seek the things of the Spirit, seek especially what will help in edifying the congregation." CJB

Notes 2

But our identity and unity as Yeshua's Body is lived out outside building boundaries

And all life spheres are fields of ministry that need the operation of His gifts

Acts 8:29-31 "The Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot, and stay close to it."
30 As Philip ran up, he heard the Ethiopian reading from Yesha'yahu the prophet. "Do you understand what you're reading?" he asked. 31 "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" And he invited Philip to climb up and sit with him." CJB

Myth 3 - Spiritual gifts became _____ after the first century

But spiritual gifts are an integral part of the Spirit's eternal unchanging divinity

In the same way natural talents are an integral part of mankind's human nature

John 3:6 "What is born from the flesh is flesh, and what is born from the Spirit is spirit."

And history records the working of spiritual gifts pre- and post Yeshua's earthly arrival

Myth 4 - Training, practice, and spiritual maturity has no effect on gift _____

While the Spirit gifts us differently to serve His purposes, they don't come fully mature

Luke 2:40 "The child grew and became strong and filled with wisdom – God's favor was upon him." CJB

Spiritual giftings demand our conscious cooperation, effort, and practice

1 Cor 14:20-21 "Brothers, don't be children in your thinking. In evil, be like infants; but in your thinking, be grown-up. 21 In the Torah it is written, "By other tongues, by the lips of foreigners I will speak to this people. But even then they will not listen to me," says Adonai." CJB

Myth 5 - Spiritual gifts are best discovered by study, instinct, & personal _____

Prov 18:2 "A fool takes no pleasure in trying to understand; he only wants to express his own opinion." CJB

We don't identify gifts by looking inside ourselves, which is what most believers think

It's our brethren that identify our gifting according to the way we relate to them

Snare 3 - False beliefs letting the nonuse of spiritual gifts be a _____ not to serve

Deceived folk think the Spirit gifts for personal service rather than community service

And this false narrative lets them refuse to do anything outside their specific gifting

Which leads them to serve only in areas they think they are specially gifted

Truth - All members need to experience other forms of service outside their gifting

Deceived folk often use spiritual gifts to excuse or explain their negative behavior

Rom 11:29 "for God's free gifts and his calling are irrevocable" CJB

They say, "since my spiritual gift cannot be taken away, you must accept my sins"

Notes 3

Conclusion

What should you leave here knowing about gifts, callings & fruit to prepare for next month?

Spirituality cannot be measured by gifts or callings - It is measured only by spiritual fruit

Fruit, not gifts or callings, is the offspring of divine character (trust, hope, & love)

*Rom 6:1-2 "So then, are we to say, "Let's keep on sinning, so that there can be more grace"?
2 Heaven forbid! How can we, who have died to sin, still live in it?" CJB*

Gifts & callings are just the avenues the Spirit uses to manifest His character

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