

investigating the reality of the Spirit
GHOST STORIES

WEEK 1: *POWER & PERSONHOOD*

WEEK 2: *PLUNGING INTO GOD*

WEEK 3: **GIFTS OF GRACE**

WEEK 4: *BEING FILLED WITH GOD*

INTRODUCTION – The Gift Of The Spirit

Luke 11:9-13; Acts 2:38

The Gifts Of The Spirit

SPIRITUAL GIFT: Any ability God gives you to enable you to better serve _____.

SCRIPTURAL GIFT LISTS (ILLUSTRATIVE, NOT EXHAUSTIVE)...

- #1. **Romans 12:6-8** – Prophecy; serving; teaching; encouraging; giving; leadership; mercy
- #2. **1 Corinthians 12:4-11** – wisdom; knowledge; faith; healing; miracles; prophecy; discerning spirits; tongues (or languages); interpretation of tongues (or translation of languages)
- #3. **1 Corinthians 12:28** – apostles; prophets; teachers; miracles; healing; helping; administration; tongues (or languages)
- #4. **Ephesians 4:11** – apostles; prophets; evangelists; pastor-teachers
- #5. **1 Peter 4:9-11** – hospitality; speaking; service
- #6. **1 Corinthians 7:7** – marriage; singleness
- #7. **Exodus 28:3, 31:1-6, & 36:1-2** - craftsmanship, or artistic ability
- #8. **1 Corinthians 14:26** – music?

1 Corinthians 12-14

TAKE OUT #1: Spiritual gifts are given to individuals in order to _____ the church, the Body of Christ. Gifts are not to be used for personal gain, but for the good of others. *Ask yourself, “How has God equipped me to serve my church?”*

(1 Peter 4:10; Ephesians 4:11-13)

TAKE OUT #2: There is no one gift that every Christian is expected to have. *Ask yourself, “Do I really, truly, and fully appreciate the _____ of the Body of Christ?”*

TAKE OUT #5: Tongues (without translation) edifies the individual who has the gift, and therefore is the _____ desirable of all spiritual gifts. It is wrong to pursue or obsess over this gift. We should prioritize those spiritual activities that bless, encourage, and strengthen _____. Then we will grow the most in Christ-likeness. *Ask yourself, “Have I prioritized the pursuit of a particular gift rather than the Giver of the gifts?”*

TAKE OUT #4: Spontaneity and/or lack of _____ is not a sign of spiritual giftedness. All of the gifts of the Spirit are given to us to use appropriately in our current context. *Ask yourself, “Given my church context, what is the most appropriate way for me to serve others with my gift?”*

BONUS TAKE OUT (NO EXTRA CHARGE): Sometimes God will call us to serve in a specific area because there is a specific _____, not because we have a specific gift. *Ask yourself, “Have I been ignoring an opportunity to serve because it doesn’t fit with my gifts?”*

CONCLUSION – Asking, Seeking, Knocking

Luke 11:9-13

For further study, see *SHOWING THE SPIRIT*, by D. A. Carson

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

WARMING UP...

1. Use your notes to review this week’s message. Talk about what points most challenged, perplexed, or encouraged you. Review relevant Scriptures as needed. (Take your time – if this becomes your Bible study for this week, so be it.)

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

2. Read **Ephesians 4:11-16** multiple times using different translations available. a) What verse or thought stands out to you the most? Why? b) According to this passage, what is the role of church leadership in relation to the rest of the congregation? What would that look like in action? (Think of examples.) c) Corporate maturity/unity seems to be the goal expressed in this passage. What do you think that would look like in and among our churches today? (Think of examples.) e) Jesus is pictured as the head of the body. What lessons are embedded in that image for church structure and leadership styles?

SO WHAT?...

3. Review “Take Out #1”. According to **Ephesians 4:11**, it seems that when Christians function according to their gift, they themselves become a gift to the church, the Body of Christ. In what ways might you be considered God’s gift to this church, whether The Meeting House as a whole or this specific Home Church? What would it look like for you to **“fan into flame”** (2 Timothy 1:6) your gift? Pray for each other about this.

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, October 15 & 22, 2006