



Repentance Tabernacle Church

RepentanceTabernacle@gmail.com
www.RepentanceTabernacle.org (984) 369-5171

He Comes Bearing Gifts

Focus Verse: 1 Corinthians 12:31 - But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.

Lesson Text: 1 Corinthians 12

Truth About God: God gives spiritual gifts to benefit the church.

Truth For My Life: I will pursue spiritual gifts.

The spiritual gifts do not indicate a hierarchy or a ranking, and although no classifications for these gifts are detailed in Scripture, they seem to fall naturally into three categories: **revelation gifts** (word of knowledge, word of wisdom, discerning of spirits); **power gifts** (gift of faith, gift of healing, working of miracles); and **vocal gifts** (gift of tongues, interpretation of tongues, gift of prophecy).

The revelation gifts involve the work of the Spirit to divinely reveal to a Christian something that would be otherwise unknown or unknowable. The power gifts are God's Spirit within us: "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us" (Ephesians 3:20). The power gifts are a direct operation of God's divine power through us in the church. The vocal gifts are the initial sign when they receive the Holy Ghost. Also, a divine message was proclaimed to the church in a language unknown to the speaker. The supernatural ability to express the meaning of the unknown message in the language the congregation understands. Prophecy can mean both foretelling and forthtelling.

The gifts God bestows are given particularly because of their usefulness. They are key to the advancement and growth of the church; else God would not have invested them in the church in the first place. As members of God's church, we should therefore seek to live lives that position us to see the gifts of the Spirit at work.

We must recognize the gifts are indeed at work of God's Spirit. They can only be exercised when we are submitted to the Spirit's control. That control will compel believers to cleanse ourselves of carnality and all things worldly or unrighteous, thus providing a clean vessel into which God can place the gifts of His choosing. This cleansing must happen because every believer is needed for the proper operation of these spiritual gifts.

God has a purpose for each of His children, and when anyone fails to fulfill that purpose, the body is not as effective as it could be. While we might determine that one member is more able to be useful in the Kingdom than another, God evaluates by metrics that are often impossible for us to accurately evaluate. Therefore, He places His gifts into lives as He alone knows best.

Our realization of God's sovereignty in this process destroys divisiveness driven by jealousy or pride. The gifts are given by God. They are empowered by God. They are governed by God. They are for the glory of God. Given those truths, believers must band together and value one another's gifts just as we value our own. God's gifts are not distributed for any personal glorification, but for the corporate benefit of the church and its work in the world.

God's gifts testify to the unbeliever of God's power and identity, and they provide to the believer direction and deliverance. Nothing about them speaks of haphazard planning. Instead, they give a witness of the intentionality of our Savior. Jesus, Himself, said He would build His church (Matthew 16:18). He does that through people, and He places the needed gifts in those people. They are the furthest thing from useless.