

God's Answers in Romans: What's a "Spiritual Gift"?

1. Read Romans 12:1-8.
2. Was there anything in the sermon that concerned you, helped you or confused you?
3. Describe the types of situations in which you have seen spiritual gifts in operation including times you have been present when people have been healed physically, spoken in tongues or given a word of knowledge.
4. Read Hebrews 10:11-14 and 6:20 and 7:23-25. In his role as our high priest, what has Jesus done and what does he currently do? In what ways does that encourage you?
5. One distinctive of The Reformation was the rediscovery of the priesthood of all believers. What is the role of a priest? Read 1 Peter 4:8-11 and 1 Cor 12:7. Why does the Spirit give us spiritual gifts?
6. Summarize the meaning, relationship and importance of
 - Justification
 - Sanctification
 - Vocation

How do spiritual gifts tie into our vocation?

How does serious involvement in our vocation impact our sanctification?

7. What do you think your spiritual gift(s) is (are)? Does your group agree?
8. How are you currently using your spiritual gift(s) to serve the Body of Christ?
How are you currently serving people who are not yet followers of Christ?
9. Is the Spirit nudging you to serve in some way that you are not currently serving? Do you feel like it is a gift and privilege to get to be a priest in God's kingdom? Do you feel like it is better to serve than to serve?
10. How can we pray for you?

Eph 2:7-10

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Supplemental Materials:

Eph 4:7-13

7 But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. 8 This is why it says:

"When he ascended on high,
he led captives in his train
and gave gifts to men."

9 (What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? 10 He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) 11 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 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 Christ.

"The habit of thinking of work as something one does to make money and to get a position in society is so ingrained in us that we can scarcely imagine what a revolutionary change it would be to think otherwise. So often people become doctors not primarily to relieve suffering but because they want to bring themselves and their families up in the world. People become lawyers not because they have a passion for justice but just to bring themselves and their families up in the world. During WWII, one the great surprises many had in the army was that they found themselves for the very first time in their lives happy. Why? For the first time in their lives they found themselves doing something not for the pay, because it was miserable, and not for the social standing, because everyone was thrown in together, but for the sake of getting something done that needed doing. Work is the gracious expression of creative energy in the service of others. After the war people went right back to the normal way in which we work, which is, we work to get status. We work to make money. We work to get ourselves up. We work for an identity. We work to make a name for ourselves. Everybody is miserable."--Dorothy Sayers