

GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT
'GOD IS' SERIES - WEEK 8
Ben Rudolph

Good morning Life Fellowship. It is good to see you here this morning. We will be in I Corinthians Chapter 12 this morning. Today we are nearing the end of our Holy Spirit series. We have been in this series since the beginning of the year, and every week we have been looking at another aspect of the Holy Spirit, and how God's Spirit works inside of us, in us, and through us to accomplish His will. And one of the things that we have said over and over again is there are many times of disconnect in our lives where we know more than what we experience. And what we want to do is make sure that we are engaging with God, we are encountering Him on a regular day by day, moment by moment basis. So we have been studying the Holy Spirit in all the various ways in which He moves and works in us.

As we were doing this series we could have shut the series short at six weeks, because I really didn't want to get into the spiritual gifts thing. And there is a reason for that because spiritual gifts are kind of like going out to eat at a restaurant. Now if there are two of us going out to eat we can decide where we want to go pretty quickly. But if there is ten of us going out to eat that is going to be a little bit more difficult. And if there are twenty of us going and trying to figure out what restaurant we want to eat at, we are all in trouble. And that is because all of us have different appetites for food, so choosing a restaurant for twenty people is going to lead to someone not being happy.

It is kind of like that with spiritual gifts. If there are three hundred people in the room this morning we could have three hundred and fifty ideas about what spiritual gifts are. And so we have to really take a step back, and when we look at spiritual gifts ask ourselves why we do the things we do, and why we believe the things we believe.

Our service host mentioned this morning that one of the biggest areas of confusion in our Christian life surrounds this idea of spiritual gifts. There is a lot of confusion, because we all have a lot of background, tradition and experiences that we bring into this room. It is something that maybe we have read books on, or we have studied about, and it is just something that gets really cloudy because we have a variety of opinions and beliefs that exist within the church today.

If we take a step back, the other interesting perspective on spiritual gifts is this - spiritual gifts do more to divide the church today than probably any other issue. Think about that. We have an entire denomination set up based on how we view spiritual gifts. And when you study spiritual gifts they have been given by God to unity the body, to build up the body, not to divide it.

So I think we have to really ask ourselves why there is so much confusion and so much division when it comes to spiritual gifts. We have to address that. And I believe it is because we do a very good job of majoring on the minors in the church. We love

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majoring on the minors. You see we are a non-denominational church. What that means is we have a broad spectrum of belief systems that are in this room. And if we were all going to line up in a row of where we are in this spectrum of spiritual gifts, on one end you might have what are called cessationists. Now that is just a word that simply means they believe that many of the sign gifts have ceased, those sign gifts we see in I Corinthians Chapter 12.

And then on the other end of the row you might have people that are more charismatic and they believe in the charismatic gifts. They might even believe in things like holy laughter. I have even seen holy barking before. I mean there are just all kinds of things that people do and they blame it on the Holy Spirit. So we can have a broad spectrum of people with different beliefs of where they are at with spiritual gifts. And what some people do is look at where other people land and say, *'Well, you're wrong and I am right. I know better because I am closer to God and I understand the Bible more.'* And we can end up dividing over this.

My goal today is not to tell you what to believe about what gifts are available today, because if Dan and I were sitting together here on the stage and talking about this we might be at different points on that spectrum as well. But here is the most important thing and that is the gospel of Jesus Christ. We have to get the gospel right, we have to get the mission of God right, and we have to make sure we are loving each other. There are so many basic parts of the Christian experience that we have to put a priority on that, more than trying to make sure we have everything all figured out.

Here is what I would say - the unity of the church and the mission of the church trumps my own experience with spiritual gifts. Okay? So with that said, I do think it is important that we understand where we are, because again I believe it is our traditions and our experiences that have formed what we believe about spiritual gifts more than the Word of God. And so we have to take a look at God's Word.

If you are a cessationists this morning, you are probably sitting here thinking, *'I don't believe in all that crazy charismatic stuff.'* And someone over here may be thinking, *'If someone doesn't get healed on a Sunday morning, it isn't church.'* So we have both kinds of people in the room this morning, but what can we all agree upon? What can we boil it down to and see what the idea of spiritual gifts can teach us?

Now there are three major passages of Scripture that deal with spiritual gifts. If you want to write these down to study them later, you are more than welcome to do that. Romans Chapter 12, verses 3 through 8 is one list. Then you have I Corinthians Chapters 12 through 14, so you have three big chapters that Paul deals with, and we are going to be spending some time in I Corinthians Chapter 12 this morning. And then we have

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Ephesians Chapter 4, verses 7 through 16. Again, we could do an entire series on spiritual gifts, but we are not going to do that this morning. But I believe that it is important to understand the basic components of these spiritual gifts, and what these three passages would all agree on. And that is where we need to get clarity.

When we think about how spiritual gifts move and work in us, here is the main idea I want to give to us this morning - don't disrupt the flow of the Spirit's working through the gifts He has given to you. Don't disrupt the flow of the Spirit working in you through His gifts to other people. We do so many things to disrupt the flow of the Holy Spirit in us. And we need to think about the various points along the way of how the Spirit has flowed through us and then how we can get stopped up. And that can cause us to fail to see the manifestations that the Spirit wants us to shine to His church and to the world.

So it is kind of like this - you know how pipes work, right? You know how plumbing works in your house. What is the whole point of plumbing in your house? Everyone is looking at me like, *'What, I have never thought about that before.'* But the answer is so that liquids will keep moving. You want stuff to keep moving - where ever it is, in the kitchen or the bathroom. If you have a pipe you want the flow to flow.

I remember when my wife and I were first homeowners, and I think I did this. We had some rice that we needed to get rid of and I just dumped the whole thing of rice down the drain. (*Laughter.*) I turned on the garbage disposal and thought it would take it all down the drain. So I turned on the switch, ran some water, and didn't think any more about it until I turned on the faucet again, and then all of a sudden the sink is filling up. I turn on the disposal switch again and again, and finally decided there was something wrong with the garbage disposal. But no, the problem was I had dumped rice down the drain.

I did not make the connection until after I called a friend of mine over to help me with my plumbing issue. He gets underneath the sink, he pulls out the little curvy pipe, and then he says, *'Did you put rice down the drain?'* I told him yes, and he said: *'You don't put rice down the drain ever, ever, ever, because it will always get clogged.'* I had no idea then that you don't put rice down the drain --- but I know that now.

And so for many of us we are doing things that stop the flow of the Holy Spirit in us and through us with His gifts. Now there are four ways in which the Spirit of God works. So here are four simple statements about spiritual gifts that we can all agree on this morning. Spiritual gifts are -- from God -- through us -- to others -- for God. Let me say that again - Spiritual gifts are -- from God -- through us -- to others -- for God. If we get that right I think the gifts will take care of themselves, because many times that is

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where we get stuck. We get stuck at one of these four parts along the way as the Spirit is wanting to work in us and through us.

So let's look at these components. Let's talk first about -- 'from God.' Spiritual gifts are from God. Let's look at I Corinthians Chapter 12 and beginning in verse 4 through verse 11. ***“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers (circle or underline that word) them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another interpretation of tongues. All these are empowered (there is that word empowered again) by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as He wills.”***

I love this passage because this passage is trying to teach us something. Number one, we all have spiritual gifts. Every single one of us has a spiritual gift and the reason why we have a spiritual gift is because God is the one who decides what spiritual gifts we have. It is very important to understand at our starting point with spiritual gifts that they come from the Holy Spirit. In fact this is one of those passages that we can defend the personhood of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of God is not some force, like Star Wars. It doesn't come upon us. We don't tap into it. The Spirit of God has a mind, because He says He wills it to happen. He has a plan and He has a will and He has decided which gifts to give to us. It says that He apportions these gifts to each one individually.

So here is the thing that we have to understand. We don't get spiritual gifts by our own doing. We don't conjure them up. We don't get saved and all of a sudden we prove ourselves to God and then He says, *'All right, you have been really good, so come into my gift store and pick out something that you want.'* That's not how it works. In fact anything that we have received from God is an act of grace. Paul uses this word grace twice to describe gifts in Romans Chapter 12 starting in verse 3.

“For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us.”

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What does that word 'grace' mean? Well, grace is simply this - unmerited favor. Grace means that God has given to us something that we do not deserve. We have spiritual gifts, not because we have proven ourselves to God. If you have a gift from God, and we all do, you do not have a gift because He thinks you are more special than another person. Notice he used the words - 'the measure.' He specifically measured out like when we are cooking or baking something and the recipe calls for a half of cup of this or two tablespoons of that. God measures out how much of this gift He is going to give us for His own purpose and His own glory.

See we don't work for it. This is so foundational to the gospel and to who God is. God does not give to us the blessings and the goodness and the gifts, all these benefits, He does not give them to us because we have been good. He gives them to us because He is gracious and because He is good. So if you have a gift, and we all do, we need to understand that this gift has been given to us for a purpose and for a reason. It is His grace.

I want you to see something. Turn back again to I Corinthians Chapter 12. We read this section where He empowers us through the Spirit to exercise His gifts. And He apportions to each one their gift. Now look at verse 18. ***"But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as He chose."*** That word 'arrange' is a specific word. He knows exactly where to put us, with our gift, in the body of Christ, in the church that we are a part of. He knows exactly how to use us, and that is why He has given us this gift. He has taken us from here and put us there and that is where He wants us to display His goodness, His love and His grace. That is why He has given us gifts.

A good coach who is managing a team knows exactly how to use his individual team members. When I played basketball in high school I played for a small Christian school. I was not that athletically gifted, but I did get to play a lot. When you are playing for a Christian school, if you can run and you are halfway decent you are on the team, okay? (*Laughter.*) We had this one guy on our team named Dale, and he was not that athletic, but man, he was feisty, and he was aggressive. He played at a 110 percent all the time. It did not matter what the score was, he just played as hard as he could.

The one thing we knew about Dale was he didn't have many offensive skills, but boy could he guard. The coach taught him how to stop the other player from getting the ball or from scoring. And that is what Dale did. We knew when we were on offense it would be four players versus five players, but it didn't matter. If there was a guy on their team that was fast or was a good scorer, he would put Dale on him and he would just be in his face. He would just annoy the snot out of that opposing team's best player. The coach knew how to just use Dale, because Dale would foul out of every single game that

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he played. (*Laughter.*) In one game Dale fouled out in two minutes. I am not kidding, in two minutes he fouled out. But the guy on the other team was bruised at the end of those two minutes.

See God knows how to use us. He has given us this gift and if we could just be satisfied and say, *'You know what? Maybe I am a Dale. I am not the scorer, but God knows exactly what He has given me, and He knows how to use me. And I am going to trust Him.'* My starting point is submitting to what God wants from me and not what I want for me.

So spiritual gifts are from God, next they are *'through you.'* Let's look at verse 14 through 20. ***"For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,' that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,' that would not make it any less a part of the body."***

One of the things that we have to understand is that we cannot look at the gift God has given to us and say, *'Hey, my gift just isn't that big of a deal because I don't have any type of influence or platform or whatever.'* No, if you have a gift from God that means you are a part of the body that is important. That is what Paul is trying to say here.

Look at verse 17, ***"If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as He chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body."***

Over and over again God is using this picture of the body. In fact each of these three passages, Romans, Ephesians and I Corinthians passages, all of these passages use one common illustration - a body. And do you know why Paul uses that illustration? It is because we all have one. We all have a body. We all understand how the eyes, the ears, the nose, the hands and the feet are a part of the body. So when he talks about the body we get it because we all have one. And we all know this - that we are a part of the body. God has given each of us something to use. Just like we have parts of the body used for different things, we are a part of this body that He has called us to, saying we are useful here. You are useful to this body, to this church family.

And the flow stops with us sometimes when we don't know our gift. Again I know there is a lot of confusion in finding your gift. But here is the best way you figure out what gift you have. You do something. You discover your gifts by doing. You do not discover your gifts by taking a test. You can take all the tests you want, *'Do you like to have people over?'* Check that box. *'I must have the gift of hospitality.'*

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Listen, you know you have something by doing it. Turn back to Romans Chapter 12 because I want to show you this passage beginning in verse 6. ***“Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them.”*** What that means is you don't know how to use your gift unless you are doing it. ***“If prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching, the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.”***

Now here is what I find fascinating about these gifts. Each and every one of these gifts has an actual command that all of us need to be obeying. We should not look at this list and be like, *‘Well, I don't know if I have generosity, so I am not going to give.’* That is not how it works. *‘I don't know if I have the gift of service, so I don't pick up chairs. That's not my spiritual gift.’* *‘I don't show mercy, because I just say ‘tough luck’ to everyone. That is not my gift.’*

That is not how it works. We discover we have the gift of mercy when we show mercy. God will show you then that He has created you to show mercy to people and to teach others to show mercy. Once you start giving, and are generous to people, God shows you that you have an aptitude and an understanding not only for you to give generously, but to show others how to do that.

So all of these gifts that God has given to us, we discover them by doing. We cannot figure that out by a test. I remember when I was pastoring several years ago and we took this three hour class. And after the class we would give everyone a packet of information to fill out. Then we would try and figure out which gifts everyone had. And we could never figure out how to make that work. Do you know why? It was because you can't figure out what you are good at by taking a test. There is no way to figure out if you are good at playing basketball if we don't put a ball in your hands and show you what a basketball court is. You have to do it.

My wife and I know someone who went to nursing school to become a nurse. After three years of classes and studying she gets to the point of clinicals where she had to give shots, etc. and she found out that she hated it. And she switched careers. That is what we do, we think that we can figure everything out in the classroom, or hear a sermon on spiritual gifts. The best way to discover your gift is by doing. And if you are not involved in a ministry here at this church you are missing something. You are missing an opportunity for God to show you why He has brought you here.

So we can get stuck by not being involved. We take our hands off. God invites us to ask ourselves why we are placed in this body. Maybe you will be a hand, or a foot,

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but there is a reason why you are here, and if I am not practicing or doing, I am not discovering.

So we have discussed 'from God' and 'through you.' Next is 'to others.' Let's go back to I Corinthians Chapter 12 and read verses 21 through 26. ***"The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you,' nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unrepresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more representable parts do not require."*** “

But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body." We see there is unity again. ***"There may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together."***

Listen, God has not given you a gift so that you discover your gift and then you can say, *'Oh, I have my gift, my special spiritual gift. I feel so fulfilled now. I just feel so good about my gift. My gift is great. My gift is wonderful. I have this gift and I have to use this gift because it is my gift.'* No, you have that gift for what reason? It is to serve others. The whole reason that you have that gift is to serve other people. If my hand woke up and said, *'I am not scratching your face anymore. I am done doing it. I will scratch my hand but I am not doing anything else. I'm taking care of me. I don't care if your nose itches I am not touching it, because this is about me. It is my hand and I want to make sure that I'm fulfilled with me.'* (Laughter.)

You all are thinking that I am crazy. If my nose itches I don't even think, *'What should I do? Hand, would you be willing to give up your energy and time to scratch my nose?'* That's not how it works. The body works together, and as we have been given gifts, we have been given parts of the body to look at other's needs. *'I have been given this gift to serve other people to show that we are equally dependent on one another.'* Every part of the body works together so that when part of the body is hurt, we are all hurting. When part of the body is rejoicing, we can all rejoice.

Many people can come to church with a consumer mentality and think, *'Am I getting my needs met here, because Man, this is all about me,'* That is not how God wants the body to grow. That is not how we find our purpose. Our Life Fellowship acronym for F means 'finding your purpose.' The whole point of you finding your purpose is not so that you feel better about yourself; the whole point of finding your purpose is discovering how God has called you to serve others.

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Do you know why we do that? It is because that is the way Jesus was. One of my favorites things that Jesus said was, ***“The Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”*** Jesus lived the life that we could not live for our own sakes. He died the death that we deserved for us. Everything Jesus did by sacrificing Himself was so that we might benefit from His goodness. And if we have been given a gift, how dare we look at ourselves and say, *‘How can I be personally fulfilled?’* This is not about personal fulfillment or personal discovery; this is about mutual edification. What can I do to serve the people in this room?

At the end of this chapter we see this is not about self-discovery; it is about love. And I Corinthians Chapter 13 talks about how we might do all these great things; we might serve God greatly. We might even move mountains, but if we don't have love it is meaningless. So we have to make sure that we are doing this to serve others.

I love verse 7 where it says: ***“To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”*** See, we have not been given our gifts for our own good, but for the common good of the body. How are we practicing serving others? Do we walk into a room and think, *‘How can I serve the people around me today, as opposed to who can serve me today?’*

So spiritual gifts are ‘from God’ ‘through us’ ‘to others,’ and lastly they are ‘for God.’ There is this idea of building up that is mentioned twice in Ephesians Chapter 4 and four times in I Corinthians Chapter 14. And that is the whole reason that God has given us these gifts. Look in your Bibles to I Corinthians Chapter 14 and verse 4 where it says: ***“The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church.”*** You can underline that phrase, ‘builds up the church.’ Verse 5, ***“Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up.”***

Chapter 14 is all about the abuses of the gifts. You can have gifts and abuse them, and we are not going to get into the abuses of tongues, because that is what Paul is addressing here. But the point is this - it is so much more important that we build up the church than if we speak in tongues. It is all about the building up of the body.

Look at verse 12 where it says, ***“So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.”*** That is the third time he says we are to build up the church. Lastly look at verse 26. ***“What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.”***

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Paul said, *'Listen, everyone comes to church saying I want to do something. I want to give my gift. I want people to look at me. I want people to be impressed with me. I want to be on display. I want to show my gifts.'* And Paul said everyone comes with their own agenda of wanting to do something, but if it is not about building up the church, they should just keep quiet. It has to be about Him, it has to be about the glory of God in our lives. We do not have these gifts for ourselves.

So many times the flow of the Spirit through us in our gifts can get stopped because we make it about us. In Romans Chapter 12 and verse 3 Paul says this: ***"For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment."*** Why does Paul start the conversation about spiritual gifts with that point? It is because spiritual gifts are one of the most dangerous ways in which pride can creep into our lives.

If we have been given a gift by His grace and we are good at it, not because we are so great but because of His goodness, and He starts using us, there are two great dangers that can happen when we start successfully using our gifts. Number one - we can give glory to other people. Number two - we can take glory for ourselves.

I just finished reading a book on the St. Peter's Basilica, the creation, the building and the time it took to build it. I love history stories and this was a fascinating story of how the popes built St. Peter's Basilica. Part of the Basilica was the Sistine Chapel and many of you are familiar with that. Most of us have seen the paintings of the Sistine Chapel, and the most famous painting is in the center where it shows God the Father and Adam almost touching fingers.

The artist who painted that was Michelangelo and he was known as one of the greatest Renaissance artists, even though he was mostly known for his sculptures. Michelangelo also played a part in the architecture of building the building. In the very beginning stages of this process, one of the popes wanted these frescoes painted and he told Michelangelo he was going to paint for him. Now Michelangelo had not painted before, so how would you like your very first project for painting to be the Sistine Chapel? That is pretty amazing, right? And Michelangelo was furious about that, because he felt he was wasting his talents painting. But he did spend years painting these frescoes in that Chapel.

When people saw those paintings they saw them as some of the greatest works in the history of the world done by a man. And people from all around the world travel - well, they don't do it right now - (*Laughter*) but they used to travel to Rome to look at these frescoes. So imagine going to the Sistine Chapel and seeing these amazing works of art. How many of us are going to be looking at them and thinking, *'That hand was*

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amazing that painted those. I would love to see the brush that was used for those paintings. I wonder what kind of paint was used.'

No, what we do when we see someone's gifts at work, we look at the person and say, 'Wow, you did something great.' See, if Christ is the head and He is all things in us, then when He uses us we cannot take any praise for ourselves no matter what it is. If we are on a stage teaching - listen anything good that I have ever done in my entire life of teaching came one hundred percent from God. It is a gift that God has given to different people, people like Dan and myself. I think one of the most dangerous things we can do is praise people when we see their gifts at work. And when we get to use our gifts we need to remember it is about Him.

I trained my former church to not do this. I asked them to please not tell me that I had a great sermon. And you know why? No one ever told that to Jesus. Every time that Jesus preached the people either wanted to kill Him or they wanted to worship Him. Think about that. So it is not about how nice or good a sermon is - that is not it. It is about us confronting the reality of who God is and asking ourselves if God is calling us to something greater, greater love, greater faith or greater obedience. So when we leave here each Sunday it is not about what a great sermon we heard, but it is about what a great Savior we have. That is what our focus needs to be on. So whenever we see someone using their gifts, we praise God for those gifts being used.

Let me give you a couple of questions and then we are done. Number one - what are you going to do to discover your spiritual gifts? Not what tests are you going to take but what are you going to do, what is the activity, what is the ministry you are going to join? What are you going to try instead of sitting down and saying you just don't know if you even have a gift. Just do something. And as you do something you will discover what God is calling you to do.

Number two - how has pride kept you from practicing your gift? When the flow of the Spirit working through us gets stuck it is because we have made it about us, our own personal fulfillment, our own personal glory. And if we do that we have robbed God of why He gave us the gift in the first place.

Number three - where are you getting stuck in the flow of living out your spiritual gifts? Is it from God, is it through you, is it to others, or is it for God? At what point along the process are you saying this is where I am getting stuck? Listen, if we have God's Holy Spirit, He has given every single one of us a gift. Are we using it for His glory? Let's bow our heads and close our eyes.

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One of the things we have been challenging our church every week is to listen to the Holy Spirit. So I want to give you a few moments to just reflect on what God might be saying to you right now about how He wants you to obey Him through the gifts of the Spirit. What is He saying to you?

In a few moments we are going to sing a song and reflect and during that time there are some various ways in which you can respond. One of our leaders will be up front that would love to pray with you if you have some heavy burdens on your heart, or you may be going through some difficulties personally, or at your job. Maybe you have some health issues and you would like someone to pray with you. Remember one of the verses we read this morning said if one of us is hurting we all hurt. And if you are hurting this morning, we want to invite you to come forward so we can pray with you. Let us help you carry that burden.

Maybe you don't feel comfortable going forward, then you can go to the lobby and to the right where there is a prayer room, and there will be someone there to pray with you. Whatever God is calling you to do please don't just suffer alone this morning. And let's do the work that God is calling us to do.

We have some stations around the room if you just want to pray personally. There are also some tables in the corners of the room where you can partake in communion remembering that Christ did not come to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for us. Whatever God is calling you to do please do so now. Let's be obedient to Him.

Father, I pray right now as we are listening that you will help us to understand the gifts that we have, help us to understand the Spirit empowering us to use these gifts. Show us, Lord, and don't let us get lazy, don't let us get proud, don't let us get selfish. May you work in every single person in this room that we will all discover a greater awareness and ability that you have given to us for your glory. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

The preceding transcript was completed using raw audio recordings. As much as possible, it includes the actual words of the message with minor grammatical changes and editorial clarifications to provide context. Hebrew and Greek words are spelled using Google Translator and the actual spelling may be different in some cases.