

Re-Gifting the Gifts of the Spirit

"The Ghost" Series- Part 5

Connect:

- What is the best gift (outside of salvation and human beings) that you have ever received? Why?
- If you were given a million dollars and were instructed to spend it on anything but yourself, what would you do with it?

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It has been suggested that a new national holiday is on the horizon: "National Re-gifting Day". Although re-gifting is a growing acceptable practice in the USA (over 25% of those polled admitted to re-gifting at least one recent Christmas gift), it is still considered taboo by many. Several years ago, rules of etiquette stated that re-gifting was socially unacceptable. It was deemed a misuse of a gift. Now, some hope that declaring the act of re-gifting a national activity, at least once every year, will remove the stigma.

A question that requires reflection: How might believers mistreat or misuse (spiritually unacceptable) the gifts of the Holy Spirit in their own lives?

Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us. Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other. In His grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

-Romans 12:4-8

Paul, in this wonderful chapter, states that to worship and to do the will of God requires a renewed way of thinking. The above verses also spell out how a renewed mind can help us exercise our spiritual gifts successfully. In our discussion, let's look at three ways we must think about our gifts:

Do not think too highly of yourself.

Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us. -Romans 12:3

Why does Paul mention his "authority" in this verse?

In exercising our spiritual gifts, why is it dangerous and unacceptable to exalt your spiritual gifts?

Why is "faith" a necessary requirement in exercising our spiritual gift?

If faith is not a part of my rational thinking, how might I misuse my spiritual gift?

I'm O.K. You're O.K. I think that together we are better!

Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other. -Romans 12:4-5

How do spiritual gifts help us solely as an individual?

How will gifts help us corporately as a family of believers?

How many believers have the spiritual gift of being a "Lone Ranger"? Why not more?

My spiritual gift was given to me to use on your behalf.

In His grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly. -Romans 12:6-8

God gave me spiritual gifts, not to lock them away, but to invest them in others!

Notice how the above list of spiritual gifts are to be exercised: to speak, serve, teach, give, encourage, lead, to show kindness...all require a RECIPIENT! If no one benefits from my spiritual gift, then it is a misuse of my giftedness. Agree? Disagree? Why or why not?

In what ways have you "re-gifted" the gifts of the Spirit in your life:

1. In a negative way (abuse, neglect, misuse)?
2. In a positive way (you pour your giftedness into the lives of others)?
3. Who might you reach out to this week and bless them with your gift(s)?