



**God's kingdom
blesses others!**



- Currently two conflicting philosophies
- #1, You're happiest helping **others**
- #2, You're happiest focused mainly upon **yourself**.
- Which is true for you?

Jesus lived to serve and save others

- Shouldn't His followers do the same?
- The term, "Christian pew-warmer" is an **oxymoron**!
- When 20% does 80% of the work, something is terribly wrong!



**Heavenly beings
love to serve**



- "Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to **serve** those who will inherit salvation?" Heb. 1:14

- Ellen White wrote –
- “Our Saviour's **joy** was in the uplifting and redemption of fallen men. For this He counted not His life dear unto Himself, but endured the cross, despising the shame. So angels are ever engaged

Angels love to serve others




in working for the happiness of others. This is their **joy**. That which selfish hearts would regard as **humiliating** service, **ministering** to those who are wretched and in every way inferior in character and rank, is the work of sinless angels.



The spirit of Christ's **self-sacrificing love** is the spirit that pervades heaven and is the very **essence** of its bliss. This is the spirit that Christ's followers will possess, the work that they will do.” (SC:77.2)




Heaven's greatest **JOY** is serving others



- "Self-sacrificing love" is the universal **distinguishing** characteristic of all who hope for heaven!
- "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you **love** one another." John 13:35

- Jesus said in Mark 10:43-44, "Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your **servant**, 44 and whoever wants to be first must be **slave** of all."
- Do you know the joy of service?

When Jesus' disciples sought greatness



The Holy Spirit **empowers** those He employs



- He empowered former brick slaves to build the wilderness **sanctuary** (Ex. 31:3)
- He empowered former slaves to be Israel's **administrators** (Num. 11:16-25)

The Holy Spirit empowers those He employs

- He empowered **"Judges"** (military governors) to overthrow Israel's oppressors. (Judges 3:10, 1 Sam. 10:6)
- He empowered **prophets** to speak for Him (2 Sam. 23:2, Ezek. 11:5)



The NT clarifies the Holy Spirit's role



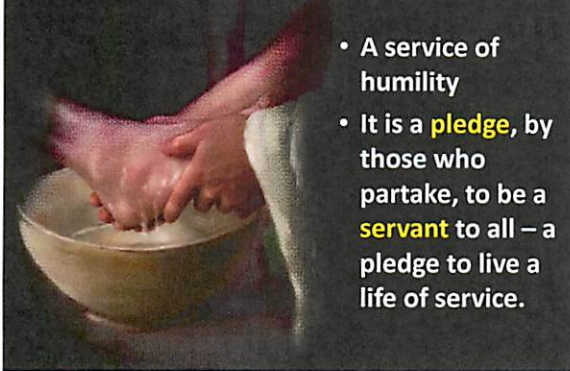
- In the NT, the Holy Spirit gives **"spiritual gifts"** to Christians to empower them to serve.
- What the Holy Spirit does for us is better than a **seminary** degree!

- Be our Advocate, who lives **within** us. John 14:16-17
- **Convict** the world of sin, judgment & righteousness
- Yoked with the Holy Spirit we have no cause for **fear** when serving.
- Our role is so **minor** compared to His!

The Holy Spirit's role is to



The foot-washing service is more than



- A service of humility
- It is a **pledge**, by those who partake, to be a **servant** to all – a pledge to live a life of service.

We are now **royal priests**! (1 Pet. 2:9)

- In Rev. 1:6, we are **now** called royal priests
- In Rev. 20:6, we are royal priests in **heaven**.
- If we are not willing to be priest today, will we be priest then?




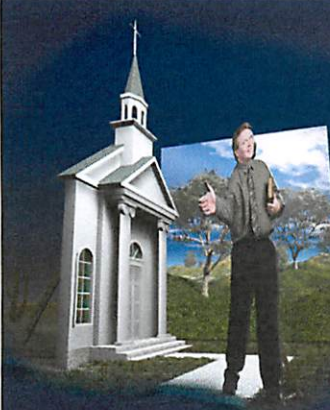
Unfortunately,
not every
member
serves!



- “Unbelief, like the **pall of death**, is surrounding our churches, because they do not exercise the **talents** God has given them, by imparting the light to those who know not the precious truth. The Lord calls for the pardoned souls, those who rejoice in the light, to make known the truth to others.” (ChS 37.2)

“Satan is now seeking to hold God’s people in a state of **inactivity**, to keep them from acting their part in spreading the truth, that they may at last be weighed in the balance and found **wanting**.” (1T: 260)






“Our future for eternity is at stake. The churches are **withering** up because they have failed to use their talents in diffusing light.” (ChS 58:6)

- “The **greatest** cause of our spiritual **feebleness** as a people is the lack of real faith in **spiritual gifts**. If they all received this kind of testimony in full faith, they would put from them those things which displease God,

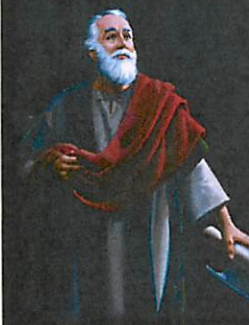
No wonder Ellen White wrote -



and would everywhere stand in union and in strength. And **three fourths** of the ministerial labor now expended to help the churches could then be spared to the work of rising up churches in new fields." *Review and Herald*, January 14, 1868



Paul wrote in 1 Cor. 12:1 -



- "Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be **ignorant**."
- He also wrote, "I don't want you to be **ignorant** about those who've died..." 1 Thess. 4:13
- How **knowledgeable** are we about these topics?

So what are spiritual gifts?

- First, what they are not – they are **not**
- **Talents** (everyone has talents, only Christians have spiritual gifts. God blesses talents too)
- "**Fruit** of the Spirit" (Gal. 5:22-23) Fruit is what we are, gifts are what we do!



So what are spiritual gifts?

- They are not –
- **Counterfeit** gifts (see Matt. 7:21-23)
- Done without (through) **love** (1 Cor. 13:1-3)



So what are spiritual gifts?



- My **definition** -
- A spiritual gift is that special **ability** given by the Holy Spirit to spiritually **matures** His children so they can **advance** His kingdom.

Every Believer has one or more spiritual gifts!

- "God has given **each** of you a gift from His great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another." 1 Pet. 4:10
- "A spiritual gift is given to **each** of us so we can help each other." 1 Cor. 12:7



In the Parable of the Talents



- Different servants received a different number of talents. (Matt. 25:14-30)
- In this parable, woe to the one who doesn't use his talent!

Note carefully Eph. 4:11-16

- Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. 12 Their **responsibility** is to **equip** God's people **to do His work** and build up the church, the body of Christ.

13 This will continue **until** we all come to such **unity** in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be **mature** in the Lord, measuring up to the **full** and complete standard of Christ. 14 Then we will no longer be **immature** like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to **trick** us with lies so clever they sound like the truth.

15 Instead, we will speak the truth in love, **growing** in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. 16 He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As **each** part does its own special work, it helps the **other** parts grow, so that the whole body is **healthy** and **growing** and full of **love**.

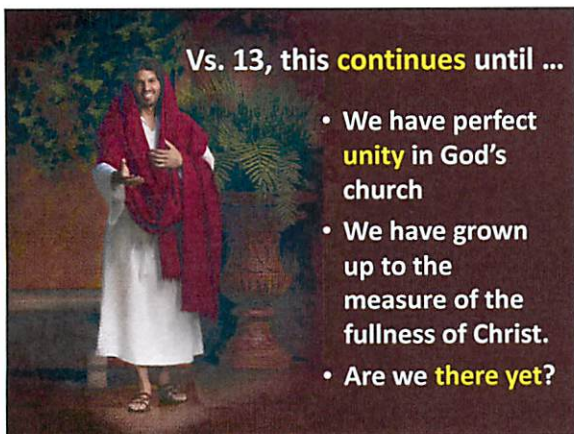
Vs. 11, the leadership gifts

- Are to be used to **equip** God's people to do ministry, to build Christ's body.
- **Every member is a minister!**



Vs. 13, this **continues** until ...

- We have perfect **unity** in God's church
- We have grown up to the measure of the fullness of Christ.
- Are we **there yet?**




- No longer spiritually **immature** (vs. 14)
- Not **deceived** (vs. 14)
- We are becoming more **like Christ** (vs. 15)
- We are **all** working to **grow** God's church (vs. 16)

Vs. 14-16 - the **results**




Where does the Bible teach about spiritual gifts?



- Read I Cor. 12 & Rom. 12
- See handout **"Where-sp-gifts"** on where gifts are listed from the major texts.

Prerequisites for receiving spiritual gifts

- Must be **converted**, 1 Cor. 12:3
- Must **believe** God will give these gifts, Heb. 11:6
- **Pray** for wisdom in using them (James 1:5)
- Must be willing to **work**! (Joel 2:28-32)



When serving,
remember -

- "Christ's method **alone** will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour **mingled** with men as one who desired



their good. He showed His sympathy for them, **ministered** to their needs, and won their **confidence**. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me.'"
MH:143



Spiritual gifts summary

- For a list of Biblical spiritual gifts, and what each gift means, go to the **handout** called, "**Sp-gifts summary**"
- **Not all** gifts are listed in the Bible.
- Remember, whatever is **needed** for ministry, the Holy Spirit **provides**!
- The **next session** explains how to put this information into practice.
