

THE CORE VALUE: We value _____ and expect each member to
_____ and _____ their spiritual gifts free from the
_____ of _____.

1. Gifts have a _____

2. Gifts have been _____

3. Gifts need a _____



NOTES



NEXT STEP

The Take-Off

Usually when we think of re-gifting, we envision horror stories of someone opening a gift that they had actually given to the person who just gave them the gift

Re-gifting is seen as cold and cheap, but as we take a look at our 10th core value today, we're going to find that God gives each of us gifts specifically so that we will re-gift them over and over and over again.

Our 10th core value is: **We value ministry training and expect each member to discover and use their spiritual gifts free from the fear of failure.**

Now, before we dive into 3 characteristics of the gifts we've been given, let me try to paint a picture that will sort of frame our teaching.

At times, Wendy and I watch a show called "Grey's Anatomy." Yes, I just lost my man card.

The basic scenario is that these medical personnel work in what is known as a teaching hospital, which means usually there is a doctor with 5-10 interns observing and then practicing medicine.

It can seem odd that they practice what keeps sick people alive, but what teaching hospitals understand is that learning only goes so far, and then doing has to be a part of it.

Here at The Gathering, we want to be that kind of church. Kind of a teaching hospital where each of us can learn by hearing and then learn by doing.

That's what gifts are all about, and today we'll learn 3 things about them.

My purpose today isn't to be exhaustive, but rather to introduce the foundation of gifts in the body so that we can go in depth down the road.

Let's begin:

1. Gifts have a purpose [GROWTH]

Let's look at Ephesians 4:11-16 and notice the purpose of gifts

- a. To prepare us for works of **service** (v. 12)
 - i. Greek word for prepare is "katartismos"
 - ii. Only time it's used in the NT
 - iii. Means "complete furnishing"
 - iv. God give spiritual gifts so that we don't live in an empty house!
- b. To build us up as a body
 - i. We'll have unity (v. 13)
 - ii. We'll have maturity (v. 13)
 - iii. Greek word for maturity is "teleios"
 - iv. Means "brought to its end, finished"
 - v. Reminds us of Philippians 1:6 - God is a finisher!
- c. To ground us in the midst of deception (v. 14)
 - i. He doesn't want us carried away like someone trapped in a riptide
 - ii. Greek word for "tossed" is "klydonizomai" and is used once and means "to be agitated" (like in a washer)
 - iii. The gifts help us get off the fringe
 - iv. "Blown here and there" in v. 14 is the Greek word "periphero" and is the root of peripheral
 - v. Bottom line? The gifts God gives are to help His children be **grounded**
- d. To grow us up in love (vv. 15-16)
 - i. By speaking the truth, which you can't do if you're not grounded
 - ii. By doing our part, which you can't do if you're not grafted

Did you notice what purpose is missing? **PERFECTION!**

We are being prepared, built up, matured

It's important that we remember that training, discovering, and growing in our gifts is what we celebrate, not just success.

That means we won't be surprised by failure and so mistakes won't paralyze us into not trying again

Mistakes aren't fatal in ministry training

[Show the Regarding Henry clip]

2. Gifts have been planned [GUARANTEE]

Turn over to 1 Corinthians 12

We'll come back to this passage in a minute, but for now just know that Paul is writing about how the body is made up of many parts and each member is gifted to help the body be the strongest it can be

The key verse I want you to see is verse 18, and the word I want you to see is "arranged"

So many times we wonder if we're gifted, and if we actually accept the fact that we are, we wonder if there is any reason behind it. Often we think that spiritual gifts are tossed at us like candy from a Christmas parade.

But this verse blows that lie away.

The Greek word is "tithemi" but the word isn't as important as where the word is used

Keep your finger in Corinthians and jump over to Revelation 10:2 and you'll find this word there, too John - the author of Revelation - is describing a pretty dramatic scene where an angel comes down from heaven to stand on earth.

At first glance, these two verses are very different, but the common thread is that word "tithemi" which is used in Revelation for the word translated "planted" in the NIV

I'm pretty sure the angel didn't trip. He stepped intentionally, with thought.

The same way God arranged each of His children and the gifts we have.

When you put that truth with the truth of Ephesians 2:10, you realize an amazing truth:

Our gifts were planned for us to do the works prepared before us

Bottom line: God has set you up for a significant Kingdom destiny and He has planned everything to make sure you succeed.

[My coach putting me in the game with :07 seconds left]

When we are a church that values ministry and your spiritual gifts, it means that we are committed to putting you exactly where you fit.

We aren't just about getting people to fill an empty space.

In fact, if we do this correctly, you won't wait for us to ask you to use your gift; you'll initiate it.

3. Gifts need a process [GRACE]

The point here is that we can talk about how God has gifted each of us and get excited dreaming about the Kingdom opportunities Ephesians 2:10 says He's prepared for us, but at some point we've got to start trying to find and use our gifts.

But gifts aren't meant to be just motivational. They're meant to be operational.

The Word of God is clear in 1 Cor. 12:7 - each of us is gifted

The problem is clear, too - we must discover and develop those gifts, and that happens in a process that is filled with grace

If we're gifted for the good of the body, then the first step is for the body to confirm your gift

We've got to be willing to speak - and hear - truth about whether we're gifted the way we hope we are!

So, the first step in the process is taking steps to narrow the gifts, then you sharpen the gift

When I thought I was called to preach, my church had me preach, and they recognized the gift

But the next step is sharpening the gift, and that's difficult

Failure is a guarantee, and grace is a must

My first sermon I cussed - twice - and had to get up the next week and apologize
Early on I told a story that had me acting out jumping on my dog's grave and hitting it with a shovel
Bottom line: There is a process in ministry training, and it includes **trying, learning, and repeating**
What I love about the process of gift discovery and development is that we can each be ourselves and know that our gifts are all pointing to the fullness of God! (1 Cor. 12:4-6 // Spirit, Son, Father are all mentioned!!)

The Landing

- Practically, where do we go from here?
- We find the gifts God's given us so we can re-gift them to serve the church and the world
- This week we're kicking off ministry teams at The Gathering
- They're called iOS Teams, and the reason for the name is a play on the fact that iOS is known as the mobile operating system that Apple created for the iPhone and iPad
- It is mobile, multi-touch, and always being refined and made better
- That's exactly what our ministry teams will be
- Flexible, touching people in many ways, and always looking to be more and more excellent
- Ministry in the gifts point people to Jesus, and He came to be the servant of all even though He was the Lord of all (Mark 10:45)
- Our iOS teams, then, are all about serving. In fact, iOS simply means "I Offer Service"
- These will help you discover and develop your gifts, and you can do it without fear that failing is fatal
- You need to take the next step
- You can scan the QR code labeled "next step" or go to the website and click the iOS Teams banner
- Begin somewhere, and let's see where the process ends up taking you
- One thing is for sure, God has created you and gifted you for amazing Kingdom work, and it all starts with your next step.