

Spiritual Gifts Within the Body of Christ / 1 Peter 4:7-11 (ESV)

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Koinonia as *Fellowship* (Inward Focus)

Koinonia as *Partnership* (Outward Focus)

Koinonia as *Participation* (Active Members)

1 Peter 4:7-11 (ESV)

7 The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. 8 Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. 9 Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. 10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: 11 whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

1) If you are a Christian, **what you do does not just affect you only** (1 Corinthians 12:26)

When you are saved, you are saved into the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:27)

2) A **healthy church** is when **all members are active participants**

Ephesians 4:11-16 (ESV)

11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Everyone is a minister (verse 12)

One of the roles of the pastors is to equip the saints for the work of ministry so that the church may grow more in Christ, representing him well and being his conduits of love

3) The way we **actively contribute** to the body is through **the exercising of our spiritual gifts** (1 Peter 4:10)

1) WHAT IS A SPIRITUAL GIFT?

Romans 1:11-12 (ESV)

11 For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you—
12 that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine.

A SPIRITUAL GIFT is a special ability given by God and expression of faith to be able to actively contribute to the body for the sake of strengthening someone's faith (*derived from John Piper*)

Natural Ability vs Supernatural Ability

A spiritual gift might make use of your natural ability, but a spiritual gift is not the result of your own efforts because only works empowered by the Holy Spirit are effective (John 15:5)

Apart from God we can do nothing (John 15:5)

List of Spiritual Gifts

Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:7-11; 12:28-30; Ephesians 4:11; 1 Peter 4:10-11

NOTE: Each list is different. There is no exhaustive list of spiritual gifts.

Also, SEE POINT 4, How do I discover your spiritual gift(s)?

2) WHO HAS A SPIRITUAL GIFT?

"As each has received a gift..."

Each person has been gifted by God to be able to actively contribute to the body

"...as good stewards of God's varied grace"

Each of us has a gift and the beautiful thing is that they are all not the same (God's varied grace)

"in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ." (v10)

3) WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

"...use it to serve one another"

The purpose of spiritual gifts to serve one another

Spiritual gifts are about showing God's grace to one another

Abuse of Spiritual Gifts

Spiritual Gifts and Love (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)

4) HOW DO I DISCOVER MY SPIRITUAL GIFT(S)?

John Piper QUOTE

"...you shouldn't bend your mind too much trying to label your spiritual gift before you use it. That is, don't worry about whether you can point to prophecy, or teaching, or wisdom, or knowledge, or healing, or miracles, or mercy, or administration, etc., and say, 'That's mine.' The way to think is this: the reason we have spiritual gifts is so that we can strengthen other people's faith; here is someone whose faith is in jeopardy; how can I help him? Then do or say what seems most helpful, and if the person is helped, then you may have discovered one of your gifts...I really believe that the problem of not knowing our spiritual gifts is not a basic problem. More basic is the problem of not desiring very much to strengthen other people's faith."

Some questions to ask yourself

- 1) Are people's faith being strengthened by the way I am serving them?
- 2) Have others around me affirmed my giftings?
- 3) Am I growing more in God's grace through the exercising of my giftings (Basically, not only are others being blessed through me, am I experiencing more of God and growing as well)

Application Questions

- 1) Do you see yourself as an active contributing member of the body of Christ here at NHM?
- 2) Are there any difficulties or hurdles (whether personal or due to how NHM does ministry) that keep you from being an active member here at NHM? What can you personally do and how can we as a body help support you to overcome these obstacles?
- 3) What do you feel some of your spiritual giftings are? (Remember the function of spiritual gifts is to be able to strengthen someone else's faith)
- 4) What areas of serving and/or ministering to others have you seen some success in (you contributed to someone's faith being strengthened). Or, what areas would you like to explore serving in to determine whether you are gifted in those areas to be able to strengthen someone's faith?