

Bless This Mess Part Four

Stewarding Our Gifts

Introduction

Read: 1 Corinthians 12:4-12

1. The passage we just read shows us the different kinds of spiritual gifts and how each gift can be used to help others.
2. These gifts are supernatural abilities given to us by the Holy Spirit to help us effectively meet the needs of the people around us, and to do the work God has called us to do.
3. Having a spiritual gift can be exciting! However, we must remember that it is not for us to become “super-Christians”, but for us to be great stewards of them so we can reach our generation!
4. Part of being a good steward is learning how to cultivate and use these gifts God has given to us.
5. Let’s delve into some steps we can take to become better stewards of our spiritual gifts!

I. Identify Our Spiritual Gifts

A. Knowing what our gifts are helps us to start learning how to use them for their intended purposes (v4-5).

B. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal our gifts to us.

We can pray and ask God to show us what our gifts are.

C. Ask our Connect Group Leaders or close trusted friends what they think we are gifted in!

D. Actively observe what we spiritually excel in.

E.g. when you pray for healing and someone is instantly healed (gift of healing); while you are talking to a friend and the Holy Spirit reveals to you that your friend is battling depression (word of wisdom), etc.

Discuss!

Connect group leader to facilitate sharing with the Connect Group members.

Do you know what your spiritual gift is yet? If so, how have you been using it? If not, what steps will you take to identify them?

E.g. Word of wisdom, word of knowledge; gift of faith, of healing, of miracles, of prophecy, different tongues, interpretation of tongues and discernment of spirits.

II. Start Helping Others

A. Even if we don’t know what our gifts are, we can start by doing what we can to help others around us (v7).

B. Pray for those in need around us.

E.g. If we see family members or classmates struggling with certain issues, go up to them and offer to pray for them!

C. Offer a listening ear to those who need it.

Sometimes when we listen, God gives us words of wisdom and knowledge to comfort and encourage those we are listening to!

D. Be available to be used in any capacity.

Being available and willing allows us to be exposed to situations that activate certain gifts that we never knew we had.

III. Intentionally Use Our Gifts

A. We must be intentional about making the best of our gifts, as all of us have distinct gifts to complement one another (v12).

B. Look for opportunities to use your gifts!

E.g. Look for any pre-believers to share the Gospel with if your gift is evangelism; encourage those who look discouraged if your gift is pastoral care, etc.

C. Consistently use our gifts – even if it's in a small way.

E.g. If your gift is faith, find small things to declare faith over each day; if your gift is administration, be faithful to do any paperwork given to you, etc.

D. Be humble enough to receive correction and guidance.

E. Credit God for the gifts He has given to us!

E.g. put up a praise post on Instagram, share during testimony time, share with those you meet in daily life, etc.

Conclusion

1. In order to manage our gifts well, we need to first identify them.
2. We need to actively be available to help one another.
3. We need to be intentional about using our spiritual gifts.

Prayer Points:

- a) Pray that we would start being responsible stewards of our gifts.
- b) Pray that we would not walk away from helping those around us with our gifts.
- c) Commit to be intentional about cultivating and developing our gifts wisely.

**Give opportunities for visitors to receive Christ and members to re-dedicate their lives to Jesus.*