



Episode 003

Ministering in Spiritual Gifts

Introduction

Spiritual gifts do not belong to the past. Spiritual gifts are for today as we seek breakthroughs in reaching the lost and to equip and build the body of Christ.

John 14:10-14 (NIV)

10 Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. 11 Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. 12 I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. 13 And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. 14 You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

The Holy Spirit is the Giver of these spiritual gifts. The Holy Spirit enables us to think, to speak and to act as Jesus did. Operating in spiritual gifts will help bless, to build up, to heal, to deliver and to inform God's people that God is at work in their lives. Spiritual gifts can also be used by the Lord to draw pre-believers closer to Jesus.

In today's topic, I will be sharing on heart attitudes and motivations that assist us to grow and develop in spiritual gifts.



1. Covet Earnestly

1 Corinthians 12:31 (NIV)

31 But eagerly desire the greater gifts. And now I will show you the most excellent way.

Meaning to passionately yearn to be God's instrument to bring about good to others. It is not about us. These gifts are meant to be exercised with godly love, heartfelt humility and servant-like attitude. It is not to build our fame or kingdom but to follow God's agenda to reach the lost and to build His church, extend His Kingdom.

Covet earnestly involves desiring for spiritual gifts.

1 Corinthians 14:1 (NIV)

1 Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy.

Mark 11:24 (NIV)

24 Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

God is willing to supply the faith and grace to us to operate in the spiritual gifts. Come with expectancy and continually desire for Him to anoint us. We need to:

- Desire (crave, sometimes to beg because we see the need).
- Pray (speak to the Lord about it).
- Believe (place your trust in God).
- Have (come to pass or it will be).

Have that attitude in Psalms 37:4 (NIV)

4 Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Are you soft and pliable before God?



2. Stir Up Your Spiritual Gifts

1 Timothy 4:14 (NIV)

14 Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you.

A spiritual command which conveys that all believers “must not make light of or have no regard for the gifts of the Holy Spirit.” Ps John Jacks used to encourage us all to stir up our gifts in God and not let that remain dormant in our lives. It is our responsibility as believers to stir up the gifts that God has given to us. How to stir up the gifts?

- Be convicted that it is God’s will for every believer to manifest the gifts of the Spirit.
- Be persuaded that every believer has at least one gift.
- Pray in the Spirit as a catalyst to receive the mind of Christ, help us be more sensitive to the Lord.

It is our function and responsibility to activate one’s gift by faith and grace in Christ. Faith towards God and the promises in His Word helps to propel us in operating in spiritual gifts.

Romans 10:17 (NIV)

17 Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

Be willing to be equipped when provided with training in your local churches or through other means.

Hebrews 2:3 - 4 (NIV)

3 how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. 4 God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

The Church would need the supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit in order to bring in the end time harvest.



3. Exercise and Use

It is by reason of use and practice that we all develop our spiritual senses.

Hebrews 5:14 (NIV)

14 But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

Realise that none of us is perfect and we will all make some mistakes along the way. Be humble and learn.

Remember that we all learn by doing. Learn to lean in on God as you step out of comfort zone into faith zone.

Repeated operating in spiritual gifts will help us discern and perceive in the spiritual kingdom and grow in maturity of utilising God's spiritual gifts. As you learn to move in spiritual gifts, you gain more confidence and be at ease when prompted by the Holy Spirit.

Finding the habit of continually walking intimately with Jesus and obeying His ways will help us to operate in the gifts in a loving and wise manner as we learn to resonate with the heart of the Father towards people.

You will also learn to cultivate spiritual discernment as you operate in spiritual gifts.

Matthew 25:14-30 shows us that we need to be responsible for the gifts that God has entrusted to us.



4. Be Not Ignorant Nor Despicable

Be not ignorant

Hosea 4:6 (NIV)

6 my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge...

Continue to grow in understanding of what God has in store for us in carrying out His work in this world. To build God's church, we need to do so in God's ways! Hence let us be educated about the spiritual gifts that God wants to empower us with.

Be not despicable

1 Thessalonians 5:19-20 (NIV)

19 Do not put out the Spirit's fire; 20 do not treat prophecies with contempt.

We are exhorted to grant the gifts of the Spirit their proper place in the life of the church.

Luke 16:10

10 One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much.

Each gift is unique. Be grateful for God's gift in your life. It is crucial not to compare your gift to that of another. Be grateful, grow in the gift and let God entrust more.

Each of us has been bestowed by special grace in God to function and do so faithfully and out of honour towards the Lord. It is not about you, it is to give glory to the Lord and to be a blessing to others.



5. Become Dedicated

1 Corinthians 16:15 (NIV)

15 You know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints. I urge you, brothers,

This household was dedicated towards serving the house of God. They looked out for opportunities to bless God's community. They minister naturally and supernaturally unto the Lord. Highly likely to equip others to serve the Lord as well.

Gifts are given by the Lord, but the fruit of the Spirit (character) is grown through daily consecration and sanctification of the Lord in our lives.

Be willing to allow God to transform you inside out in character. It will help you mature in handling the spiritual gifts God has poured into your life. Guard against spiritual pride and the need for man's approval or to be needed as you grow more in spiritual gifts.



Discussion Questions

1. Reflect upon your journey with God and ask Him to reveal to you the spiritual gifts He has bestowed upon your life. Name them. Thank God for each of them.
2. How much have you operated upon the spiritual gifts? If you have been hesitant, share why or ask God to show you the reason why.
3. What are some hurdles you would need to overcome to get you to move more in the spiritual gifts?
It may be good to reflect based upon the lesson above on what attitudes you may need to cultivate more to propel you forward in using God's gifts.
4. What are some ways you have been using to nurture, grow and develop your spiritual gifts?



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