

Spiritual Gifts: Participation and Particulars

October 20, 2019

Overarching theme: Living a year in God's presence through the practice of following Jesus.

Instructions: When using this material as teacher, feel free to pick and choose the point you want to emphasize in the lesson. The format of the curriculum is designed to have an abundance of information in which to refer as desired.

Core Point: To teach and learn that everyone in the community of Faith at FUMC, Coppell has a place of ministry and has been endowed with certain spiritual gifts from the Holy Spirit that work together with other believers in the broader faith community to promote unity, common good, and the love of God through Christ Jesus

Start point: The scripture focus is found in the Letter of 1 Corinthians and Romans. Paul is acknowledged as the author 1 Corinthians, as found in 1:1-2 and 16:21 and then affirmed by the early church fathers. The letter was written approximately 55 A.D. towards the end of Paul's three-year residency in Ephesus. The city of Corinth was heavily influenced by the Greek culture with most of the church population being of gentile descent. The city was a highly travelled shipping port filled with a variety of cultures and beliefs. So Paul writes to this church in Corinth to instruct them on how to practice their faith within the context of the church worship and the community around them. The letter to the Corinthians was to teach them about the use of all gifts and not just their emphasis on the ecstatic gifts, tongues and miracles. Actually, Love is the best practice.

Paul's letter to the Romans was written anywhere from 53 to 58 A.D. Most likely this letter went to believers in Rome, which were mainly house churches. The group of recipients had not formed into a church as of this time. Wesley's notes refer to Priscilla and Aquila being in Rome and hosting disciples at their home. "They were tentmakers as was Paul. Priscilla and Aquila had been among the Jews expelled from Rome by the Roman Emperor Claudius in the year 49 as written by Suetonius. They ended up in Corinth. Paul lived with Priscilla and Aquila for approximately 18 months." Paul wrote Romans from the city of Corinth as he wintered there on his third missionary journey as described in Acts 20:2-3. This is based on Romans 16:1 and 16:23, in regards to a reference to Pheobe in Cenchreae, an eastern port of Corinth. When Paul wrote the Book of Romans, he had been a preacher for some 20 years. He was on his third missionary tour and was looking at going to Rome. He wrote this letter in preparation for going to Rome.

Reflect on this Scripture:

1 Corinthians 12:8-11 (NRSV)

⁸To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of **wisdom**, and to another the utterance of **knowledge** according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another **faith** by the same Spirit, to another **gifts of healing** by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the **working of miracles**, to another prophecy, to another the **discernment of spirits**, to another various kinds of **tongues**, to another the **interpretation of tongues**. ¹¹All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

Romans 12:4-8 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: **prophecy**, in proportion to **faith**; ⁷**ministry**, in ministering; the **teacher**, in teaching; ⁸the **exhorter**, in exhortation; the **giver**, in generosity; the **leader**, in diligence; the **compassionate**, in cheerfulness.

Questions to Ponder:

What jumps out at you from this passage?
 What are the gifts in these two passages?
 From whom do the gifts and power come?
 How are the gifts allotted?
 How are we connected as a people of God?

Next:

Describe and talk about the gifts in this scripture passage.

Gifts in focus: Use the definitions found in *Serving from the Heart*, chapter two, for October 13, 2019.

Apostleship
 Prophecy
 Evangelism
 Pastor Teacher/Teacher
 Teacher
 Work of Miracles
 Gifts of Healing
 Tongues
 Assistance/Helps/Serving/Ministry

Administration/Guidance

Use the definitions found in *Serving from the Heart*, chapter two, for October 20, 2019.

Wisdom
 Knowledge
 Faith
 Discernment of Spirits
 Interpretation of Tongues
 Ministry
 Exhorter
 Giver
 Compassion
 Leadership
 Hospitality

Questions to Ponder for accountability in the group:

What do you think your spiritual gifts are?

In your group, what spiritual gifts have you seen exhibited by the participants and describe the way you saw the gift exhibited? What was the result?

What do you understand about the spiritual gifts learned today?

What gifts do you think would be most helpful for our community of faith?

What gifts would you like to have?

Activity of for the life of a disciple:

1. Take the Spiritual Gifts inventory in chapter 1 of *Serving from the Heart*.
 Or online at: <http://survey.ministrymatters.com/SpiritualGifts>
2. Focus on more resources for spiritual gifts:
<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/new-church-starts/spiritual-gifts>
<http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/exploring-your-spiritual-gifts>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spiritual_gift