

INTRODUCTION

In 2015, Christian artist Jeremy Camp released the song, *Same Power*, which states, “*The same power that rose Jesus from the grave, the same power that commands the dead to wake lives in us, lives in us. The same power that moves mountains when He speaks, the same power that can calm a raging sea lives in us, lives in us...*” The song is based on Romans 8:11: “*But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.*” As a Christ-follower, the power of the Holy Spirit lives in you. You have also been given a gift (or gifts) from the Spirit to use in the Kingdom of God. What do you do with every good gift God has given to you?

SCRIPTURE

¹Now the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ²“See, I have called by name Bezalel, the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. ³I have filled him with the Spirit of God in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all kinds of craftsmanship, ⁴to make artistic designs for work in gold, in silver, and in bronze, ⁵and in the cutting of stones for settings, and in the carving of wood, that he may work in all kinds of craftsmanship. ⁶And behold, I Myself have appointed with him Oholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan; and in the hearts of all who are skillful I have put skill, that they may make all that I have commanded you.”

Exodus 31:1-6

GROUP QUESTIONS

1. What would be the ultimate (material) gift you could receive?
2. Discuss with your group how you would define “spiritual gifts”.
3. The concept of a gift from the Spirit begins in the Old Testament. Read Exodus 31:1-6. This is the first time that someone is described as being *filled* with the Spirit. What gifts does God give to Bezalel? Do you find any to be surprising? If so, which ones?
4. What was God’s purpose in gifting Bezalel (and Oholiab)? (See also Exodus 36:1.)
5. The spiritual gifts are described in Romans 12:1-8, 1 Corinthians 12, and Ephesians 4:1-16 (you will read these passages later). The word used for “gifts” is from the Greek word *charis*, usually translated as “grace” (and IS translated “grace” in Ephesians 4). What does this add to your understanding of spiritual gifts?
6. Read 1 Corinthians 12:7, Ephesians 4:12, and 1 Peter 4:10. Why did God give the church spiritual gifts?

Study Questions for Community Groups

7. God distributes a great variety of gifts as He sees fit. He gifted Moses to lead a nation, and Bezalel and Oholiab with wisdom, understanding, knowledge, and skill in craftsmanship to build the Tabernacle. Their responsibility was to use those gifts to do what God asked them to do. How can you use your gift(s) to build the Kingdom of God?

APPLICATION

Aaron stated on Sunday that you have all you need to do what God has planned for you to do. You have been employed with a job and enabled with power to do it...so what's next?

Between now and Tuesday (October 24), visit www.fellowshipcleveland.com to take two assessments – StrengthsFinder and a Spiritual Gifts test – to discover who it is that God made you to be. Click on the “assessments” button in the top left-hand corner on Fellowship’s home page.

NOTE: There is a \$15 fee for the StrengthsFinder assessment. If you take the strengths assessment, please plan to attend a seminar on Thursday, October 26, 7PM in the Youth Room (Room 126). StrengthsFinder Coach/Fellowship member Joan Nosal will lead the seminar.

If you already know your gifts, how are you using them? Are there some gifts that you have been given but have neglected to use? How can you begin to use them?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

1. Read the following verses, and note the specific gifts found in each passage:

Romans 12:1-8 _____

1 Corinthians 12 _____

Ephesians 4:1-16 _____

2. What gifts do the passages have in common? What gifts are unique to the passage? There is much debate over whether these lists are complete or whether there are more gifts. Which position do you think is most defensible biblically, and why?
3. 1 Corinthians 12:12-26 lists some challenges faced by believers in regards to the spiritual gifts. What are they? Have you see this happen? How can you guard against this?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13. 1 Corinthians 13 is one of the most well-known chapters in the Bible, used in both Christian and non-Christian weddings. Though the principles in ‘The Love Chapter’ certainly apply to marriage, Paul wrote it to follow his teaching on spiritual gifts. Re-read 1 Corinthians 13 in light of this, and ask the Spirit to give you insight into how to use your spiritual gift(s) in love.