



# **'THE JESUS APPRENTICESHIP'**

## 2023

### **Session 1:**

What are Spiritual Gifts and how are they used in the church?

### **Questions:**

1. What stood out to you the most as you watched Damian's video?
2. Read 1 Peter 4:10 together. Damian took each phrase of this verse in turn...which phrase challenged you the most and why?
3. In two or threes, share in what ways you believe God has gifted you?
4. Have you found your joyful place of service in the church? If not, what is stopping you?
5. Pray together that God would 'fan into flame' the Spiritual Gifts in us.

## Notes:

**Fruit** = the character of Christ seen through our lives

**Gifts** = the ministry of Christ seen through our lives

'If anyone speaks, they should do so **as one who speaks the very words of God**. If anyone serves, they should do so **with the strength God provides**, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.' (1 Peter 4:11)

**Definition** – 'Spiritual Gifts are divinely-given abilities, given to every Christian to continue to ministry of Jesus through His Body, the Church.'

**A verse that sums up Spiritual Gifts...**

'Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.' (1 Peter 4:10)

**'Each of you...'**

- 'Now **to each one** the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.' (1 Cor 12:7)
- '[The different gifts] are the work of one and the same Spirit, and **he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.**' (1 Cor 12:11)

**Each of you should use...**

**'...whatever gift you have received...'**

- Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of **God's grace in its various forms.**' (1 Peter 4:10)
- 'There are **different kinds of gifts**, but the same Spirit distributes them.' (1 Cor 12:4)
- 'We have **different gifts**, according to the grace given to each of us.' (Rom 12:6)

List of gifts mentioned in passages such as **Romans 12, Eph 4, 1 Cor 12 and 1 Peter 4**

- **Administration**
- **Apostleship**
- **Discerning of spirits**
- **Evangelism**
- **Encouraging**
- **Faith**
- **Giving**
- **Healing**
- **Helping others**
- **Hospitality**
- **Interpretation of Tongues**
- **Leadership**
- **Miraculous powers**
- **Pastoring**
- **Prophecy**
- **Serving**
- **Showing Mercy**
- **Speaking in Tongues**
- **Teaching**
- **Word of Knowledge**
- **Word of Wisdom**

**Each of you should use whatever gift you have received...**

**'...to serve others...'**

Everyone in ministry. Minister = servant.  
Our motive should be love...

- 'If I speak in the tongues<sup>α</sup> of men or of angels, but do not have love, **I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal**. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, **I am nothing**. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast,<sup>β</sup> but do not have love, **I gain nothing**.' (1 Cor 13:1-3)

- 'Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given **for the common good.**' (1 Cor 12:7)

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others...

**'...as faithful stewards...**

It is our job to ensure we are using the gifts God has given us. Grace gifts. But we can invest in them and grow in them. Parable of the talents.

**'should use'** – Romans 12...get on with it.

- 'We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, **then prophesy** in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, **then serve**; if it is teaching, **then teach**; if it is to encourage, **then give encouragement**; if it is giving, **then give generously**; if it is to lead, **do it diligently**; if it is to show mercy, **do it cheerfully.**' (1 Peter 4:10)
- **'...we will grow** to become in every respect **the mature body** of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From Him the whole Body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up **as each part does its work.**' (Eph 4:15-16)

• However, they can be neglected...

- **'Do not neglect your gift,** which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you.' (1 Tim 4:14)

• They can also be fanned into a flame...

- 'For this reason I remind you to **fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you** through the laying on of my hands.' (2 Tim 1:6)

• None of us should think too little of ourselves by comparing our gifts to others...

- 'Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, **I do not belong to the body,**" it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. <sup>16</sup>And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, **I do not belong to the body,**" it would not for that reason stop being part of the body.' (1 Cor 12:15-16)

- None of us should think too highly of ourselves because of our gifts...
  - 'The eye cannot say to the hand, **"I don't need you!"** And the head cannot say to the feet, **"I don't need you!"**' (1 Cor 12:21)

## Serve with excellence

You are a minister! Did you know that? *Ministry* literally means *service*, and all of us are called to a life of service. That makes every Christian a minister. There is no clergy/laity divide in the Kingdom of God...all of us are called to play a part!

In Hope Church, we have many opportunities for service and many growing teams with opportunities to step out in ministry. So, we ask that everybody prayerfully considers serving in at least one area of ministry. Remember, we are not doing someone a favour by serving; we are doing it in the name of Jesus to bless others and bring glory to God!

Here are a few personal commitments you may like to make:

- **I'm going to serve with humility and love.** I will keep reminding myself that I do what I am doing for the good of others.
- **I'm going to give my very best.** Because I'm doing it for God, I will serve with my whole heart. God wants my 'first-fruit' not my leftovers!
- **I'm going to be fully committed.** I know it positively impacts my team when I prepare well, turn up when agreed, arrive on time and serve with a good attitude. That is the kind of team member I want to be.
- **I'm going to be reliable.** When I am due to serve on a rota, I will make every effort to be available and turn up when expected.
- **I'm going to go the extra mile.** If I'm not available to serve - for whatever reason - I'll see it as *my* responsibility to find someone else on the rota to swap my week with. It is not my team leader's job to find someone (unless I've done everything I can do first).
- **I'm going to be teachable.** There is always something new I can learn and I am committed to becoming better at what I do.