

SESSION THREE



The New Testament Church & Spiritual Gifts

The New Testament Church

The Greek word for “Church” is *Ekklesia*.

It’s literal meaning is, the called out group or assembly.

Biblical references to the church...

- **The Bride of Christ.** – The church is pictured in Ephesians 5:23 as the bride of Christ. This figurative analogy is appropriate in showing the magnitude of Christ’s love for the church. Likewise, the image of a bride awaiting the return of her husband presents the church’s current situation. (Revelation 19:7-9).
- **The Body of Christ.** – The church is the spiritual organism of which Christ is the Head and is composed of all regenerated people from Pentecost to the rapture. The church unifies all believers as part of one body (1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 2:16; 4:4). Every part of the body is equally as important as another.
- **A building.** – Although the church is a living organism, it is not a stale building. Christ uses the figure of a building to represent the destruction of any walls that separate Jews and Gentiles (Ephesians 2:11-18). This building is built on the “foundation of the apostles and prophets” (Ephesians 2:20). Furthermore, Jesus Christ is the cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20). Like a building, the church grows when under construction and as new believers are added to the fellowship.

The New Testament Church...

Was created for a purpose.

There are two predominate purposes of the church:

1. **Gathered**
Ministering to the body of believers, edification

2. Scattered

Ministering to the world of unbelievers, evangelization

The primary goal of ministering while “gathered” is to lead believers in Christ toward maturity. *Eph 4:13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fulness of Christ.*

The primary goal of ministering while “scattered” is to fulfill the Great Commission by sharing the gospel, baptizing, and making disciples.

Matt 28:18-20 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Ministry while being Gathered

How do we minister to each other while being gathered?

Through “Spiritual Gifts”

Spiritual Gifts are given through the power of the Holy Spirit to believers at the time of salvation resulting in the supernatural ability to bring glory to God, in the church, through the edification of believers. (1 Corinthians 12:1-7)

- The gifts of the Spirit are given to each and every believer at the time of salvation. (Rom. 8:9-16)
- The Bible teaches that every believer (including you!) has been gifted through the Holy Spirit with some spiritual gift. (Ephesians 4:7)
- Spiritual gifts are given by God and it is His choice which gifts He gives to you. (Ephesians 4:10-13)
- Spiritual gifts are given by God to empower you for the work of the ministry. (1 Corinthians 4:7, 17)

Though spiritual gifts are mentioned in numerous places in the New Testament, four passages are most commonly looked to as the Bible signposts naming spiritual gifts.

1 Cor 12:28-30 And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, {various} kinds of tongues. All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not {workers of} miracles, are they? All do not have gifts of healings, do they? All do not speak with tongues, do they? All do not interpret, do they?

1 Cor 12:8-10 For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another {various} kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues.

Rom 12:6-8 And since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, {let each exercise them accordingly} if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

Eph 4:11 And He gave some {as} apostles, and some {as} prophets, and some {as} evangelists, and some {as} pastors and teachers,

Description of spiritual gifts:

“He” has been used generically in the following descriptions and can, in most cases, include both men and women.

ADMINISTRATION

A person who is gifted in the area of administration is a goal-and objective-oriented individual. He often has strong organizational abilities which make it possible to coordinate resources in order to accomplish tasks as quickly as possible. Because of being motivated by accomplishing desired tasks, this person often derives great satisfaction from viewing the results of what he has accomplished. If you score high in this area, you should consider being involved in an area of ministry in which you can utilize your organizational strengths to carry out specific goals of the church.

EVANGELISM

A person who is gifted in the area of evangelism has an especially strong desire to share the Gospel with non-believers in every possible situation and through all possible means. His greatest joy in ministry is seeing non-believers won to Christ. Because of an overwhelming desire to “fulfill the Great Commission,” he would rather devote considerable effort to the ministry of evangelism than to other church programs which exist for the edification of believers. He looks for the areas where the need for the Gospel is the greatest and is willing to make personal sacrifices to share the gospel. If you score high in this area, you should consider being involved in a ministry which places a great emphasis on sharing the Gospel with the unsaved and reaching out to those who are unchurched.

EXHORTATION

A person who is gifted in the area of exhortation has a special ability to encourage others in the body of Christ by giving them needed words of comfort, courage and counsel at times of need or crisis. He is especially attracted to individuals who are genuinely seeking spiritual growth and often is willing to share past personal failures to help motivate others toward greater spiritual maturity. He is able to make accurate assessments of spiritual needs, and has the ability to explain truth with logical reasoning, giving step-by-step instructions which are easy to follow. If you score high in this area, you should consider being involved in an area that enables you to use your strengths to minister one-on-one with people in need.

GIVING

A person who is gifted in the area of giving has the ability to give material goods and financial resources with joy, so that the needs of the Lord’s work are met. He often can discern wise investments, and is

usually a very effective money manager. While desiring to give quietly and without recognition, this individual is encouraged when he knows that needs were met and prayers were answered. He is more likely to give at the Lord's prompting than at man's appeals, and has a great ability to see financial needs which others overlook. If you score high in this area, you should consider not only what ministries of the church to support with your personal finances but how your example can motivate others to follow the Lord's leadership in their own giving.

HELPS

A person who is gifted in the area of helps is motivated by a desire to further the ministry by meeting genuine needs of another individual, usually someone in a leadership position. He enjoys bringing immediate help to key individuals in order to relieve their burdens and responsibilities. While this individual is willing to do whatever is needed, he is motivated more from a desire to provide assistance than from a desire to accomplish particular tasks. Though very similar to the ministry area of "Service," one with this gift is prompted by the need he sees rather than by the task that is to be performed. If you score high in this area, you should consider being involved in an area of ministry in which you can provide assistance to someone in a leadership role to enable them to be more effective than they would be without you.

HOSPITALITY

A person who is gifted in the area of hospitality has the ability to make guests feel comfortable and "at home." He has a desire to provide a warm welcome to guests whether in a ministry or social setting. He delights in opening his home to individuals or groups, and often looks for special opportunities to use this gift to minister to others. If you score high in this area, you should consider being involved in an area of ministry where you can use your strengths to help to make others in the church feel "at home."

LEADERSHIP

A person who is gifted in the area of leadership has the ability to lead others toward spiritual growth. He is often considered a visionary, and has the ability to set goals and motivate others toward the accomplishment of these goals. He usually has an ability to communicate effectively to large groups of people, and is often chosen for leadership positions because of his ability to accomplish goals without getting "off track." While similar to a gifting in the area of "Administration," someone with this gift is often more concerned with the "big picture" than the incremental details of accomplishing the goal. If you score high in this area, you should consider being involved in an area of ministry in which you can use your strengths to lead others in accomplishing goals of the church.

MERCY

A person who is gifted in the area of mercy has immediate compassion for those suffering, physically, mentally or emotionally. He derives great joy in meeting the needs of others, and often has a tendency to attract people who are in distress. He usually has a need for friendships in which there is deep communication and mutual commitment, and has the ability to draw out the feelings of others while also being vulnerable to hurts, both personally and to those which others are experiencing. He often would rather remove the causes of hurts than look for benefits from them. He has a tendency to avoid confrontation and firmness, and often closes his spirit to others who he feels are overly harsh or critical. If you score high in this area, you should consider being involved in an area of ministry which enables you to minister to those who are hurting and who need the sensitivity you have to offer.

PROPHET

A person who is gifted in the area of prophecy has the ability to proclaim God's truth without compromise. He has strong convictions and expects the same of others. He has the need to express himself verbally, especially regarding right and wrong and may be quick to make judgments of others and

to speak his opinion. He may be painfully direct when correcting others, possessing an unusual ability to discern the sincerity of others. He is persuasive in defining right and wrong, and is very persistent in expressing his feelings regarding need for change. If you score high in this area, you should look for a ministry area wherein you can challenge others to live by God's standards as set forth in His word.

SERVICE

A person who is gifted in the area of service has the ability to perform any task with joy which benefits others and meets practical needs. He may have the tendency to disregard personal health and comfort to serve others. He often has difficulty in saying "no" when asked to serve. He often has an attention for details, and appreciates having clear instructions to follow. He enjoys the process of serving as much as the end result, and derives satisfaction from being with others who are also serving. If you score high in this area, you should consider being involved in an area of ministry in which your strength of faithfulness and attention to detail can be utilized.

SHEPHERDING

A person who is gifted in the area of shepherding has the unique ability to take responsibility for the long-term spiritual growth of a group of believers. He sees it as his responsibility to guide, feed, and protect a flock of followers in Christ. He is motivated by a desire to see those under him enjoying spiritual health and growth. If you score high in this area, you should look for an area of ministry where discipleship is emphasized and wherein you can guide others to greater maturity in their spiritual walk.

TEACHING

A person who is gifted in the area of teaching has the ability to explain God's truth so there is understanding and application in the lives of others. He has a desire to research and present truth in an organized and systematic sequence. He is often alert to details, and places a great deal of emphasis on the basic foundation on which the church grows and remains faithful. If you score high in this area, you should consider being involved in a ministry role wherein you can challenge others with Bible truths which you have discovered in your personal studies.

Ministry while being scattered

How do we minister while being scattered?

- By evangelizing the lost through mission endeavors.
- By ministering to the congregation and evangelizing the lost through our outreach program.

Mission endeavors

Acts 1:8 but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

As God has given us the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20) to go into all the world and preach the gospel, we must realize the need at home as well as abroad. Jesus said that we would be His witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea. As we apply this truth to our lives, we understand that we will be witnesses in Farragut and all of Knoxville. Our influence is then to move throughout the state of Tennessee (Samaria) and then into the remotest parts of the earth (our country and the world).

How will this be accomplished?

1. Through the ministries of our church.

- Music ministry
- Youth ministry
- Senior Adult ministry – Golden Sunshine
- Men’s ministry
- Woman’s ministry – Women on Mission
- Children’s ministry
- Quilting for a Cause
- Western Heights Baptist Center – Volunteer work and giving.
- Special events such as: First Responder Thank You Luncheon, Concerts, Revivals, Seminars, Discipleship training, VBS and many more.
- Missional and Ministry Outreach – Mission trips at home and abroad; Food Pantry; Benevolence, Thanksgiving outreach and more.