

Discovering Your Ministry Within The Kehilah: Living A Spirit-Filled Life Part 8-E

Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts¹

In my last post, I attempted to clear away any confusion that you might have about this subject of spiritual gifts. Recall that in Post 5, we looked at "How We Are or Can Be Filled With the Ruach." In that post I said it was not a "how-to-be-filled-with-the-Spirit-in-five-easy-step-by-step-lessons." I would also refer you back to Part 7 when we discovered our S.H.A.P.E. In this post, I do want to give you five steps necessary to discover your spiritual gift(s)

Before getting into those five steps, let me reiterate four fundamental prerequisites:

- 1. You Must Be A Believer in Yeshua.** Spiritual gifts are only given to members of the Kehilah for use in the ministry of the Kehilah.
- 2. You Have to Believe in Spiritual Gifts.** You should have a sense of gratitude that you were made uniquely for God's own purpose and a sense of joyful anticipation in finding out what gift(s) He has provided to you.
- 3. You Must Be Willing to Work.** He has a ministry assignment that He wants you to accomplish in the Kehilah. He knows whether you are serious about fulfilling His expectations.
- 4. You Have to Pray.** Pray to the Father sincerely and earnestly for His guidance all the way through the five steps.

Leave out any one of these prerequisites and your will have a very difficult time discovering your gift(s).

Five Steps Necessary to Discover Your Spiritual Gift(s)

Step 1: Explore the Possibilities.

Become familiar enough with the different gifts that God ordinarily gives to the Kehilah so that when you come across your gift(s) later on, you will recognize it for what it really is.

- **Study the Bible.** Read the passages I outlined in previous posts in this series.
- **Learn Your Kehilah's Position on Spiritual Gifts.** Talk to your Rabbi or Pastor to find this out.
- **Read Extensively.** In addition to the other references I have already mentioned in this series, I highly recommend Merlin Carothers book "*Prison to Praise*." It really helped me get a handle on exploring the gifts of tongues.²
- **Get to Know Gifted People.** Seek out other Believers who have already discovered, developed, and are using their spiritual gift(s).
- **Make Gifts a Conversation Topic.** Share openly with other Believers what you are learning or have learned about spiritual gifts and what they are not.

¹ Please see my earlier posts in Part 8 for an explanation.

² I'll share more on this in a future post specifically examining this controversial gift.

Step 2: Experiment with As Many Gifts As You Can. A starting point is to look around you and see what needs you can identify in the Kehilah. Then try to do something to meet that need. Look for needs of other people. Find out where you can be useful in any way and do it. Let me caution you, however, that you don't want to experiment with the gift of martyrdom. That's one gift that can only be used once. While you are experimenting with the gifts, it just as important to ask *"Which gifts I don't have?"* as it is to ask *"Which gifts do I have?"* Use the Gift Questionnaire that I will provide you with in my next post.

Step 3: Examine Your Feelings. Don't forget the *"H.A.P.E"* in your **S.H.A.P.E.** The same God who gives us spiritual gifts also oversees the way each of us was fearfully and wonderfully made. He knows what He has planned for us to fulfill our unique S.H.A.P.E. and He will give us just the right gift(s) to accomplish His purposes. There is no reason to doubt that He matches the gift(s) He give us to our temperament and personality.

Step 4: Evaluate Your Effectiveness. Since spiritual gifts are task-oriented toward doing ministry, it is not out of order to expect them to work. If God has given you a gift, He has done so because He wants you to accomplish something for Him in the Kehilah. For example, if you think that you have the gift of leadership, turn around and see if anybody is actually following you. If you think you have the gift of healing, are people actually being healed?

Step 5: Expect Confirmation from the Kehilah. If you think you have a spiritual gift and you have been trying your best to exercise it but if no one else in the Kehilah thinks you have it, you probably don't. A gift needs to be confirmed by the body of Believers. Confirmation from the Kehilah serves as a check on all other steps. Confirmation of others within the Kehilah also builds in a system of accountability for the use of gifts.

In my next post, I will be giving you a PDF copy of Wagner's definitions of all 28 Spiritual Gifts and the **"Wagner-Modified Houts Questionnaire"** to help you with Steps 1 & 2. A word of caution that I will repeat in the next posting, from this point forward in this series, we will really need to establish a dialogue between us to more effectively get the maximum possible out of this series. Remember, I stated earlier, you can't be a Lone Ranger when it comes to the topic of exercising your spiritual gifts.

Your challenge until next time is to ensure you have covered the fundamental prerequisites and to review what we have learned so far in this series about the ministry of the Ruach.