



Prepared for
the Young
Adults of
Saint John's
Episcopal
Church

Session 3

In this session, we will:

1. Discover some Bible basics related to the gifts of the Holy Spirit
2. Complete a Spirit Gifts Survey.
3. Develop a basic understanding of the three gifts identified in the survey.

Session 3

Let's Read this together:

A Collect for Guidance

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Page 100 BCP

Some Bible Basics (1)

God gives gifts to everyone.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7:

⁴There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all *people*. ⁷Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

This passage says that although our gifts may differ, we all have gifts of the Spirit. Verse 7 states, "To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit"—why?—

--"for the common good."

The text also tells us that "it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone" (verse 6). This "litmus test" helps us determine if the gift comes from the one God.

The way we know if the manifestation of the gift is of God is to look at who is served. Does the gift enhance only our own self or does its use extend outward to enhance our Christian community and its mission to the world? Through this service we too grow stronger in our faith. The manifestation of the Spirit promotes spiritual health and builds up the community in faith.

Some Bible Basics (2)

God distributes the gifts according to God's grace.

Ephesians 4:11-12:

¹¹It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹²to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up...

God gives the gifts as God wills so that we, the saints, can be equipped to do the work of God.

The gifts build up and bring unity to the community of Christ.

The gifts help us mature to our full potential as individuals and as a community.

A gift is not something we can demand God to give us. But we can pray when we sense a need and see a vacancy of a particular gift within the community. When we offer a prayer on behalf of the "common good," (God's community), it is a selfless prayer. The intent of our prayer is that God will work through us individually or through others to meet the perceived community need.

Some Bible Basics (3)

God promises the Holy Spirit will be our comforter and guide.

John 14:25-27a:

²⁵"All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit, the comforter and guide who would lead the disciples into all truth.

The Holy Spirit interprets Christ's teachings and imparts Christ's peace to all believers. These teachings lead us, Christ's followers, to do even greater works.

Spirit Gifts Survey

1. Take your pen or pencil and find a comfortable place to sit in the room where you will be separated from everyone.
2. Turn to page 30 of your book. Pages 30 to 34 have 54 statements.
3. Rank each of the statements as it applies to your understanding of you: Much (3), Some (2), Little (1), or None (0).
4. This is a self survey, not a test. There are no right or wrong answers.
5. Be sure to let your responses reflect your opinions of yourself. If you don't know an answer, give it your best guess.
6. This survey will not be shared except as you choose.
7. If other people are still working on their survey after you are done, sit and wait patiently for them to finish.
8. When everyone is done, go to the next slide.

Spirit Gifts Survey Answer Sheet

Turn to page 35 of your book.

- Transfer your responses from the survey to this answer sheet.
- Add the total at the end of each line.
- Remember, this survey reflects only your past history and not what God may be doing even now in this moment or will do in your future.

Your Top Three Gifts

In your book, on page 36:

List your top three gifts in the order of highest numerical value as indicated by the survey sheet.

Please list only three.

Highest Number

Second Highest Number

Third Highest Number

List one more gift that you sense may be yours even if it is not in the top numbered gifts.

Spirit Gifts Survey

Now proceed to pages 37 to 41.

As time permits, find the descriptions of the gifts that you may have (according to this survey).

Spend the rest of the class time reading and talking about the descriptions of Gifts of the Holy Spirit.