

Response Sheet Chapters 15 & 16

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Th308 Gifts of the Spirit

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10/14 /2017

According to our author Lester Sumrall in *The Gifts and Ministries of the Holy Spirit* “God’s purpose is to make us people who enrich others (pg201), that is one of the purposes of the five major ministry gifts found in Ephesians 4:12-16. While there are at least nine purposes of the five ministry gifts having understanding of this first key purpose is helpful if you desire to have God use you and allow the gifts to flow through you. The gifts are not for you, the one that possess the gift it is actually for the perfecting of the saints or the body of Christ you belong to.

The perfecting of the saints is just one of the purposes of the five fold ministry. Some of the other purposes include the work of the ministry, edifying the body of Christ and come together in unity and the knowledge of the Son of God. With each of the purposes, the ultimate goal is to have a healthy vibrant church that is able to go outside the four walls and share the gospel with those on the outside. In order to be able to go outside the wall, we have to be of the same mindset on the inside with no envy and strife amongst the saints of God. The devil would love to have the body of Christ divided and not on one account, that way we will miss the mark and not accomplish what we are to accomplish on the outside.

Since God’s purpose is to make us people who enrich others, we should desire to be filled with the Holy Ghost and allow the gifts of the spirit to operate and flow in our churches. The gifts are the tools we need to go out into the world and fight the good fight of faith. In order to be a blessing to others, we first must accept the gifts and be willing to share and build up those God sends our way.

When God gave gifts to the body of Christ, he gave the church exactly what she needed to be able to function, thrive and be productive until He came back to get her. God left the body whole with no lack; it's up to the members to allow the spirit of God rule their life so the gifts can freely flow. After all, these gifts are our tools or weapons we need to build up the body of Christ and destroy the enemy.

Some of the gifts God left we call the fivefold ministry gifts; this includes apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. Their gifts are to be for perfecting the saints, the work of the ministry and for edifying the body of Christ. God left many great examples in the Old and New Testaments of various ones that operated in these gifts, so our generation would understand how to operate in them. You will have some that will abuse their gifts, try to manipulate or just refuse to allow the gift to flow, but don't let that discourage you. God will deal with them, our job is to just continue to allow the Holy Ghost use us as He see fit.

God in all His sovereignty knows exactly what we as the body of Christ need, He said He would never leave us nor forsake us. When Jesus ascended up to heaven, he sent the Holy Ghost and gifts back. These gifts are our tools that we use in this spiritual battle. The key is to remember the gifts are to help edify or build up the church; they are not for our own benefit. We are to share them through the body of Christ as God see fit. Knowing that others that came before us allowed the Holy Ghost to use them and had great success with reaching out to others, we can have that same success.