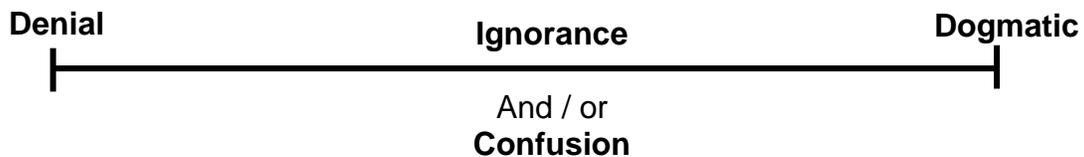


Introduction: Spiritual gifts in the Church today!



Four questions everyone needs to ask and answer about spiritual gifts

1. Why bother with spiritual gifts?

1. They are essential for determining _____.
2. They are God's "stamp of approval" on your _____ as a person.
3. When known and exercised, they put you in the place of _____
_____ and building deep _____.
4. The by-product of exercising your spiritual gifts is _____.

2. What is a spiritual gift?

Definition: A “divine endowment” of special ability upon every member of the Body of Christ which “fits” them for specific and corresponding service.

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

1. Gift - “Charismata”
2. Spiritual – “Pneumatikos”
3. Every spiritual gift embodies:
 - a) Ability
 - b) Qualification
 - c) Strength
 - d) Responsibility

3. How and why do we receive spiritual gifts?

1. They are distributed by the ascended Christ. Ephesians 4:7-11
2. Gifts are distributed to every believer without exception at the time of salvation on the basis of grace. 1 Peter 4:10
3. Gifts are distributed for the profit of others 1 Corinthians 12:7
4. Gifts are distributed sovereignly by the Holy Spirit in accordance with each believer’s best interest and God’s ultimate glory and purpose. 1 Corinthians 12:11

4. How do I discover my spiritual gift(s)?

1. Pray seriously seeking guidance.
2. Study the gift passages in God's Word.
3. "Test the waters."
4. Examine the fulfillment factor.
5. Evaluate honestly.
6. Get quality counsel.
7. Recognize God's evident blessing.

Discussion Questions:

1. What, if anything, did you learn that was new to you concerning spiritual gifts? How could this information be used to enhance the way God wants to use your life?
2. Why is it important to know and develop your spiritual gifts? Discuss how spiritual gifts benefit others and how they benefit you.
3. What ministry have you been involved in at any church that you really felt fulfilled in doing? Describe it and your experience. How could you further develop your gifts?
4. What do you see as the natural implications of a church body that takes the whole concept of spiritual gifts and interdependence seriously? What would it look like? How would it differ from the norm? What impact would it have beginning with you?