



***Theme: The Power of the Holy Spirit***

***"Who is the Holy Spirit?"***

Sermon preached by Jeff Huber on...

May 22-23, 2021

**Weekly Memory Verse:**

***<sup>7</sup> A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. –1 Corinthians 12:7 (NLT)***

**VIDEO      Sermon Bumper**

**SLIDE      "The Gifts of the Holy Spirit"**

In 2005 we did a major remodel of our church facility which included a real office for me. My previous office was in the old library, and it did have a fireplace, but otherwise had many challenges. After the remodel, I needed a new desk, so we ordered this one I have today.

**GRAPHIC      Jeff's office desk**

The desk came unassembled, in a large flat box. I unpacked it and there were 186 pieces. It took 48 steps to put the unit together and the instruction manual looked like a book. Now I am fairly good at building things, and I figured I have a master's degree so I should be able to put this thing together. But I looked at all the pieces sitting on the floor and

read just the first page of the instructions and was a bit intimidated, plus my schedule was full for the next few weeks as we were moving into this new facility.

Fortunately, a couple of church members came and helped me put the desk together. At the end we were so proud of that desk. What we were most proud of is that when we finished, we only had seven parts left! We were pretty excited about that, and I still have this package of those parts and they all fit in this small bag so I figured they couldn't be THAT important! I don't know where they were supposed to go but the parts must not have been that important because the desk is still working today! We don't need the CD holders anymore, and I have a standing desk on top now, but I store lots of things I never use in it.

When we started putting that desk together, we had all the parts, we had all the willpower, and we had the instruction manual. There was only one thing we were missing to be able to successfully assemble the desk and it was to have the appropriate tools. So, I brought from home a flat head screwdriver, a Phillips screwdriver, a hammer parts that didn't fit and needed some help, some wood glue, my power drill, which is very impressive, even if you don't use it, and of course a roll of duct tape which you should always have when you're assembling furniture!

I had all these tools to put this desk together, but there was one tool I was missing. There was one tool I did not possess. The folks at Sauder who manufacture the desk were kind enough to supply this Allen wrench which is a different size and shape from any Allen wrench that I own. If you have ever put one of these together then you probably have seen one of these. Most people don't have these in their toolbox, and they send these with the rest of the supplies and parts in the kit.

Because of this little tool we were able to assemble this desk. Hold onto that thought for just a minute. Let's now go back 2000 years. 2000

years ago, Jesus is saying goodbye to his disciples for the last time. He has died and risen back to life. He has spent 40 days with the disciples preparing them for that moment when he would ascend into heaven. As he is preparing them, he gets ready to give them the great commission. You might remember the great commission from Matthew 28, the closing verse of the gospel. Jesus says to them:

## **BIBLE**

***“Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”***

Jesus is looking at this rag tag band of misfits, giving them their final marching orders. There were some who were fishermen and there were some who were tax collectors. There were some who were rebels and there were some who did not fit anywhere in society. These were not the people that you would've chosen if you were doing a nationwide search trying to find just the right people to lead a brand-new global movement. I affectionately call them the “duh-sciples” because they often seem to have no idea what they are doing or what Jesus is telling them. It begs this question:

## **SLIDE      How *Could* THESE Disciples Change the World?**

They could not speak anything but Aramaic. Some may have known a few Greek phrases but none of them knew enough of other languages to be able to effectively communicate with anyone outside of their region. Aramaic was only spoken in a small corner of the Roman Empire in those days. Most of them could not read or write and I guarantee you that none of them had been to seminary or probably even to school. They had no training in how to start a church and most of them had never even been in a church or even a synagogue. There was no church before this.

Yet Jesus is telling them to go into all the world and to preach the gospel. I want you to start the church and change the world. Can you imagine what they must have felt? What would you have felt? Remember that there is only 11 of them as Judas has killed himself, and yet the entire mission of Jesus is entrusted to them.

I would have said, *“Jesus I can't do that. I would love to do that I don't know how. I have heard your instructions for the last three years and I've tried to listen for the last three years, but I'll have the tools to do this. I'm not equipped or prepared to be able to do what you need to do.”* I suspect that is something like what the disciples thought or even said out loud.

That is why in Acts chapter 1, where the story is completed, we read that Jesus said, “Look don't worry about it. Don't be afraid...

## **BIBLE**

**<sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”**

He said don't be afraid because I'm going to give you the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will not only have the power that you need to fulfill the mission, but you also will have the tools. The New Testament tells us of the Holy Spirit gives us the tools we need to accomplish the mission that Jesus lays out for us.

**SLIDE      When God calls us to take on a task, God also promises to “equip us for the task.”**

In this sermon series we have talked about how the Holy Spirit comes upon us and baptizes us. The Holy Spirit washes over us and it always brings us gifts. We read about those in several places in Paul's

letters. These are tools that the Holy Spirit gives to us. They are not just natural talents. They are tools meant to help us accomplish God's mission by finding our purpose. The Great Commission wasn't only for those first disciples, and it certainly wasn't just for paid preachers. It was for you. Those words are a call for us to build up the body of Christ (building community), have changed lives, and be the presence of Jesus in the world by bringing hope. Paul puts it this way in 1 Corinthians 12:7. It's our scripture memory verse for this week.

## **BIBLE**

***<sup>7</sup> A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.***

Spiritual Gifts are the tools that Jesus provides us through the Holy Spirit. We find several lists of them from Paul, but for today, let's take a look at how he names them in Romans 12.

## **BIBLE**

***<sup>6</sup> In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So, if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. <sup>7</sup> If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. <sup>8</sup> If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.***

Paul mentions these gifts to the church in Rome and it is interesting that this list is different than the list he gives the people and the church in Corinth. There were nine gifts listed in that letter to the people in Corinth and then he added a few more gifts later in that same letter we read earlier. This is a different list and there is only one common gift and that is the gift of prophecy.

## **SLIDE      Prophecy**

Prophecy is the first gift we will look at. When we say that word many of us might think of Jean Dixon's fantastic and wonderful prophecies that are on the front of the National Enquirer that all of us read as we stand in line at City Market. But that is not prophecy in the biblical sense. Prophecy, as Ely reminded us last week, is not about telling some nifty bit of truth that will happen in the future. It is about telling the truth today.

When the biblical prophets were called by God to speak, they were not called to amaze and tantalized people with something that was going to happen somewhere down the road. It was not a Nostradamus kind of thing. Instead, the biblical prophets were called to speak a hard and difficult word of truth to the world in which they lived. They were asked to speak a truth that many people did not want to hear.

You might remember that many times in the Bible prophets would cry out, "Please Lord sends someone else! I don't want to say these things. I don't want to do what you have asked me to do." This was because the word was a hard word and they knew that people would hate them for it.

The future element of the prophecies in the Bible had to do with one of two things. It was either a word of warning like, "If you do not change things now then this bad thing is going to happen." The other prophesy was reminding God's people of the promise that after the bad had come, something good would follow. Those are the elements of future prophecy in the Old Testament.

When we look at the New Testament idea of prophecy, we find that sometimes it was about things that were about to unfold in terms of God's plan. But, most often, it was about truth that was needing to be told at that moment. This gift of prophecy was about someone who had the supernatural ability to speak a timeless word from God. This was often a difficult word that was a commentary about something that was

happening in their society or culture.

Like the gift of speaking in tongues, by the second century, this gift of prophesy was seen with suspicion by many in the church. There was caution when people claimed to have the gift of prophecy because there had been enough false prophets who said they were speaking in the name of the Lord and yet offered words that were not in keeping with the Scripture or they had used that power for the own self-interest. The church began to be nervous about those who claimed to have the gift of prophecy. By the third century, the idea of prophecy and having prophetic gifts was reserved for those who were bishops because they felt like only those leaders could hold that gift in place and not abuse it.

But I believe that this gift is still given today. There are some of you who have the ability given by God to speak a timeless word to someone else. One person I think of in modern times was the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King. He had a pastor's heart his whole life. He preached the gospel and tried to live the gospel in the world in which he was living. There were times when he preached sermons that were hard for people to hear, but they were the gospel truth. They were words from God that were difficult to preach and difficult to hear but they were needed because they held God's truth for us. Maybe you have that gift as well.

The second of the gifts that Paul describes here in Romans is the first of what was called the ordinary gifts of the Holy Spirit. They were gifts that the church readily recognized and accepted and received all the way through the history of the church.

### **SLIDE      Serving**

The gift of serving comes from the word “diakonia” from which we get the word Deacon. It meant simply to be a servant. It was a willingness to do what needed to be done, no matter how big or small. It is the gift of loving to do things and having passion for doing things that no one else

would ever notice. We won't receive a pat on the back, but we do not need that because it brought us joy just to serve. It was a gift that required a great deal of humility and grace from God.

Many in this congregation have this gift. Some are leaders in business or our community, and you have a servant's heart and humbly give of your time without needing any recognition. You have the ability and the grace to do things behind the scenes that no one else will ever notice.

I think of the team of people that I see working in Native Hope in the garage, or with Operation Christmas Child. Some of you help prune bushes around the building or clean or set up tables. Some come and count the offerings. Some come into the office and volunteer with tasks that make all the ministry we do during the week and on the weekends possible. Some quilt and make prayer blankets. I was with a family after their loved one passed this week and laying out over their body was a prayer quilt prepared by our quilting team. I see that group upstairs in room 204 or Wesley Parlor each week hard at work, laughing sometimes, and using their gift of serving with a passion and a joy.

There is a church in Cincinnati, Ohio that I visited once for a conference, and they have a wonderful mission statement taken from Mother Theresa, "**Small things done with great love can change the world.**" When you become a member at that church you are given a bucket with cleaning supplies because of many of their members clean toilets in places where most Christians won't even go, like adult video stores and strip clubs. They do that because they believe serving can change the world.

Jesus talked about serving the world in this kind of way. But some of you have the extraordinary gift of serving. One man comes to mind in our congregation when I think of the gift of serving. There was little boy in



worship who started to be sick, and his mother couldn't get him to the bathroom in time. He got sick in our old hallway on the carpet. This gentleman simply one out in put his hand on the boy's head and told him it would be okay. And without missing a beat or waiting for a custodian to come along, he found a clean bucket and some supplies and began cleaning the carpet without saying a word. He got down on his hands and knees in his church clothes and scrubbed away while everyone else continued to worship.

Believe it or not, for him, that was an act of sheer joy. I don't think anybody noticed and nobody wrote him a thank you note. But God knew because God is the one who would put the gift of the servant's heart within him through his Holy Spirit.

Another person I think of when it comes to this spiritual gift is former President Jimmy Carter. Putting all politics aside for a moment, I am struck by a man who was the leader of the most powerful nation in the world choosing to serve others as he becomes a Sunday school teacher in his small local church in rural Georgia and then took to swinging a hammer and building homes with Habitat for Humanity. I was a part of one of the first Jimmy Carter work camps over 30 years ago and it amazed me that a former president would wear a tool belt and pound nails and get blisters and sores on his fingers and thumb when he would miss a nail. That is a gift from God.

### **SLIDE      Teaching**

The gift of teaching is different from agreeing to sign up to teach in with Summit Kids. Many of us a sign up because there is a need for teachers, and we do still have a need for about teachers and Tribe Leaders with Vacation Bible School this summer. But some of us also have the spiritual gift of teaching that has been given to us by the Holy Spirit.

If you don't have the spiritual gift of teaching, you can still be a great

teacher. But those of us with the spiritual gift of teaching, experience pure joy when we get the opportunity to teach. We don't wait until Saturday afternoon or evening to put together our Summit Kids lesson. We have been thinking all week about it and can't wait to get there. We give teachers a break in the summer and those with the gift of teaching often say, "I don't want a break. I love this." So you sign up to teach for Vacation Bible School!

You understand that when you teach you are making an investment in our children's lives, and in the lives of adults if you teach one of our adult classes. The Holy Spirit has gifted you and equipped you for this. You take great truths and put them in terms that people can understand. You inspire them to live out those truths because of your teaching.

### **SLIDE      Exhorting**

Exhorting is the next gifts Paul mentions in Romans. The Greek word is "parakaleo" which means, "to come along side." Most of us think of exhorting as someone who is preaching or shouting or really harsh but that is not exhortation. In the New Testament, exhortation is about encouragement. When we have the spiritual gift of exhorting, we will come along side someone who is struggling and say, "We can do this. We can make it through this time. I will help you do it. Come on!" An exhorter is a cheerleader, and the gifts is like the gift of encouragement.

"Parakaleo," was the same root word that Jesus used to describe the Holy Spirit. He called the Holy Spirit the "paraclete" or the comforter—one who consoles or is a helper. Those of you with this gift love comfort, console, and encourage others. All of us are called to encourage, but some have a supernatural gift for this.

One of our church members was describing to me a fellow member of the church. They told me they were worried that this church member was only coming to church to make business connections. They were

suspect about this other member's intentions. They were worried that this person was treating Summit Church like Rotary club and a just wanted to be seen here so that others would know them and know that they go to church. She was convinced that this person wasn't even a Christian and that they were here for all the wrong reasons. I told her I actually thought that was okay as long as he was here!

Three months later she came to me and said, "You know Pastor Jeff, I think that man I told you about is getting it. I see him changing and acting differently." Another three months went by, and she came to me again, "Pastor Jeff it is amazing. I wouldn't have believed it before, but I have seen it with my own eyes. This guy has become the greatest cheerleader for people. He is encouraging his employees and the people around him. He used to just squelch people and crush their spirits but now he is a great encourage her. What happened?"

Let me tell you what happened. First, he gave his life to Jesus Christ and renewed his faith. Then, the Holy Spirit gave him a gift that he did not have before. Actually, the Holy Spirit transformed his talent of schmoozing into the spiritual gift of encouragement and exhorting. That is a supernatural gift that has been bestowed upon him and he now uses for the cause of Christ.

## **SLIDE      Giving**

Giving is the fifth gift that Paul talks about. This is not just about giving of your time or putting your gifts in the offering plate. We all are called to do this as a way of growing in our faith and coming closer to God and putting God first. All of us are called to tithe or to give a 10<sup>th</sup> of what we receive to God. Many of you tithe and some of you are below that but are working towards it because it is your goal, or least I hope it is your goal and your ideal in life.

But the supernatural gift of giving goes beyond that. You probably

have seen this gift in someone. They are the kind of people that would give you the shirt off of their back. You know someone like that. They wouldn't even think about giving you that shirt and they wouldn't worry about how much they spent on it or if it was their favorite shirt. They would just give it to you because you needed it. They do it because they experience pure joy in the act of giving.

They are the people who feel joy and excitement every time there is an opportunity to put extra in the offering plate for special times of need. They give and a give and they give. They give so much that you look at them and say, "I am concerned about you. You are giving so much. Do you have enough for yourself and your own needs?" But they just don't care because they love to give, AND they trust God will provide. They have that extraordinary capacity for giving and it's a beautiful thing to watch.

There is a woman that visits our church maybe once a year. She doesn't even live in this community but when she comes to visit her family she always comes to worship. Her family does not even worship here, but she believes in what this church is doing. She doesn't have much money but every now and then she will send me a check addressed to me and made out to Summit Church. She always puts a note in the envelope and says, "Please don't tell anyone that I gave this gift and don't send me a receipt for my giving." She just loves to give, and she loves to be a part of what this church is doing because she believes in how we are involved in the community.

She is doing this because she has the gift of giving. If the Holy Spirit has given you the gift of giving the new give above and beyond even what you are able to do because it brings you great joy. In the last church that I served there was a gentleman who came to the church who owned his own business. He provided any church in the Denver area a copier at cost or even below his cost if they needed it to do God's work. He told me he did this because he felt blessed, and he wanted to pass that blessing on to

others and he just loved to give away his service.

One day he came into my office and said he was close to bankruptcy. I said maybe that's because you keep giving away your stuff instead of charging! He said, "But Jeff, I just can't help myself. I would rather go broke than not be able to give." I felt compelled to remind him that if he went broke, he would not be able to give. But soon after that his business turned around again, and he even called me all the way down here in Durango when I first came to this church and asked if there is any way he could provide for our copier needs. Unfortunately, there was no logistical way for him to do that, but that is the spiritual gift of giving and it is remarkable to see.

### **SLIDE      Leadership**

The Greek root for the word leadership that Paul uses literally means, "to stand before or to stand in front of." The biblical leader is one who stands in front of the church or the congregation and looks ahead to see what others might not be able to see. They see the opportunities that no one else had considered. And they see how God might be at work down the road in the church. Not only are they visionaries who can see what no one else had considered, but they are also capable of inspiring people to follow. When they exercised leadership, people wanted to follow that leadership and they wanted to tackle the challenges that the leader held in front of them. The people were motivated and inspired by the biblical leaders who had the gift of leadership.

Leadership is a great gift and there are many in our congregation with this gift. You are not just leaders out in the world in your workplace and in the community, but the Holy Spirit gifted you specifically for the task God has in store for you here. Several of you have used that gift to inspire this church to add new services, worship in different ways, launch new ministries, and even look at new places where we can start faith

communities, like in Three Springs. Leaders are willing to try things and fail because they believe God is the one doing the leading.

What is really amazing about the spiritual gift of leadership is that when people come up with a crazy plan like a new ministry such as Native Hope, they don't simply look at me as the pastor and say, "Now what are YOU going to do about it?" Instead, these leaders came up with a plan and as strategized so others would come on board and see the vision as well. It's a beautiful and awesome thing when you see the gift of leadership exercised in the church.

### **SLIDE      Compassion/Mercy**

Finally, we come to the spiritual gift of compassion or mercy. This word compassion is derived from the word "paticum" which means, "to suffer with." The truth is that all who follow Jesus are called to be compassionate. As a pastor, I consider myself a compassionate person, but I do not have the spiritual gift of compassion. I know many people in our congregation who do have the spiritual gift. Many of our care ministers have this gift. Most of our hospital visitors have this gift. Those of you who help out in our prayer ministry and who are on our prayer chain or serve as Stephen Ministers have this spiritual gift.

When we have the spiritual gift of compassion, and we are sitting with someone who is hurting, our heart aches for them. Not only do we ache for them, but you weep with them. I have been with some of you as you have been listening to someone who is hurting, and I watched tears come down your face because you have the gift of compassion.

Pastor Karen is with us two more weeks and she has this gift and I watch as people come in the church office during the week who need someone to care for them and her heart goes out to them. Our new director of Caring Ministries, Julia Griffith, has this gift. People with this gift have helped to start and staff and volunteer with our 17 different

caring ministries. You pray as you knit these prayer blankets that we give to people who were in the hospital suffering with an illness or who are at home and are not able to get out. This is an amazing and beautiful gift to have.

These are just a handful of the spiritual gifts that the Holy Spirit gives to those of us who say yes to Jesus Christ. I believe there are many, many more than these. Paul names many of them throughout his letters. There are more than 20 named in the New Testament. We have people in this church who are gifted with creating video or taking photographs. Now, there is no spiritual gift listed in Scripture for this, but I am convinced that the Holy Spirit has gifted some of you to do this. Some have a spiritual gift of technology, and the Holy Spirit is at work in them helping to connect people online.

What I know is that God has given you just the right tool at just the right time to accomplish his purposes in our midst. What does this mean for you and for me that we have each been given spiritual gifts? I want to explore this with you for just a few minutes. I want to look at an implication for the church an implication for you in your personal life. First let's look at the church.

### **SLIDE      The Tale of Two Churches**

There are two models for doing church when you look at American Christianity. The first one is what we will call the chaplaincy model of the church. This is how I was trained in seminary to function as a pastor. Typically, in the chaplaincy model of the church, the pastor is THE minister. When the congregation gets bigger, they call the Pastor the Senior Minister, and they go out and they find Associate Ministers who are good at specific ministries. It is very clear that the pastor is the minister.

### **SLIDE      Who is the minister of the Chaplaincy Church?    THE PASTOR**

Here is how that relationship works. The pastor, who is the minister,



is to know every one of their flock by name. They are supposed to know everyone's needs, and when there is a problem, the pastor shows up. When someone in the church goes in a hospital, the pastor is there. When anyone in the congregation is in need, it is up to the pastor to minister to them. The congregation turns to their pastor for Ministry.

In a smaller church this often means that the pastor does everything. I know pastors who change the oil in a church van and who clean the restrooms. I know pastors who paint their church, and they paint the Parsonage, and they mow the church lawn. They also visit everyone in the hospital, and they visit every new person who visits the church. They pretty much are responsible for doing everything when it comes to Ministry. The relationship is that the people come, and they put their money in the offering plate. With their offerings they paid the salary of the pastor, and he was their paid minister. Often it was recognized that the pastor of course could not do everything and be in more than one place at once, so some people would volunteer to teach Sunday school or to do some chores around the church.

I was visiting once with a pastor who is a friend of mine who served a church like this. He was preaching a sermon on evangelism and was challenging his congregation. He said to them, "I want you to go out this week and talk to your unchurched friends and invite them to come to worship because we are going to have an invite a friend Sunday next week. It is important that you do this because as followers of Jesus we have to reach out."

That next week he was at a car dealership that was owned by one of the members of his church. The member said to him, "I just don't get it. Sunday, you told us that we were supposed to go out and invite our friends and bring in lost people the church."

He went on and said, "Listen pastor, I don't tell you to come down



here and do my job and sell cars for me. Why are you expecting me to do your job and invite people to Christ for you? That is YOUR job. You are our paid minister, and you are the one who is supposed to bring people to Christ, not me."

I will tell you that often here at Summit Church I fall into the trap of doing Ministry using this model. This is how I was trained to do Ministry. I often find myself trying to memorize everyone's name even though we have more than 1000 people who call this their church home. For the first couple of years here I attended every committee meeting and I tried to visit everyone in the hospital. I had on my calendar every single church function. My job was to be everything.

It didn't matter if I had a family function or some responsibility at home because my job was to be the chaplain and to take care of every person's need. Let me let you in on a little secret. Every pastor I know is a people pleaser. We want everyone to like us and, even more importantly, we have to feel needed. After all, you do pay our salary and so I should be at your beck and call, right?

But after a while that begins to wear you out and you begin to lose your mind. It is why the average career span of a pastor in America today is three years. It used to be 5 when I started in ministry 30 years ago. I'm not talking about pastors moving every 3 years, but literally pastors leave Ministry and go do something else because they get worn out. Pastors are the number one most expensive group to provide health insurance because we often don't take care of ourselves and we are ranked as having more terminal and stress related illnesses than any other vocation, including doctors and firefighters and police officers.

It's not that people don't jump in and want to help. It is that we pastors tend to only let the church get as big as we can wrap our arms around. As many people as I can know by name and as many activities as I

can go to and that is it—that is as big is the church is allowed to get. That is it. It is suffocating and at some point I have to decide, “Am I going to keep this church small enough so I can keep my arms around it, and I can know every person who's here and everything that is going on, or am I going to let God do whatever what God wants to do with his church and let it go.” This is true not just for me, but for each of our staff as they can get caught in this trap as well.

Let me let you in on another secret. I need a consultation with God, or my wife, on a regular basis. When I really stop and listen, I sense God saying, “You know what Huber? You are expendable!”

That is a terrible thing to hear from God, but it's also the truth! “You see Jeff, you are just a pastor. You are just one small part of this. The people are the ministers. You have one specific job to play the church, but the church is the people let loose in Ministry. There was a church long before you were born and there will be one long after you die. Get over yourself!”

And when I read the Scriptures, I see that is what it is supposed to look like. Every once in a while, someone will come to me and say that this church is too big. The early church was really a house church and only had a few people in it. Yes and no. There certainly were small churches that met in people's homes.

But do you remember the very first church in Christianity? It was in Jerusalem. Do you remember how many people joined on opening day? 3000 people signed up! Do you remember that within weeks there could have been as many as 10,000? I am just guessing at that because the Bible said 5000 men and when you include women and children I am guessing at that number.

You think Peter knew all those people's names? Of course not. At this point there are 12 disciples because they have replaced Judas, and do

you think those 12 new everyone's name? Probably not. In fact, the people started to grumble and were upset with the disciples because the church had grown so big and the widows and older members were not been taken care of and that there were many tasks in a church that were not getting done.

Then the disciples looked around and they noticed the Holy Spirit had gifted all the members of the church and they began to let loose of the Ministry and give it to the people. As apostles, they began to focus on preaching the gospel and providing leadership, especially in worship. The laity became ministers and that was the power of the New Testament church.

**SLIDE      Who are the ministers of the Biblical Model of the Church?  
THE PEOPLE**

In Acts chapter 2 versus 43 and following you find that the people gathered daily to minister to one another. They did not wait for the apostles to show up. They prayed for one another, and they blessed one another, and they encouraged one another. They used all the gifts of the Holy Spirit gave to do Ministry together for Christ.

Then the Apostles one out and started to churches and other places. That is what the New Testament church look like early on. That has implications for each one of us personally. It means something very important. Are you ready? Every one of you, when you became a follower of Jesus, was called by God to be a minister. When you are baptized, you are baptized into Ministry, and not into the pew. I am one of your pastors and I have a very specific role in the body of Christ, but each of you are ministers.

This means we have over 700 ministers at Summit Church. I'm amazed at some of the Ministry that I see some of you doing when you ae at work and when you are serving in the community and when you're in

your home. Every week we gather for a little minister's conference, called worship. We sing and we pray, and we praise God, and we encourage you to go back out and discover how God has gifted you so that you can be the best minister you can be and be empowered by the Holy Spirit to actually go out and do Ministry. That is what the church is supposed to look like.

**SLIDE      Are you equipped to be a Minister?**

Some of you are now saying, "Enough already pastor Jeff! I get it. I am supposed to go out and be a minister. I understand that when I became a Christian the Holy Spirit gave me a gift, but how do I find out what my gift is? I don't know what it is. How do you know what it is and then what you were supposed to do with it? How do you figure this out?"

That is a great question and there are three ways you can discover your spiritual gift. The great thing is when you discover how God has gifted you, you also begin to discover your purpose in life. God gave you a gift and there is a reason God gave it to you. The first way in the most reliable one really is that you stumble upon it.

**SLIDE      Stumble upon your gift!**

You simply try a few things until you find what works. You see a need and you try to meet that need because maybe God help you see that need because that is how your gifted. I read once a piece of research by the Barna Institute which said that it takes the average church person seven tries to find the Ministry that brings them the most joy. That means if you figure it out on the first try there is someone who is going to take 14 times!

The problem is that we live in a microwave culture, and we all want to find the answer right away. But the reality is that you have to simply try some things and not be afraid to say, "Well that didn't work let me try something else."

So, you see something on the website or on VOMO, our online volunteer hub, that is a need and try it. This can be very exciting because you can stumble across something and go, “Wow—this is great! I never knew how much fun this would be. That was so cool. I was so motivated by that. I felt such joy and I can't wait to go back.”

The problem with that method is when you try something out that you are not particularly gifted in, it can be miserable. So, you try this one and this one and you might get to number 99, and you are so discouraged by that time you are ready to give up. Many of us sign up for something and we show up for the first time and then we hate it. I get members who call at times and say, “I can't stand what I'm doing. Is there anything else I can do?” Then, we get embarrassed, and we don't want to admit to anyone that we don't like it and so we just stop coming to church so we don't have to deal with it.

### **SLIDE      Online Spiritual Gifts Inventory**

Another way to discover your spiritual gifts is to take our spiritual gifts discovery inventory online. The test is very simple and painless. You answer some questions and at the end you tally your score. After you take the inventory, you will get a report and one will go to one of our staff members who will follow up with you on opportunities we may have to use your gifts.

The thrust of the teaching on spiritual gifts in the New Testament is that being in Ministry is sheer joy if you are serving according to your gifts. I believe God longs for us to use the gifts that God and the Holy Spirit have given you for Ministry in the world and in the church. If you get nothing else out of this sermon, I hope you will get this. When you became a follower of Jesus Christ, you were ordained through your baptism to be a minister of the gospel.

The second thing I want you to remember is that when you became

a follower of Jesus, the Holy Spirit came to live inside of you. The Holy Spirit not only came to live inside of you, but he gave you certain, extraordinary gifts that were meant to help build up the body of Christ and to be useful for God's purposes in the world.

The third thing that I want you to remember is that the role of pastors, according to Ephesians chapter 4 verses 11 and following, is to not to be the minister but to equip the Saints for the work of Ministry in a church. You are the Saints, and my job is to equip you to do Ministry so that you can build up the body of Christ and be Jesus Christ and the world.

The fourth thing I want to remember is that when you discover your spiritual gifts and you use them, Ministry happens, and joy comes in your life. Each of you has different talents that you were born with. You are like my Philips or Flathead screwdriver that I used to assemble the desk. Those are things I already had. You have things that you already have like talents and skills and abilities. When the Holy Spirit came in your life there were tools that he gave you as well, new ones to be used in your life.

Let me end with this. Each week I feel privileged and excited to gather for worship as Summit Church with hundreds of ministers online and in person. What would happen if we all realized the power that is inside each of us? We are high-powered ministers? We are a group of highly motivated and highly gifted people. What would happen if all of us experienced the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives, and were inspired to unwrap our spiritual gift and go into the world every day to serve God and to minister and be the presence of Jesus in the world? 12 disciples launched the church around the world. What would happen if all of us were consumed by that Holy Spirit? Would you pray about that together with me now?

**SLIDE      Prayer**

*Oh God, we give you thanks and praise you have called us to be in*

*Ministry with you—that your highest purpose in our life is not the job that we work, or worked, from eight to five, though it may be a part of your purpose for our life. But your highest and best purpose for us is that we might fit into your plan, do your will, that we might exercise the gifts your Holy Spirit gave to us, and we might share the good news of Jesus Christ, that we might minister to brothers and sisters both within and outside of our church.*

*We thank you that for the gift of your Holy Spirit so that we are not doing this by ourselves. You gave us power from on high. You gave us tools to equip us for the task, and you gave us this church where we can gather together to minister and to grow and to serve. Help us unleash the power of your church. Help us to discern your will for our lives and help us to serve you day by day. In your holy name we pray. Amen.*

## **June 21-22 Order**

1. Ely Welcomes people
2. Two Songs
3. Prayer and Lord's Prayer
4. Welcome by Jeff and invite people to wave and be seated.
5. Invite children to go to Summit Kids.
6. Connect bag.
7. Announcements by Jeff (Check News Section on Website)
  - New Caring Ministries Director
  - VBS Volunteers needed
8. Invite congregation to prepare their hearts for the message.
9. Video bumper plays.
10. Sermon
11. Prayer after sermon
12. 1 Song of Worship
13. Prayer
14. Meditation Moment reminder by Jeff
15. Closing Prayer