

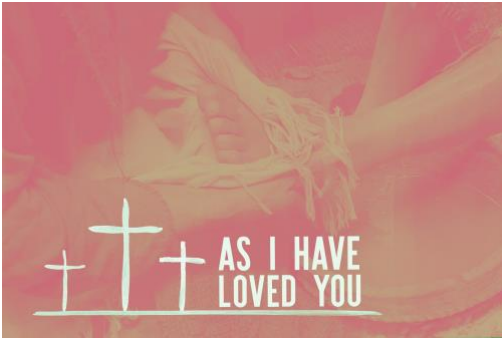
## Sermon #10: Spiritual Gifts pt 2

June 25, 2023

Text: [1 Peter 4:1-11](#)

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### Sermon Open

In the 10th sermon in our series on the Family of God, we look at the significance of spiritual gifts and their use in the body of Christ. We navigate how we can discover, develop and deploy these gifts in faithful and courageous service to the Church. Last we we took a thorough look at Spiritual gifts from [1 Corinthians 12](#), including the various categories and phases of the gifts. As well as dispelling some common myths about these gifts. Our lesson today will be more of an exhortation, based on [1 Peter 4](#), to the church to use these gifts continually and for their proper purpose among believers.

### Exposition of the Text

Peter writes the first of two recorded letters to the church from his role as both an Apostle and a Pastor. He writes 1 Peter toward the end of his life, to exhort local churches that are facing an increasing hostility toward believers from a suspicious Roman citizenship. In the first 11 verses of 1 Peter 4, we see many of the themes we see throughout the letter including how God has worked for His people through Jesus, how believers should pursue holiness because of what Jesus has completed for them, and how the church should live as resident aliens in this fallen world. A term that describes a life that is not overcome by the corruption of the world but that also remains engaged in the world as ambassadors for Jesus. Peter points the church to continually look to Jesus the Christ ([v1-2](#)) and by abiding with him, ask for His way of life to be our own. Because Christ has died for sin, those who follow him should consider themselves dead TO sin. This doesn't mean that we will be without sin, but that we should consider sinful acts to be behind us. Peter further teaches that we express our identity through our holiness ([v3-6](#)). While the world will be surprised that a believer refuses to do the same lawless activities they do (including acts of sexual immorality, over-drinking, and a pursuit of worldly passions) they will also criticize and shame believers for their abstaining from sin. This may even mean suffering for the Christian, but we are to remember that ultimately God will judge all people; and that is why the Gospel must be preached to everyone.

### Entrusted Gifts

The third exhortation from Peter is that **every believer should be faithful and courageous with God's gifts of divine power, entrusted to each of them**. Each believer has a gift from the LORD, a portion of His power in their life to glorify Him and to build up the church. The instructions for a believer to use their spiritual gifts within the congregation, carries the same authority as the instructions to look to Jesus and to seek to be Holy. Peter uses the term [steward](#), to remind us that we are called to faithful management of God's resources. We mismanage his gifts entrusted to us if we use them for our own purposes or if we hoard his gifts and fail to use them. We must be faithful to what He has given us by intentionally engaging in our church. This requires courage, because many people find themselves frightened at first to step out in faith.

### Discover and Develop

Many people ask how they can know what their gifts are. One popular answer is a spiritual gifts test. But the best way to discover your gifts is to abide with Christ in prayer at the same time you are serving your church in whatever opportunity is presented to you. As you serve, God will direct and lead you. Through the process of prayer and service, God will reveal how He has designed for you to serve and to develop your gifts further. While on the earth, Jesus remained close to His Father in prayer, hearing and see what He needed to do ([John 5:19, 12:49-50](#)). This is the pattern that we should follow.