

EMBRACING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Rev. Veronica Barnes

*You are an
Extraordinary Gift!*



If you thought spiritual gifts were only for the super-spiritual and maybe you don't quite measure up, think again.

2 Peter 4:10 states that "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

That verse says "Each of You" not "Some of You."

The goal of Women's Ministry at Greater Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church is to insure that women are ministering to women. That will require that we all operate using our spiritual gifts. If you wonder

how we are going to reach the unchurched, it will be by teaching the word of God. Teaching is one example of the use of a spiritual Gift.

There are also other gifts that can be used. God distributes gifts to each person, just as he determines. Right in the middle of explaining spiritual gifts to a group of believers in 1 Corinthians 12, Paul says that spiritual gifts are distributed to "each one."

The truth is, most people have more than one spiritual gift. If you have been unexposed to spiritual gifts, you might believe that you don't have any. To learn what your

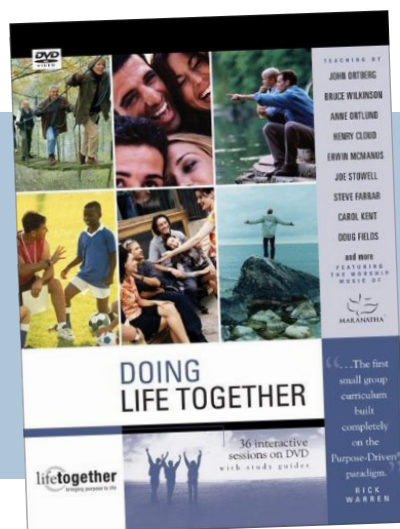
spiritual gifts are, you can take a spiritual gift inventory.

The apostle Paul wanted the Christians in Corinth to be informed. Spiritual gifts aren't about you measuring up to some perceived standard. You don't have to prove anything. You have been given a gift or a combination of gifts by God to show the world who He is through you. God isn't asking you to put on a show. He doesn't want you to be afraid of having to perform by using your spiritual gifts. He's asking you to receive the gifts He has given you and let Him do His work through you.

My personal thought is "I have never been concerned about what people think about me. I am concerned about how God feels about what I am doing with what he has given me."

God is the one that we all will answer to. Make sure your salvation is complete.

You are an Extraordinary gift from God! 🙌



CHURCH WIDE BIBLE STUDY

This Fall our Small Groups are doing a DVD study called "Doing Life Together," based on Rick Warren's book, *The Purpose Driven Life*.

If you have questions, please email Katrena Williams at Katre67@bellsouth.net. 🙌

Stewardship UPDATE

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WHAT ARE YOU COMMITTED TO?

There are 3 Be's of Commitment

There are close to 100 million Church members in America and yet, why are we not making more of a moral and spiritual impact? Why is it that on Sunday morning, hundreds of churches have empty pews? Why are so many churches having just a few at service on Wednesday and Sunday nights?



Now God knows if you can't be at Church for whatever the reason (and He knows the reason). Or if you could be here and you're not. (He knows that too!)

The Holy Bible is the inspired, inerrant word of God, and yet, why is it that so few read it? If God is a prayer answering God, (and He is) and if He meant for us to ask, seek, and knock, then why is so little praying going on? If you and I believe there is a heaven and hell, why do we keep so quiet about the gospel? If we believe that there is none other name under Heaven whereby we must be saved, then why are we not sharing the message of His saving grace? I'll tell you why—there's a lack of commitment!

1 Be Committed to God

(John. 3:16) "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that

whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (Mark 12:30) "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment." (Matt. 6:33), "But seek ye first the kingdom of God; and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

- Real commitment does not have an on and off switch. Real commitment is not a Sunday thing. It's 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, with no vacations or off days. You are the same person on Monday through Saturday as you are on Sunday.
- If we are really committed to God, it will show. Others will see the fruits of your commitment.

(continued)

From the Pastor's Pen | Dr. Michael W. Wesley, Sr.

(From the Pastor's Pen, continued)

2 Be Committed to Family

(Ephesians 5:22) “Wives, submit yourselves unto your husbands, as unto the Lord. Husbands love your wives, even as Christ also loved the Church, and gave Himself for it.” No wonder that 50% of all marriages end in divorce. Children see no commitment to family from their parents.

How long since you kissed your spouse and told them, “I love you?” When was the last time you bought your spouse a gift for no reason? Don't you think it's about time?

How about your mom or dad, your sister, your brother, or your children? Have you let them know how much they mean to you? Teach your family by your own example.

The Bible defines the way a family should be. (Col. 3:18-20) “Wives, submit yourselves



unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them. Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.”

A husband has no problem loving a submissive wife. A wife has no problem being submissive to a loving husband. Children will love and honor parents who love them and teach them.

3 Be Committed to Your Church

This consists of 4 things:

A Committed to church attendance

(Heb. 10: 25) “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.” Does your family need to ask “are we going to church today?”

Sundayitis epidemic: Sneeze and back to bed you go, but on Monday grab a hanky and go to work. Just too tired on Sunday night. When you get too busy to go to church, you are too busy. Wednesday night too many things to do. God can take some things away, so you won't have an excuse.

B Committed to church growth

How many people did you talk to this week? How many did you talk to about Christ? How many friends did you

invite this week? Didn't have the time? Not committed to Church growth!

C Committed to church needs

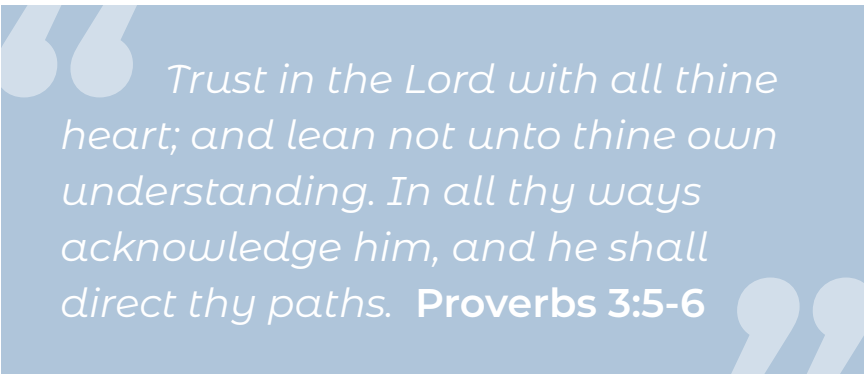
(Mal. 3: 8-10) “Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.” Uh oh, there's that TITHING word. We need to be committed, to giving to the church. It's more than tithing, it's supporting the Church, with our love, our prayers, our time, our availability, and our finances! The ministries or programs don't just happen by themselves. We need to be committed.

Let me tell you a story using four typical Church Members. I'll name them: Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody. There was an important job to do and everybody thought that somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it but none of them did it, so it didn't get done. Somebody got angry because it was everybody's job. Everybody thought for sure that somebody would do it, but

nobody asked anybody. In the end the job wasn't done, and everybody blamed somebody when nobody asked anybody. Trust God, and just do it. He is the one that gives the increase!

D Committed to soul winning

(Pr. 11:30) “The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.” (Matt. 28:19) “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.” Some



may say: I can't talk to people about the Lord, but they have no problem talking about anything else. Some may say: I don't know enough about the Bible. 🌐

Prayerfully yours,
Dr. Michael W. Wesley, Sr.
Pastor, Greater Shiloh
Missionary Baptist Church

WHY OPTIMIZATION?

Definition:

An act, process, or methodology of making something (such as a design, system, or decision) as fully perfect, functional, or effective as possible.

*The action of making the best or most effective use of a situation or resource.

Purpose:

The purpose of optimization is to achieve the “best” design relative to a set of prioritized criteria or constraints.

Origin:

Comes from the same root as “optimal,” which means best. When you optimize something, you are “making it the best.”

Factors:

Productivity, strength, input, reliability, longevity, efficiency, utilization.

Techniques:

Analyze, strategize, account, conduct, produce.

Another Word:

Adjust, boost, develop, heighten, hone, upgrade, augment, edit, polish, rectify, perfect, better, set right, advance, correct, enhance, help, improve, purify, lift, revamp, pick up, shape up, sharpen, modify, amend, increase, progress, reform, revise, rise, cultivate, elevate, touch up, turn the corner, expansion, ameliorate, maximize.

Optimistic:

Expecting the best possible outcome from any given situation. Belief, hope, positive, favorable, desirable.

Optimism:

A mental attitude reflecting a belief or hope that the

outcome of some specific endeavor, or outcomes in general, will be positive, favorable and desirable.

Application:

Craig Groeschel, Senior Pastor of Life Church, during the 2018 Global Leadership Summit used the term GETMO which he described as: “To look always for the greatest level of return based on time, money, and energy.”

Role:

To help the congregation, all who are involved, get the most out of the event.

Results:

Streamlined ministries. Reduced risks. Well-utilized resources and consistency. 🌐