

GIFTED

Be brave enough to share your God-given gift, so that you and everyone else can see God's goodness in you.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ Matthew 5:14-16 (NLT) says:
You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.
- ❖ What we read above is called “The Sermon on the Mount”, where Jesus sits with His disciples on a mountainside and shares His knowledge with them.
- ❖ In this sermon, Jesus teaches them – and us – that we are the light of the world. We must be a light!
- ❖ But today’s message isn’t called *lighted*, it’s called *gifted*. So, you may wonder, what does “being a light” have to do with gifts? Fair question, but hang on for a few moments as we make the connection.
- ❖ Fast forward to 1 Corinthians 12. Paul, an apostle of Jesus, mentions gifts that are given to us – spiritual gifts: giving wise advice, special knowledge, healing, performing miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, speaking in various tongues, and others (vv. 4-11).
- ❖ We also see in Romans 12 that God has made available to us the gift of service, of showing kindness, and even the gift of giving!
- ❖ The point is that God has made a multitude of spiritual gifts available to us and, believe it or not, has blessed each one of us with a gift. (Note: the word “gift” is used in the Bible over 100 times!)
- ❖ We understand that we’re given many gifts in this life. And gifts are good things – good to receive, but just as good, if not better, to give and share with others.
- ❖ In the world of education, when we hear someone is “gifted” we often think of a student who’s talented or has advanced intellectual abilities.
- ❖ But – students, parents, teachers, church – as we enter into a new school year, a new season, let’s extend our understanding of being gifted.
- ❖ For some, our gift may take us into the world of athletics, music, or art. Others may be talented negotiators, leaders, or creators.
- ❖ Students, as you think of your gift(s), what your gift(s) could be, please understand that gift(s) do not exempt you from your responsibilities.
- ❖ If your gift takes you to the soccer field, give it your all on the field, but be sure to also give it your all in the classroom – and both you and God know when you truly give your best effort.
- ❖ Parents, guardians: the end result of someone’s unique gifts may not be a doctor, lawyer, or engineer.

KEY SCRIPTURES:

Matthew 5:14-16, 7:11; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; Romans 12:6-8; Ephesians 4:7

- ❖ These are three amazing careers where God can do a great work through us. But let’s continue to support one another even if our gift(s) lead us to a road less exalted
- ❖ Now, why would Jesus call on you – a 6th grader about to start middle school; a senior trying to figure out what to do after high school; a young adult in your 20s, 30s, 40s (yes, you!) and beyond, still trying to figure out this thing called life – to be a light?
- ❖ Well, this world has shown us that it can be a pretty dark place. If we’re not careful, we can become overwhelmed with the illness, poverty, violence, hatred and flat-out foolishness that just doesn’t seem to stop. The easy thing to do might be to just accept it as it is, because, “That’s just the way it is.” Or, “What can do I about it?”
- ❖ But remember, the Word of God says God “has given each one of us a special gift through the generosity of Christ”. And if we know that God’s Word is true, and that God is good, and that gifts are good, would a good God give good gifts to us for us not to do good things with them?
- ❖ Many of us may still be trying to figure out what the Lord has called us to do. And that’s okay! If we faithfully, patiently, bravely explore our talents and passions, and are honest with ourselves as to how it aligns with God’s will, we’ll discover what God has called us to do.
- ❖ So, how do we know if what we’re doing is in line with God’s will? If there’s no sin in it! Check your conscience – that little inner voice that knows right from wrong, -- and consider God’s Word.
- ❖ As we go back into our school, workplace, communities, into the new chapters of our lives with this truth, let’s be a light in our world. Let’s be brave enough to share our God-given gifts, so that God’s goodness can be seen in us.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 mentions gifts, ministries and workings. How do these products of the Spirit help us to be lights in our world?
2. In what area(s) do you feel most gifted? (For inspiration, read Rom. 12; 1 Cor 12; Eph. 4:7,11; 1 Pet. 4:10-11, but also consider other giftings.)

PRAYER TIME

God, Your Word is true. You are good and so are the gifts You give. Help me to use mine well, to be a light. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Start-up: Think of someone you admire for their talents. Would you say they use them to benefit others? Why or why not?

WEEK OF SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 2022

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week’s message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) ☁️ (Think about)

! (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↔️ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline