

Lesson 74: Wednesday March 15, 2017

DISCUSSION GUIDE

**Q113. What is a spiritual gift?**

A spiritual gift is a God-given capacity through which the Holy Spirit supernaturally ministers for the good of the Church unto God’s glory.

**Q114. Are all the biblical spiritual gifts given still?**

No, God used certain gifts for a particular purpose and time in human history. God still does miracles, but the gifts that have ceased to be given by God to individuals are the miraculous and revelatory gifts: Apostle of Christ, prophecy, speaking in tongues, interpreting tongues, and miracle worker.

1. Read our catechism definition/summary of **Spiritual Gift:** *A God-given capacity through which the Holy Spirit supernaturally ministers for the good of the church unto God’s glory. The world tries to counterfeit gifts to confuse, mislead, and cause chaos; therefore, we must understand what gifts remain, distinguish real gifts, and exercise our gifts in truth. God still does miracles, but the miraculous and revelatory gifts seen in the Old and New Testaments have ceased with the completion of Scripture and the end of the office of Apostles of Christ in the first century. Remaining gifts for the church today include glorious things like service, teaching, exhortation, generosity, leadership, acts of mercy, proclamation of God's truths, and faith.*

The definition starts by saying, “A God-given capacity through which the Holy Spirit supernaturally ministers for the good of the church unto God’s glory.” In the first part of the teaching tonight, we broke down the various part of this statement in detail.

1. What parts of this was new clarity to you?
2. What passages help you see God’s design and will for these gifts?
3. On the next page is a list of many spiritual gifts the New Testament Scripture speaks to that remain today. Take some time to look back at the short explanation for each, given in your Handout (page #3) and then discuss, with specific examples, how each of us can/should be using each gift listed. Additionally, share with the group which gift(s) you feel you have been given advanced ability in and what makes you say this.
* Administration
* Service
* Teaching
* Exhortation
* Evangelism
* Faith
* Generosity
* Leadership
* Acts of Mercy
* Prophecy (Proclaiming previous revelation [Scripture in our time] of God)
1. Next in our catechism definition/summary of **Spiritual Gift**, it says,“The world tries to counterfeit gifts to confuse, mislead, and cause chaos; therefore, we must understand what gifts remain, distinguish real gifts, and exercise our gifts in truth.”
2. Why is it important that we understand what gifts remain and distinguish real gifts?
3. Next in our catechism definition/summary of **Spiritual Gift**, it says, “God still does miracles, but the miraculous and revelatory gifts seen in the Old and New Testaments have ceased with the completion of Scripture and the end of the office of Apostles of Christ in the first century.”
4. A helpful understanding of a true miracle is the occurrence of *something supernatural (beyond scientific understanding or the laws of nature)*. Which of these should be considered a miracle? (Not all of them are.)

-If God made the sun stand still.

-If someone is healed instantaneously of cancer that is surely killing them.

-The birth of a child.

1. We saw tonight that the primary purpose of the ability given to a person to do miracles has always been to confirm the credentials of a divinely appointed messenger (to establish the credibility of one who speaks for God). Since God is not speaking divine revelation to/through anyone any longer, what should we do when we hear someone claim the ability to do miracles?
2. The fourth proof for cessationism given in the lesson was the nature of the New Testament miraculous gifts compared to the so-called “charismatic gifts” claimed today. What did you learn from this point about what Scripture commands for the miraculous and revelatory gifts?
3. If applicable, share with your group what changes you personally need to make regarding trusting people claiming miraculous and revelatory gifts or seeking to do these things yourself?