

A Gift For You That's Not Really For You

Discovering your Spiritual Gifts is the first step to figuring out your **S.H.A.P.E.** for serving others. This Sunday in worship, we will start with the letter "S" and talk about Spiritual Gifts. We will look at questions like: Who has them? Who gives them to us? Do we get to choose our spiritual gifts?

One question I'll go ahead and address is: Who are spiritual gifts designed to benefit? Well, at first glance, we may think they are for us. And in one sense they are specially made for us, because we are each uniquely gifted by God. We should not desire someone else's gifts or compare our gifts to someone else, because all of the gifts are important.

But ultimately, the spiritual gifts we've been given are not really for us. They are actually given to us for the benefit of others. Spiritual gifts are meant to be used to build up the Body of Christ - that is, the Church. So when I neglect to use my spiritual gift(s), guess who it hurts? That's right, you, the Body of Christ. And when you neglect to use your spiritual gift(s), who does it hurt? The Body of Christ.

One goal as we begin to go through the S.H.A.P.E. series is to help everyone discover and put in to practice their spiritual gift(s). In order to get that process started, I'm going to ask a BIG FAVOR of you:

This Sunday, we will have Spiritual Gifts Surveys available at the Welcome Center Desk and the table in Fellowship Hall. Would you take time to complete the inventory section on Spiritual Gifts (pages 2-7)? The instructions for the inventory are on page 2.

Also, a Spiritual Gifts Summary, which describes the types of gifts that all believers in Christ possess; will be posted on the bulletin board across from the office. See you Sunday!

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor David