

# LIFE GROUP GUIDE

Message Series: Spiritual Matters

Message Title: Don't Live In Spiritual Poverty

Date: May 3, 2026

Speaker: Curtis House

## AT A GLANCE

### SCRIPTURE

1 Cor. 6:19; Eze. 36:27; Rom. 7:15, 8:1, 8:16; Jn. 14:12-14; 1 Pet. 1:15; Gal. 5:22-23; Eph. 3:20-21

### APPLICATION - THE HOLY SPIRIT WITHIN US...

- Is at war with the flesh
- Reveals our sonship
- Expects greater things
- Reveals freedom from sin
- Brings us to fruitfulness
- Gives us gifts

## DISCUSSION & APPLICATION

Read Ezekiel 36:27 and 1 Corinthians 6:19.

### 1. Discuss Sunday's application points. Which is God stirring in your heart to develop more right now?

Read John 14:12-14 and Ephesians 3:20-21. We have vast resources given to each of us by the Holy Spirit. Don't live at the spiritual poverty level.

### 2. What does spiritual poverty mean to you? Have you ever lived in spiritual poverty?

<u>Fruit of the Spirit</u>	<u>Gifts of the Spirit</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Galatians 5:22-23</li><li>• Shows maturity</li><li>• Shows character</li><li>• Produced by the Holy Spirit</li><li>• Evidence of the Holy Spirit within us</li><li>• Essential!</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rom. 12:6-8; 1 Cor. 12:7-11, Eph. 4:11-12</li><li>• Shows ministry</li><li>• Shows purpose</li><li>• Given to us as the Holy Spirit determines</li><li>• Building up of the church, serving, and glorifying God</li><li>• Essential!</li></ul>

### 3. What's more important - people witnessing a miracle or being a witness for Christ?

## GOING DEEPER - PAUSE, PONDER, PRAY

If you would like to know more about how God has gifted you from the gifts in Romans 12:6-8, you can complete the assessment on the following pages.

# DISCOVERING MY GIFTING

## Gifts of the Holy Spirit - Romans 12:6-8

**For each question write:**

**3-Very Often / 2-Sometimes / 1-Not Very Often / 0-Never**

\_\_\_1. I can be easily affected by the emotions or moods of others around me.

\_\_\_2. It is easy for me to set and achieve long-range goals.

\_\_\_3. Money-making ideas generally come easily for me, and I have successfully made money with these ideas.

\_\_\_4. I enjoy reading and tend to spend hours in study to gain knowledge on the things I'm interested in.

\_\_\_5. I easily remember people's names and what they like and dislike.

\_\_\_6. When others are talking, I tend to immediately give my input rather than listen to what the others have to say.

\_\_\_7. I have a positive outlook and find it easy to see the good in bad situations.

\_\_\_8. I am drawn to people in distress and resist people who hurt others.

\_\_\_9. I can easily organize people to get a job done. I readily see how their talents/skills fit into the whole picture.

\_\_\_10. It is easy for me to recognize the needs of others. I desire to meet that person's needs regardless of how much money I might have to give up.

\_\_\_11. When I hear someone speak, I often question where they got their information and want to "read it for myself."

\_\_\_12. When I see that someone around me has a need, I look for practical ways I can help meet that person's needs.

\_\_\_13. It is easy for me to tell the sincerity of a person's actions and to "see" their character.

\_\_\_14. It bothers me when a person does not respond to my comments with warmth and acceptance.

\_\_\_15. It is difficult for me to be firm with people who are hurting even when it is necessary.

\_\_\_16. It is easy for me to take charge of a group project when I am given the responsibility.

\_\_\_17. When I give money to a person who has a need, it is important to me to know how that person used my money and if the need was met.

\_\_\_18. It is easy for me to see what others are doing wrong and take necessary steps to correct their problem.

\_\_\_19 I have a hard time saying “no” to people when they ask me to do something, even if I don’t have time.

\_\_\_20. I will stand up to friends and family if I have a different opinion from them.

\_\_\_21. I like to help people who are going through a tough emotional situation.

\_\_\_22. I can quickly and easily tell whether people and their motives are sincere.

\_\_\_23. I would rather organize the work of others than actually do the work myself.

\_\_\_24. The amount I give to meet a person’s need is important to me. My desire is to give enough to meet the full amount of the need.

\_\_\_25. I feel that my opinion about a matter is the best and it is difficult to change my position unless presented with factual information that would convince me otherwise.

\_\_\_26. I have trouble fitting all my commitments into my schedule. I am often over-committed.

\_\_\_27. It angers me when I see the faults of individual Christians or the church.

\_\_\_28. Non-practical information frustrates me. Information that is useless for real life frustrates me.

\_\_\_29. I find it hard to be around or relate to people who are not sensitive to me or others.

\_\_\_30. I’d rather experience new situations than maintain normal routine.

\_\_\_31. It is my desire to give to any need that I am aware of more than to find out if that need is real.

\_\_\_32. I enjoy order to things and get frustrated when there is lack of order.

\_\_\_33. If a project that I am involved in is delayed, I take it upon myself to get what’s needed to get it started again.

\_\_\_34. I feel it is my duty to help people expose their sin or weakness when I see it in a person.

\_\_\_35. It is easy for me to imagine an achievement for others or myself. It challenges me to get others to accept the vision I am able to see.

# GIFT EVALUATION

Place the value you entered for each question in the box under the small number that matches that question. Then add up each row and write value in the total column.

	1	8	15	22	29	Total
<b>Mercy</b>						
<b>Leadership</b>						
<b>Giving</b>						
<b>Teaching</b>						
<b>Serving</b>						
<b>Prophecy</b>						
<b>Exhortation</b>						

List your results in order of the top three highest grades:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

## Prophecy

### **a. Biblical Example: John the Baptist**

#### **b. Key Characteristics**

- Quickly evaluates things in terms of black & white, right & wrong
- Hates routine & status quo
- Verbally expressive (obsessive / compulsive verbally expressive)
- Readily shares his/her opinion—and always has one
- Knows no fear—a basic boldness
- Inability to tolerate bondage—in themselves and others
- Bounces around ideas VERY quickly
- Has a compulsion for honesty and integrity
- Has need to “make sense” of everything
- Tends to hold “truth” over “relationship”
- Has largest range of emotions, both high and low
- Very intense, passionate, extreme, polarized

#### **c. Function in the Body of Christ**

- Points towards God
- Emphasizes Holiness
- Deposits faith in others
- Focused on helping others grow in spiritual depth
- Defends the weak

## Serving

### **a. Biblical Example: Esther**

#### **b. Key Characteristics**

- Sees needs and is quick to meet those needs
- Can have a victim spirit
- Frequently has difficulty saying no to others
- Often apologizes about their work
- Loved by everyone, has very few enemies if any
- Very willing and desirous to extend honor to others
- Tends to save stuff, though not in a particularly organized manner
- Works very hard
- Can become negligent because of multiple commitments
- Without guile—has a very pure motive

#### **c. Function in the Body of Christ**

- Accepts everyone and has ability to get them “cleaned up”
- Has no desire for “own turf,” thus they are a safe place
- Is an armor bearer

## **Teaching**

### **a. Biblical Example: Luke**

#### **b. Key Characteristics**

- Must validate the truth—going beyond the obvious
- Tells stories precisely and with precision
- Non-judgmental
- Prefers to love people into the Kingdom rather than confront
- Confidence in the Word, not people.
- Maintains a wonderful sense of humor; practical jokes
- Processes very slowly, sometimes creating tension

#### **c. Function in the Body of Christ**

- Provides spiritual food for the rest of the body
- Carefully studies and brings illumination on experiences
- Brings clarity
- Ties past, present and future by illustrating connections
- Slows down the process and keeps it on track

## **Encouraging/Exhortation**

### **a. Biblical Example: Apostle Paul**

#### **b. Key Characteristics**

- Party looking for place to happen
- Horizontally focused—very relational
- Never meets a stranger
- Easily crosses racial & social economic barriers
- Ability to understand and relate to people
- Capable of loud arguments without hard feelings
- Skilled above all others at creating and sustaining relationships  Does not like to be alone for long period of times

#### **c. Function in the Body of Christ**

- Calls individuals up to their full potential
- Stands out and draws attention to the things of God
- Safe person who willingly shares another's burden

## **Giving**

### **a. Biblical Example: Abraham**

#### **b. Key Characteristics**

- Spirit of nurture—Family environment
- Gives well, gives wisely
- Independent—stands alone—not needy
- Finds own solution
- Intuitive of unclean/hidden motives
- Very private
- Protects family reputation
- Reads the fine print
- Walks in supernatural timing
- Passionate about stewardship

#### **c. Function in the Body of Christ**

- Nurtures and protects new birth
- Provides unique perspective on the goodness of God
- Anointing for generational blessing
- Believes in stewardship based upon holiness
- Cannot be hustled or manipulated
- Relates to a large range of people
- Intuitive of unclean/hidden motives
- Very private
- Protects family reputation
- Reads the fine print
- Walks in supernatural timing
- Passionate about stewardship

## **Leading**

### **a. Biblical Example: Joseph**

#### **b. Key Characteristics**

- Motivates—gathers for a task
- Implementer—breaks down & implements vision
- Thrives under pressure
- Must have backing of leadership
- Doesn't assess blame, looks for the fix instead; will own problem
- Looks at everything to see how to make it better
- Isn't needy—but others need leader to implement

**c. Function in the Body of Christ**

- Brings order and direction—leader
- Puts framework around vision
- Brings a righteous balance to situations
- Focused on bringing people into their freedom

**Mercy.**

**a. Biblical Example: David**

**b. Key Characteristics**

- Rarely has enemies
- Admired and respected—gets along with everyone
- Very safe for wounded who will bear their entire soul to Mercy
- Seeks out rejected to minister to them
- Core emotional tie to God is enough to make life decisions
- Hates to confront—hates to hurt feelings
- Drawn to the prophetic/prophets
- Predisposition to enter in the presence of God

**c. Function in the Body of Christ**

- Provides a sense of rest / lubrication for operation of other gifts
- Easily enters into God's presence & leads others (Mercy Seat)
- Covers people's shame and nakedness—great counselors