**Introduction:** The “Extreme Makeover” Movement

1. Houses
2. Cars
3. Motorcycles
4. Pets
5. People

- **What is a “Makeover?”**

- **Why are we so fascinated by Makeovers?**
The Ultimate “Extreme Makeover”

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

- Who you used to be
  Ephesians 2:1-3

- Who you are now
  Ephesians 2:4-6

- Why God does “Extreme Makeovers”
  Ephesians 2:7-9

You are a Masterpiece in the Making

10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)

Where does God do His “Extreme Makeovers?”

- In a special community/church
  Ephesians 2: 18-22

- In your heart
  Ephesians 3:14-19
How does God do "Extreme Makeovers?"  

- He Gave spiritual gifts …

  By the ascended Christ, To every believer,
  For the profit of others, Through the Holy Spirit sovereignly;
  At the time of salvation, On the basis of grace,
  To produce the life of Christ (the “Ultimate Makeover”)
  In every believer.

Ten Principles to Understand Spiritual Gifts:

1. Every Christian has one or more spiritual gifts.

2. Many believers have received more than one spiritual gift.

3. Spiritual gifts may be given at the moment of regeneration, but they may lie undiscovered and dormant for a long period of time.

4. Spiritual gifts can be abused and neglected, but if they are received at regeneration, it would appear that they cannot be lost.

5. Spiritual gifts are not the same as the gift of the Holy Spirit.

6. Spiritual gifts are not the same as the fruit of the Spirit.

7. Spiritual gifts are not the same as natural talents.

8. Some spiritual gifts are more useful in local churches than others because they result in greater edification of the body.
9. Charismata literally means “grace gifts.” These gifts are sovereignly and undeservedly given by the Holy Spirit.

10. Gifts are God’s spiritual equipment for effective service and edification of the body.

**Conclusion:** How discovering and developing my spiritual gifts caused an “Extreme Makeover” in my life.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. In what area of your life would you like an extreme makeover?

2. What is the difference between God’s “extreme makeover” and the makeovers we do on our own?

3. On a scale of 1 to 10 how much do you know about spiritual gifts?

4. What is your primary spiritual gift? Why are spiritual gifts so important to God’s work in us?

5. What practical difference does knowing and developing your spiritual gift make?
Introduction: My Testimony

- How unwrapping my gift made a difference in my life.

- My Journey:
  - The Era of Ignorance – “I was clueless”
  - The Era of Confusion – “I was paralyzed”
  - The Era of Discovery – “I was knowledgeable”
    (I learned the 10 basic principles of spiritual gifts.)
  - The Era of Convergence – “I was empowered”
How to Discover Your Spiritual Gifts:

The Facts – Four Key Passages

- Romans 12
- Ephesians 4
- I Corinthians 12
- I Peter 4

The Framework

4There are different kinds of *gifts*, but the same Spirit. 5There are different kinds of *service*, but the same Lord. 6There are different kinds of *working*, but the same God works all of them in all men.

1 Corinthians 12:4-6 (NIV)

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Motivational Gifts Described

- **Prophecy** – The divine enablement to proclaim God’s truth with power and clarity in a timely and culturally sensitive fashion for correction, repentance, or edification. Ability to reveal God’s Word accurately.
  People with this gift ask: “What went wrong? What caused this?”

- **Service** – The divine enablement to attach spiritual value to the accomplishment of physical tasks within the Body of Christ. Ability to demonstrate love by meeting practical needs that releases other Christians for direct spiritual ministry.
  People with this gift ask: “What can I do to help?”

- **Teaching** – The divine enablement to understand and give detailed explanation of biblical truth. Ability to search out and validate truth which has been presented.
  People with this gift ask: “What is truth? Where did you get that? Why?”

- **Exhortation** - The divine enablement to come alongside another in need of encouragement to reassure, strengthen, affirm, and challenge those who are discouraged or wavering in their faith. Ability to stimulate the faith of others.
  People with this gift ask: “What must be done to fix this? How can we move to wholeness?”

- **Giving** - The divine enablement to earn money, manage it well, and wisely contribute to the work of the Lord with cheerfulness and liberality. Ability to entrust personal assets to others for the furtherance of their ministry.
  People with this gift ask: “What can I give to meet the need?”
- **Leadership** - The divine enablement to see what needs to be done, set goals and attract, and lead and motivate people to accomplish the work of the ministry. Ability to coordinate the activities of others for the achievement of common goals.
  
  **People with this gift ask:** “*Where’s the goal?*”

- **Mercy** - The divine enablement to minister cheerfully and appropriately to people who are suffering or undeserving and to spare them from punishment or consequences justly deserved. Ability to identify with and comfort those who are in distress.
  
  **People with this gift ask:** “*How can I make them feel better?*”

**Conclusion - “The Waiter Meets the Family of God”**

- Prophecy
- Service
- Teaching
- Encouragement
- Giving
- Leadership
- Mercy

**Application / Discussion Questions:**

1. Review the seven motivational gifts; which two most resonate with you?

2. What new insight did you gain about spiritual gifts operate?

3. Why do you think knowing and developing your spiritual gift is so important from God’s perspective?

4. What is your “next step” in unwrapping your spiritual gift?
Five Reasons You Need to Develop Your Spiritual Gift:

1. **Direction** and purpose for your life.
2. **Freedom** to embrace and enjoy who you are.
3. **Joy** that results from impacting lives.
4. **Affirmation** of your victory with Christ.
5. **Accountability** as you will be held responsible for the stewardship of your gift.

Developing Your Gifts Begins with Clarity:

There are three types of spiritual gifts: 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

1. Every believer has one primary/motivational gift. We are to concentrate on discovering and developing this gift. Romans 12:6-8

2. That motivational gift (drive and ability) can express itself through a variety of ministry gifts. I Corinthians 12:28, Ephesians 4:11

3. When we exercise our motivational gift through our ministry gifts the Holy Spirit determines what manifestations (or effect) will most benefit the receiver. I Corinthians 12:7
There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit.

There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.

There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.

I Corinthians 12:4-6 (NIV)

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Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

I Corinthians 12:7 (NIV)

Developing Your Gifts Demand a Basic Understanding of Each New Testament Gift*

- **Apostleship** - The divine enablement to start churches and oversee their development. Ability to minister cross-culturally with the goal of planting churches.

- **Prophecy** - The divine enablement to proclaim God’s truth with power and clarity in a timely and culturally sensitive fashion for correction, repentance, or edification. Ability to reveal God’s Word accurately.
• **Evangelism** – The ability to be an unusually effective instrument in leading unbelievers to a saving knowledge of Christ. Some with this gift are most effective in personal evangelism, while others may be used by God in group evangelism or cross-cultural evangelism.

• **Pastor/Teacher** – A person with this spiritual gift has the ability to lead, nourish, protect, and personally care for the needs of a “flock” of believers. Not all people with the office of pastor (elder, overseer) have or need the gift of pastoring or shepherding, and many with this gift do not have or need the office. This gift also includes teaching ability and is the only dual gift in the list.

• **Teaching** - The divine enablement to understand and give detailed explanation of biblical truth. Ability to search out and validate truth which has been presented.

• **Miracles** – (I Corinthians 12:10, 28) The ability to serve as an instrument through whom God accomplishes acts that manifest supernatural power. Miracles bear witness to the presence of God and the truth of his proclaimed Word and appear to occur most frequently in association with missionary activity. The gospel message carries its own authority, but God sometimes graciously uses miracles to authenticate and open doors for the proclamation of forgiveness and life in Christ.

• **Healing** – (I Corinthians 12:9, 28, 30) The ability to serve as a human instrument through whom God cures illnesses and restores health. The possessor of this gift is not the source of power but a vessel who can heal only those diseases the Lord chooses to heal. This spiritual gift should not be confused with the signs and wonders performed by Jesus and the apostles, and it should not be discredited because of the abuses of grandstanding faith healers.

• **Helps** – (I Corinthians 12:28) The ability to enhance the effectiveness of the ministry of other members of the body. This is the only use of this word in the New Testament, and it appears to be distinct from the gift of service. Some writers suggest that while the gift of service is more group-oriented, the gift of helps is more person-oriented.
• **Administration/Leadership** – (I Corinthians 12:28) This word, like helps, appears only once in the New Testament, and it is used outside of Scripture as a helmsman who steers a ship to its destination. This suggests that the spiritual gift of administration is the ability to steer a church or Christian organization toward the fulfillment of its goals by managing its affairs and implementing necessary plans. A person may have the gift of leadership without the gift of administration.

• **Wisdom** – (I Corinthians 12:8) The ability to apply the principles of the Word of God in a practical way to specific situations and to recommend the best course of action at the best time. The exercise of this gift skillfully distills insight and discernment into excellent advice.

• **Knowledge** – (I Corinthians 12:8) The ability to discover, analyze, and systematize truth for the benefit of others. With this gift, one speaks with understanding and penetration. But “the word of knowledge” can also involve supernatural perception and discernment for the purpose of ministering to others.

• **Faith** – (I Corinthians 12:9) The ability to have a vision for what God wants to be done and to believe confidently that it will be accomplished in spite of circumstances and appearances to the contrary. The gift of faith transforms vision into reality.

• **Distinguishing of Spirits (Discernment)** – (I Corinthians 12:10) The ability to discern the spirit of truth and the spirit of error (cf. I John 4:6). With this gift, one may distinguish reality versus counterfeits, the divine versus the demonic, true verses false teaching, and in some cases, spiritual versus carnal motives.

• **Tongues** – (I Corinthians 12:10, 28, 30; 14:1-40) The ability to receive and impart a spiritual message in a language the recipient never learned. For other members of the body to be edified, this message must be interpreted either by the recipient (I Corinthians 14:13) or by another person with the gift of interpretation (I Corinthians 14:26-28).

• **Interpretation of Tongues** – (I Corinthians 14:13) The ability to translate into the vernacular a message publicly uttered in a tongue. This gift may be combined with the gift of tongues (I Corinthians 14:13), or it can operate separately (I Corinthians 14:26-28).
Developing Your Spiritual Gift Demands that You Exercise Them By Involvement In…

- People’s lives and needs.

- A small group community.

- Ongoing training and education.

- Regular risk taking opportunities.
Introduction – Five Case Studies of “Spiritual Gift Abuse”

1. “God spoke to me about you…you’re supposed to…”

2. “Come into the back room/prayer room and I guarantee you will receive…”

3. “Every believer is supposed to receive this spiritual gift; it’s the evidence that you’re really…”

4. “I don’t have a spiritual gift, I’m not worthy of one yet, but someday I hope…”

5. “I don’t care what the Bible says, I am God’s prophet for this church and He has revealed to me that…”
The 10 Most Common Abuses of Spiritual Gifts:

1. Beware when spiritual gifts are used as a means of manipulation, power, or control in personal and/or church relationships.
   
   1 Corinthians 12:4-7

2. Beware whenever anyone claims to have the ability to give or bestow any particular gift if you follow their formula.
   
   1 Corinthians 12:11

3. Beware when any particular gift is made a universal evidence of spirituality, salvation, or other spiritual blessing.
   
   1 Corinthians 12:29-30

4. Beware when the focus of a church service, ministry, or religious event is on spiritual gifts and their manifestation rather than on the Giver of the gifts and His agenda for His church.
   
   Ephesians 4:11-12

5. Beware of comparing your gifts with anyone else’s; it always leads to carnality.
   
   1 Corinthians 12:11-18
6. Beware of any extreme position on spiritual gifts – i.e. “they do not exist” to “a spirit-filled Christian will have all the gifts.”
   1 Corinthians 12:1

7. Beware of using your spiritual gift in the energy of the flesh to fulfill personal ego needs or impress other people.
   1 Corinthians 13:1-3

8. Beware of confusing spiritual gifts with spiritual fruit as the evidence of spiritual growth and maturity.
   Ephesians 4:13, Galatians 5:22-23, John 15:8

9. Beware that apparent “manifestations of the spirit” can be counterfeited by human schemes and demonic forces.
   Matthew 7:22-24, 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

10. Beware of viewing the discovery, development, and deployment of your spiritual gift either as an “optional exercise” or interesting but not serious responsibility.
    Ephesians 4:7, 2 Corinthians 5:9-10
Your Spiritual Gift - Action Plan:

1. **Commit** to discover, develop, and deploy your spiritual gift in a local body of believers.

2. **Pray** seriously seeking divine guidance.

3. **Study** the gift passages in God’s Word and corresponding handouts.

4. **Seek** quality counsel.

5. **Test** the waters” for 6 to 8 weeks.

6. **Examine** the fulfillment (joy) factor.

7. **Recognize** God’s evident blessing.

Application / Discussion Questions:

1. Which of the abuses have you observed first hand?

2. What was the impact of those abuses on you? On others?

3. Which of the 10 abuses might you be most prone to “fall into?”

4. Where are you in your journey to discover, develop, and deploy your spiritual gifts?

5. What specific step of faith/obedience are you going to take?
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