**Spiritual Gifts** (Lesson 3)

*(Discovering Spiritual Gifts) Romans 12:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

READ: Romans 12:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22

1. Summarize in one sentence what Paul says about our relationship with (1) God v.1 (2) the world v.2 (3) ourselves v.3 (4) our brothers and sisters in the family vv.4-8, and (5) our neighbors near and far vv.9-13.

Which of these statements do you find personally most challenging? Why?

1. Why do you think the presentation of our whole bodily life (and not just our “spiritual’ activities) pleases God and is our sensible worship (v.1)?
2. While many people suffer from too low a view of themselves, how would too high a self-concept especially frustrate the out working of spiritual gifts in community life (vv.4-6)?
3. Paul notes the wonderful diversity in the body of Christ at the same time he emphasizes that “each member belongs to all the others” (v.5). How does this unity that is “because of” diversity help you relate to people who have different gifts than yours or whose gifts you might covet?

1. People who are not yet Christians also serve, teach, encourage, give, lead and show mercy. What extra benefits do verses 6-8 refer to in regard to the work of the Spirit as we use these gifts?
2. First Timothy 4:14 says, “Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you”. What further can we learn about discovering and nurturing spiritual gifts from Timothy’s experience?
3. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22. Describe how you might test the spiritual gifts of others, or your own.
4. What is the role of self-examination and of affirmation from others in discovering spiritual gifts?
5. Consider whether you think it is important to be able to “name” your spiritual gift. What dangers are there in this?
6. What can you now say to someone who feels that they don’t know what their gift is?

*Pray that through God’s mercy and the Spirit’s continued work in your life you will be inspired to serve your brothers and sisters with grace and power. Ask God to keep you from being squeezed into the world’s mold*.

***Now or Later***

Examine more carefully the ministry of believers to near and far neighbors and to enemies in Romans 12:9-21. Without calling these functions “gifts” or even “ministries”, Paul counsels a radical way of living by love. John Stott says that “philadelphia (love ofand the New Testament sisters and brothers) has to be balanced by philozenia (love of the stranger”. Read the story of Abraham and Sarah’s pursuit of the stranger in Genesis 18:1-15 and the New Testament exhortation in Hebrews 13:2 based on this Old Testament story.

***NEXT LESSON***:

**Spiritual Gifts**

***The Controversial Gifts –* READ: 1 Corinthians 14:1-33**