

Gifts of Strength

It's about that time ... the most gift-givingness time of the year. A time when everyone has so much to do that nobody has time for much of anyone or anything else. And yet, it's the gifting season. Many people – perhaps most – are more concerned with giving the exact right gift than they are about getting the right gift. But God has given each of us the exact right gift. The question is, what will we do with that gift? In this week's traipse through the scriptures, we'll see if we can figure out what God has in mind for us.

1 Peter 3:7–11

1. Everyone in the church is _____ and that gift contains God's _____.
2. It's a _____ – you can use it or not.
3. Those who _____ do so with God's _____.
4. Your _____ is someone's _____ to Jesus.

My Count Me In! Commitments

- I'll be here next Sunday
- I'll invite a friend
- I'm willing to use my gift:

Additional Notes

Digging Deeper and Going Further

Read 1 Corinthians 12. This is the definitive “spiritual gifts” chapter in the Bible. Although there are a couple of other passages about spiritual gifts, this is the one most church folks point to when God’s gifts are mentioned. The next chapter, 1 Cor 13, is the “love” chapter that reminds us that without love, all these gifts are pointless ... and maybe even worthless. With that in mind, consider what gift or gifts God has given you for the sake of building up the body.

1. Read 1 Corinthians 12:7. What is the purpose of the gifts God gives us?

2. What do you think the author means by “the common good”? What does the common good in a church look like?

3. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12–30. What do you think would be the results if everyone in a local church fully used their spiritual gift?

4. Read 1 Peter 4:7–11. Peter lists several expectations on his readers. Write down as many as you can find.

5. It has been said that the “biggest” word in English is the word *IF*. What would be the results in a church if everyone was fully engaged in the *IF*'s (verses 11–12)?

6. The words *IF* and *GIFT* both imply that we have a choice about how to employ what God has given us. What are the results in a church when people choose to *not* employ their gifts?

7. God has gifted you with a “means of grace” that is designed to help others say “Yes!” to Jesus. What will you do to use your gift in the church?
