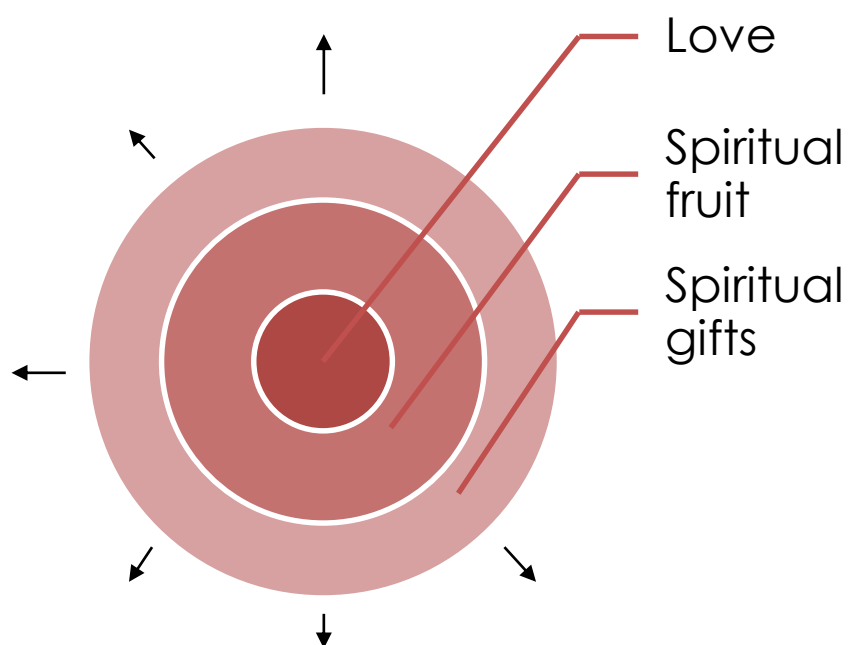


MCCC ES CAMP 2015 – SPIRITUAL GIFTS WORKSHOP



Above all...love

⁹Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. ⁹Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. (1 Peter 4:8-10)

Other passages: (1 Corinth 13:1-3, 13) (Romans 12:9-13) (Ephesians 4:2-8)

A) Spiritual Gifts in Perspective

1. Read 1 John 4:19 – why is love so important?

2. What is the difference between spiritual fruit and spiritual gifts? Fill in the blanks:

Spiritual fruit is something __ _ _ _ _ ,
but a spiritual gift is something __ _ _ _ .

3. Read Galatians 5:22-23 – how many of the spiritual fruit should we have?

Reflect and pray. Which of these fruit do you need to work on and pray for in your life? Be honest and recognise that at the heart of it, we must have the right basis for service.

B) The biblical basis for Christian service

1. Why should we serve in the church?

	1 Peter 4:11	Ephesians 4:11-13
for who?		
for what reason?		

What is service NOT primarily for? (Philippians 2:3, Ephesians 5:21)

2. Who is able to serve and who has spiritual gifts? (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

C) How should we serve?

The Bible teaches us that the Holy Spirit gives each one of us spiritual gifts to serve (1 Corinthians 12:4-7).

One of the most important things for us to remember is that God gives us these gifts freely. The word 'gifts' in Greek is *charismata*, and the word *charis* is grace, i.e. we don't deserve or have not earned spiritual gifts!

Remember, finding out what your spiritual gifts is not the purpose! It is good to seek out what gifts God has given you (1 Corinthians 12:31), but the purpose of gifts is to love and build up others (1 Corinthians 13).

But the Bible says very little about how we discern what our spiritual gift is. To help, there are three ideas of discerning how and where to serve:

- **Affinity** (What human needs do I have a desire to help? What interests me? What are my passions?)
- **Ability** (What am I good at? What do people say I am effective in?)
- **Opportunity** (What doors for service are open? What needs to be done? Where can I help out in the church in the next fortnight?)

Start with opportunity, and as you serve, God may reveal to you where your affinity and ability is. But however small it may seem, go and do it – because it is out of love for others that we are serving.

Lists of Spiritual Gifts

There are five lists in the New Testament that describe the spiritual gifts. There is some overlap, but each list does not show a 'complete' list. They give us a sample of the kinds of service that God utilises through people when serving the church.

Romans 12:6-8	1 Corinthians 12:8-10	1 Corinthians 12:28-30	Ephesians 4:11	1 Peter 4:11
		apostles	apostles	speaking
prophecy	prophecy	prophets	prophets	
teaching	message of wisdom	teachers	teachers	
exhorting	message of knowledge		pastors	
			evangelists	
leading		administrating		
	working miracles	working miracles		
	healing	healing		serving
serving		helping		
doing acts of mercy				
contributing (money)				
	Faith			
	distinguishing spirits (discernment)			
	speaking in languages	speaking in languages		
	Interpretation of languages	Interpretation of languages		

Consider your affinity, ability and opportunity and write down some of your thoughts on the following page. Ask one person in the workshop (that you think may know you), and ask them the same questions about yourself. Outside of the workshop, ask someone else at camp (someone who you are close with) to answer the questions as well.

ME		
Affinity		
Ability		
Opportunity		

Pray: Circle which of the following is MOST important to me right now.

- 1) An attitude of serving because of the grace God has poured out
- 2) A need to grow in spiritual fruit (but to continue serving!)
- 3) An attitude that finds opportunities to actively serve, rather than being idle
- 4) An understanding of how God can work through me most effectively, by His grace?