

FAMILY DEVOTION :: PRIME :: ENTRUSTED

LESSON 5 :: GIFTED

In the past decade, gift cards have emerged as one of the favorite gifts to give and receive. It is estimated that up to 10 percent of gift cards go unredeemed every year due to being lost, stolen, or forgotten. In 2007, that added up to 8 billion dollars worth of unused cards.# So even if you have a Starbucks or Gap gift card worth \$100, it's worth nothing if you can't find it. Unused gift cards really don't benefit anyone. It throws off the retailer's accounting, and the consumer is left with nothing. The full benefit of a gift card is only attained when it is used.

God has given each one of us gifts, abilities, and talents because of His common grace. But there are some gifts that God gives only to His children. When we become believers in Christ, we are given the Holy Spirit who works in and through our lives through His spiritual gifts. The Body of Christ needs these gifts to be a complete representation of Christ in this world and to accomplish His purposes.

There are several passages in the New Testament that teach about spiritual gifts. Read Romans 12:3-8 as a family. In Romans, Paul spoke boldly to believers about many issues. He urged believers to humbly accept and use the gifts that God gives us. He compared the Church to the human body. We have so many complicated parts of our physical body that all work together to make the body function properly. Some are large and noticeable, while some are microscopic. All are important and needed. For instance, we need our eyes to see, not to smell. We need our nose to smell, not hear, and so on.

Spiritually speaking, we are the same—we all need to use the spiritual gifts that God gives us. If we don't, the Body of Christ can't be all that it is meant to be. We don't need to be jealous of the gifts that other people have. We need to concentrate on being faithful in doing what God has designed and gifted us to do.

When we receive a gift card, the giver has full intention for us to use and enjoy that card—it is not to be forgotten, misplaced, and thus deemed worthless. God intends for us to discover our spiritual gifts and use them to the fullest every day that we live.

CONNECTION QUESTIONS

1. What are the collective spiritual gifts among your family members? Think about it and challenge and affirm each other in their gifts.
2. Has there ever been a time in your life when you hurt or broke a seemingly small part of your body, and yet the injury had a big impact? How did that pain affect the rest of your body? How did it affect your view of that body part? How does that relate to the Body of Christ?
3. How do you as a family use your spiritual gifts? Do you ever use them in accordance with one another? How could you use your spiritual gifts together and individually?
4. Can each of you think of an example of someone you know who uses his or her spiritual gifts effectively? Who is he or she? What gifts does he have, and how is it evident in his life?
5. Why do you believe that it is so important for the Body of Christ to be built up by means of its collective spiritual gifts?