

Unwrapping the Gifts

Ephesians: Living in Light of Our Eternal Portfolio | Dr. Michael Rydelnik
Ephesians 4:7-10

Introduction

A. We need balance when discussing spiritual gifts—two extremes:

<u>The Misusers:</u>	<u>The Refusers:</u>
Seek all the gifts	Stop the gifts
Emphasizes the sensational	Denies them all
No control	Overcontrolled
No limits	Completely limited

B. The definition of a spiritual gift is God's endowment of a particular enablement given to each and every believer to empower service for Him.

I. Every individual believer has received at least one spiritual gift. 4:7 (cf. 1 Pet 4:10)

A. God maintains the unity of the body through diversity not uniformity.

B. God not only calls us to serve Him but gives us the divine enablement to do so.

C. God not only gives the gifts but grants them in different measures.

D. God's gift giver is the Messiah Jesus Himself.

II. The Lord Jesus dispenses spiritual gifts as an outgrowth of His victory over Satan, sin and death. 4:8-10

A. The quotation from Psalm 68 depicts a victorious divine king dispensing gifts to His people. 4:8

B. The explanation of Psalm 68 declares the significance of the incarnation and ascension of Messiah Jesus. 4:9-10

1. Before His ascension, Messiah Jesus had to descend to the earth. 4:9
2. Before His ascension, Messiah Jesus had to descend to the earth. 4:9

III. Now What?

Our victorious King has given us spiritual gifts to serve and glorify Him—How do we discover them?

- A. Study the gifts in the key passages (Rom 12:3-9; 1 Cor 12-14; 1 Pet 4:10-11; and Eph 4:7-16)
- B. Take a gift inventory.
- C. Identify desires and inclinations.
- D. Receive guidance and confirmation from a mature believer that knows you well.
- E. Practice the Eureka principle

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GIVING UPDATE

GENERAL FUND

Planned for June:	\$976,695
Received in June:	\$272,949
YTD Planned (as of May 31):	\$4,502,211
YTD Received (as of May 31):	\$4,689,271