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#### by Berni Dymet



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# The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is in the business of pouring out gifts on those who believe in Jesus. Have you received yours?

#### christianityworks

### the gifts of the Holy Spirit

*by* berni dymet

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### CHAPTER 1 A LOVING DAD

Let's imagine just for a moment, that there is a father who has some children. He is their dad and in a very real sense he created them. He loves them as a father loves his children but ... well ... they've been separated from one another for a long time. He has never stopped loving them; he has never stopped thinking about them and one day they come back to him. They are reunited as a family and the father is just overjoyed. He goes to the airport to meet them; his heart is in his throat, there are tears in his eyes and like any father in that situation, he takes with him some gifts to give to these

children – beautifully wrapped and especially chosen for each of them.

It is completely in character for a father to want to give gifts in these circumstances of love and rejoicing. And since we are made in God's image it would be entirely reasonable to expect that God, our Heavenly Father would be exactly the same.

Jesus promised to give the Holy Spirit to each person who believed in Him – another Comforter, another Counsellor just like Jesus (John 14:15–17). When that happens – when we accept Jesus and we are filled with His Spirit – then He begins to deal with our sin.

The Spirit is called the Holy Spirit and part of what He does is to help us recognise the rubbish of our former life and throw it out, so that we can be free to live the life that God always intended. God knows each one of us intimately. He looks at you and knows you just the way you are. He looks at me and He knows me just the way I am. And so He approaches each one of us in a unique way, the way that *He* chooses, in order to build a relationship with us through His Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:4–11).

In this booklet we are looking at the gifts of the Spirit. It turns out that the New Testament talks about three different types of gifts of the Spirit. Now I'm no Greek scholar but the Greek word that is used in the New Testament for 'gift' is 'charisma' (we know that word fairly well) and the Greek word that is used for 'joy' is almost the same word, it's 'charis' – they have the same root. So they are free gifts that come from God that give joy at being reunited with Him as His children – they are free gifts and they are gifts of joy.

Let's take a look at some of those gifts just to get a sense of what God is doing in our lives. We can't go through them all in detail, just expose them, unpack them a little bit and be aware of them so that we can eagerly desire those gifts (1 Corinthians 14:1).

A gift, by definition, is free. But in order to receive a gift, we need to be ready to receive it. And these gifts are given, not just for our benefit but also for the benefit of other people. The first lot of gifts that are mentioned in the Bible occur in Romans chapter 12 – written by Paul:

they are free gifts that come from God that give joy at being reunited with

Him as His children

 they are free gifts and they are gifts of joy

the gifts of the Holy Spirit

For by the grace given to me, I say to everyone among you, don't think of yourself more highly than you should but think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as one body we have many members and not all of the members have the same function. So we who are many are one in Christ and individually we are members of one another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us—prophesy in proportion to faith, ministry in ministering, the teacher in teaching, the exhorter in exhortation, the giver in generosity, the leader in diligence, the compassionate in cheerfulness. (Romans 12:3-8)

Now, none of those are 'spooky', 'airy-fairy' gifts – they are straight-forward gifts. To prophesy means to speak God's will; to speak what God is thinking into a situation. We sometimes think of it as predicting the future, but most often, it's about speaking God's will, encouragement or admonition into a present situation. Some people do in fact have that gift.

Other people have the gift to minister to others. Some people have the gift of teaching.

Other people have the gift of exhortation, of encouraging, of lifting others up. Some are motivated to be givers – they are very good at giving of their own possessions and wealth into needy situations. Some people, when we meet them, we go 'There is a naturally gifted leader.' While other people are gifted in compassion and mercy; they are pastorally gifted. They are the ones who will hang with someone who is sick or in need, for as long as is required.

Each one of us has one or two, or maybe even three of those gifts in our makeup, "According to the grace that is given to each one of us, to be used for other people." You and I have been crafted in our mother's womb and isn't it exciting to know there has been a gift or two or three put into our DNA – into the very fibre of who we are – by God. Wow!!

Let me encourage you to spend some time thinking about that because each one of us has some deep motivation (that's why these are called **Motivational Gifts**) to speak out God's will or to minister to others or to teach or to encourage or to give or to lead or just to show compassion. And those gifts aren't gifts for us to hang on to; they're gifts for us to use in the lives of other people. They're gifts through which God flows into the lives of others.

You might think, 'Well, you know, I don't have any real gift. Well ... I don't think so.' God has gifted you, from the time that you were in your mother's womb, with at least one of those gifts so that you can use it to take the blessing of God into someone else's life – that's what this booklet is about.

#### LIFE APPLICATION

#### Motivational gifts

People often wonder – What's my motivational gift? In fact, I can't tell you the number of times that I've had someone ask me that question. Or this one – How do I find out what my particular motivational gifting is?

So, do you know what your primary and perhaps secondary motivational giftings are? If not, it's really important to find that out, because, your gifting tells you what you should be doing with your life.

If you're an encourager, and you're stuck in, what is to you, a dry, boring accounting job (a job which to someone with a different motivational gifting would by the way, be a dream job) then that's no way to live the rest of your life.

There are too many people living out their lives as square pegs in round holes.

Actually finding out your particular motivational gifting isn't too difficult. Here are three simple things that you can do to start discovering who God made you to be:

- 1. Ask yourself, what are the things I really enjoy doing? What am I really good at, better than most of the other people I know? Invariably, we enjoy doing the things that God made us to do. Invariably we're naturally good at doing the things that God made us to do. So this is a very important question to answer.
- 2. If you're still not sure, ask some people who know you well. Close friends, family members. Why? Because these are the people who benefit most from your natural giftings. It may be when they think of you, they immediately think of how encouraging you are (encourager), or how strong you are (leader) or how generous you are (giver) or how gifted you are at sorting through the detail (minister).
- 3. Finally, visit this website developed by my good friend and co–author of our book, My Personality GPS: personalitygps.com and click on the 'Free Module'. It will lead you through a few questions to help you determine your motivational gifting.

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#### CHAPTER 2 MOTIVATIONAL AND LEADERSHIP GIFTS

We have just looked at what are called Motivational Gifts. We all have one or two of these gifts wired into our DNA; we all have a bent in a certain direction. I would really encourage you to get before God and say, 'Lord, I'm looking at this list of gifts that You have put here in Romans chapter 12 – which one is me? God, I want You to use what You have put into the fibre of my being to bless other people and to encourage other people, because God, I want to be used by You.'

Well, the second lot of gifts we are going to look at come from Ephesians chapter 4. These gifts are what are called **Leadership**  Gifts – not everybody is going to be a leader. Sometimes we sit there and think, 'Well, you know, I'm not a leader. I look around all these other people in my church and they all seem so important and special and I don't really have any leadership abilities.'

God picks the strangest people to be leaders – He really does! You know, I look back on my walk with Jesus and I think, 'Why did God ever pick me to do what I'm doing? I never expected Him to.' He comes and picks little black sheep and little ugly ducklings and little nobodies and uses them in the most powerful way. We should never kid ourselves that God doesn't mean us to be doing something that He has planned for us to do.

So, let's take a look at what the Bible has to say about leadership gifts:

The gifts we gave were that some would be apostles, some would be prophets, some would be evangelists, some would be pastors and others would be teachers to equip the saints for the work of ministry for building up the body of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-13)

So there are five leadership gifts: apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher. An apostle is simply someone who gets sent out by the body of Christ – by the Church – to go and do a new work. The twelve Apostles were Jesus' disciples who were then 'sent out' to build the church - to plant new churches. Paul was an Apostle, someone who was 'sent out' and he planted a lot of new churches. It has to be a special sort of person who is happy to be sent out from the group to do something new. It is a really special gifting and it comes from the Holy Spirit. We don't choose this for ourselves - God chooses it. God chooses to make someone an apostle and when you are, you just know, and you have the motivation to keep doing new things. So you go out and do them.

Then there are *prophets* – a prophet is someone who speaks God's will into people's lives. It's a gifting that God has given me – not one that I chose for myself; it's the one that God chose for me – to speak God's will clearly and directly into a situation. To go to God in prayer and say, 'Lord, what are You doing today?' and to hear Him really

clearly, and then to go and speak that into peoples' lives, because that's what God has anointed me to do. Oh, and by the way, a true prophet never contradicts the Word of God, because God's Word is the truth and it stands forever.

Other people are *evangelists*. I have these friends Peter and Ruth, who are just born evangelists – they can't help themselves. They sit at a bus stop and before long they are talking to some stranger about Jesus (again!!). That's just how they are wired; it's how God has made them. You would never pick them as evangelists – they don't look like Billy Graham – but God has blessed them to go and do that, and praise God, they do it at every opportunity.

Some people are called to be *pastors*. I was having a cup of coffee recently with a dear friend of mine, Peter Watson, who is a pastor not far from where I live. Pete said, 'You know, I just love what I'm doing and I'm here for the long haul and doing this, doing that.' I said to Peter, 'I'd die if I had to do what you do.' I'm not called to be a pastor but Pete is and so are a whole bunch of other people.



God picks the strangest people to be leaders – He really does! You know, I look back on my walk with Jesus and I think, 'Why did God ever pick me to do what I'm doing? I never expected Him to.'He comes and picks little black sheep and little ugly ducklings and little nobodies and uses them in the most powerful way

the gifts of the Holy Spirit

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a lot of times pastors don't look to be anything special, yet in my view, they're the most important people in the body of Christ

the gifts of the Holy Spirit

Churches are full of people who are gifted to be pastors. And I don't mean by that 'the minister of the church'. By 'pastor' I mean the sort of person who draws alongside and hangs with people for the long term; who walks with them through the difficult times; who pastors them as a shepherd pastors a flock. That is a real leadership gifting; it's a real calling; it's a real anointing and a lot of times pastors don't look to be anything special, yet in my view, they're the most important people in the body of Christ.

And then some people are called to be *teachers* – that's what I am doing now. My two leadership giftings are in the area of prophecy and teaching. If we were all teachers it would be very boring – fortunately God only picks a few.

These are the **Leadership Giftings** – they are not for all but their role is to build the body of Christ. We are now going to look at the last grouping of giftings that are called **Spiritual Giftings.** 

#### LIFE APPLICATION

#### Leadership gifts

Leadership gifts are not given to all believers, unlike Motivational Gifts (Chapter 1) and Spiritual Gifts (Chapter 3). So how do you know whether you are called to step out and lead? That's not always such an easy question for us to answer is it?

So here are some simple tests that you can apply in different situations and circumstances, to see whether God is calling you to be a leader.

1. Do I feel a strong call and motivation to lead in this particular situation? One of the things that I've noticed is that, even though I have the motivational gifting of a leader, I am not always called by God to lead in each and every circumstance. Sometimes, I feel led to step back and let others lead. I believe that's the Holy Spirit

- at work, helping us to work together with other believers as the body of Christ.
- 2. What do other people say and think? Getting the wise counsel of mature believers is an important thing to do. When we are called into a leadership position whether it be as an apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor or teacher it is often others who can most readily identify God's anointing of our leadership in that particular situation.
- 3. Seek Confirmation. If we both feel a call, and it is confirmed by other believers then that is a strong indication of God's anointing of a leadership gifting in you. But if you still aren't certain, then pray and ask God to confirm His call on your life. You'd be amazed how readily God will answer one way, or another.

Leadership is not something to be grasped for the sake of prestige or power or for our own ends. Someone who seeks to lead but is not gifted or anointed to do so, will soon fall flat on their face. Their leadership' appears hollow and ineffectual to others. Godly leadership is always a humble act of service. It involves sacrifice and requires the wisdom of the Holy Spirit.

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### CHAPTER 3 SPIRITUAL GIFTS

God is our Father, our Dad and His heart is to give good gifts to His children. If we, who are imperfect, know how to give good gifts to our kids, how much more will our Dad in heaven give the Holy Spirit to us when we ask Him? (Matthew 7:11) And with the Holy Spirit comes gifts – gifts that are about who we are, gifts that God works in and through us, so that He can bless other people through us.

We have looked at the **Motivational Giftings** in Romans chapter 12; we have looked at the **Leadership Giftings** in Ephesians chapter 4; now we are moving on to the **Spiritual Gifts.** These are supernatural gifts (not magic) that come from the Holy Spirit.

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I don't want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray by idols who couldn't speak, therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says 'Let Jesus be cursed' and no can say Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit. Now there is a variety of gifts of the same Spirit and there are a variety of services but the same Lord and there are varieties of activities but the same God who activates all of them in everyone.

To each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit, the utterance of wisdom, to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the same Spirit, to another working of miracles, to another prophesy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues and to another, the interpretation of tongues. All of

these are activated by one and the same Spirit who allots to each one individually, just as the Spirit chooses. (1Corinthians 12:1-11)

These are spiritual gifts that come from the Holy Spirit. They are not exclusively for super-Christians; they are not for special Christians. It says here, *To each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.* So do you believe in Jesus? Then God's plan is to manifest His supernatural, spiritual gifts in you and through you, just as His plan is to do that with me so that through us He can bless other people in a very special way.

Now there are a variety of gifts. Sometimes it is an utterance of wisdom, sometimes it is walking into a situation and discerning what is going on and you just feel God give you this wisdom that you never thought you had and you speak it and everyone goes 'Man, that's amazing'. And sometimes it's a word of knowledge – sometimes we don't know what is going on in someone's life or behind the scenes in a particular situation, but the Holy Spirit just leads us to speak something and its bang on.

So do you believe in Jesus? Then God's plan is to manifest His supernatural, spiritual gifts in you and through you, just as His plan is to do that with me so that through us He can bless other people in a very special way

the gifts of the Holy Spirit

Sometimes it is the most supernatural faith in the most difficult of circumstances.

Sometimes God says, "Go and heal that person because I am healing them; go and put your hands on them; go and pray for them." The Spirit is about healing lives. Sometimes it's working in miracles; sometimes it's a prophecy – a word from God that people just know has come from God. Sometimes it is discerning spirits – the devil is alive and well. And sometimes it's praying in tongues – one of the very common gifts – or interpreting tongues.

Now, these are wonderful, wonderful gifts but the most important thing (if you read the next couple of chapters of 1st Corinthians) is that we should pursue love. We should strive for spiritual gifts because God wants to give them to each one of us (1 Corinthians 14:1) but ... *the* most important thing is that we walk in love.

So with yourselves, since you are eager for spiritual gifts, strive to excel in them for the building up of the church. (1 Corinthians 14:12)

Now, I am challenged by this; I am a very left-brained, analytical kind of guy and I had a prophecy given to me by telephone from a friend quite some years back. She rang me one Saturday morning and to say that she and her husband had been praying for me and that ... 'God has just given me Romans 12:6 for you and that says, *Prophesy according to your faith*.'

Now the night before, strangely enough, I had been at Bible College and one of our lecturers, Dr Barry Chant, (whom I have just so much time for) said, 'Today we are going to prophesy in class.' And I'm thinking 'Barry, it doesn't work that way. God doesn't work like this. Hang on a minute!!! This is ridiculous' So I challenged him and he smiled at me knowingly and he sat me down with a young man whom I didn't know other than to say 'Hi' in passing at college. And Barry said to me, 'Prophesy into this man's life'. I thought, 'Barry, come on.' I didn't know where to start. It seemed just so ridiculous and fabricated to me. To be honest, I felt as though I was being manipulated. But Barry persisted with me. He said, Just start

praying for him' and so I did. And God led me in a direction to pray for this young man about a very specific issue. No effort required except simply to let go, to trust that the Holy Spirit knew what He was doing and pray. So I prayed. When I was finished praying, I opened my eyes to see that this young man was sobbing. He was in tears because I had prayed and spoken something into his life about which I couldn't have known, that turned out to be the biggest issue in his life right then. And Barry put his hand on my shoulder and looked at me with his annoyingly knowing smile.

God gave me that day, even though I didn't ask for it, the gift of prophecy and prophecy for me is never easy. It's not something that comes lightly; not something that I open my mouth over easily, but when God calls me to prophesy – to speak His very specific will into some situation, into someone's life – I just know. And so I go and do that and I see how God does the most amazing things. I have seen people blessed time and time again. That's the spiritual gift that God seems to give to me most often.

Now, I would really like one of the flashy gifts like healing; that would be good. I'd love to be able to go along and lay my hands on people and heal them all the time but it just seems that the place God calls me into – being who I am and how He has made me – is in this area of prophecy. And it is so wonderful to see that step of faith – and that's what it is for me each time because it's always a bit scary to do – to prophesy into people's lives and see God use that and see lives touched and changed.

This is not the gift I had planned for myself, yet, we don't get to choose.

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. All of these are activated by the one and the same Spirit who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

These Spiritual Gifts are from God and if we start taking gifts on ourselves saying, 'I'm going to be a healer,' and God hasn't put that in us, then, we are going to abuse the gift, we are going to make mistakes and we are going to hurt people.

God is a good God; God is a supernatural God; God goes ahead of us; God knows all things; God is all-powerful; God is all-loving and God pours out gifts through His people into other people's lives. Sometimes they are unusual; sometimes they are scary; sometimes it's a huge step of faith to lay your hands on someone and pray for their healing.

But when God is doing something; when God has shown up, you know something? You and I had better be there along with Him otherwise He will use someone else. Our Father is a Father of joy; He's a good Father. He wants to give good gifts, free gifts, to each one of us – to you! Do you believe in Jesus? God means to use you supernaturally in other people's lives! It's a fabulous plan. And, yes, you know something? It takes a bit of faith, but God knows that too and He knows where we are at in our faith.

Prophecy happens according to faith. My gift is a faith gift and I just believe that when I open my mouth, I am only doing it in His

power. I won't open my mouth and prophesy in my own strength and so, time and time again, I've seen God do amazing things. What if God plans to use you to heal people's lives? What if God plans to use you to put words of knowledge or words of wisdom into other people's lives? You know, if we are not co-operating with God, it's not going to happen – He is not going to drag us kicking and screaming to a place where He wants to give us free gifts. He wants us to come willingly, openly, prepared to trust in Him.

1 Corinthians 14:1 says that we should eagerly desire spiritual gifts and excel in those spiritual gifts. So, are you doing that ... or not so much?

We've looked at three types of gifts – Motivational Gifts, Leadership Gifts, Spiritual Gifts.

God is a good God; God wants to bless people. You know He sent Jesus to this planet not just to speak but to walk on water, to heal people, to give sight to the blind, to cast demons

out, to die and rise again – God is a supernatural God; God touches lives supernaturally.

It makes sense, doesn't it?

#### TIME TO PRAY

#### A Closing Prayer

Father God, we know that You are a loving God. A God so amazing that we can't begin to figure You out. And we know too that we have been created by You, as amazing individuals in Your image.

Thank You, Lord God, for giving us each a motivational gifting. Lord, help us to truly discern who it is that You've made us to be, so that we can set about fulfilling that plans You have for our life by doing the good works that You prepared beforehand for us to do.

And Lord, help us to discern with wisdom and humility, when You are calling us to exercise a leadership gift. Remove all pride and hubris

from our hearts, and lead us into humble service. Give us a servant's heart we pray.

And finally Lord, I pray that You would give us a desire, a deep hunger for Your spiritual gifts and to excel in them; a desire for Your Spirit to flow through us; a desire for this world to be blessed by Your Spirit through us. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

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#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Berni Dymet is a contemporary Christian communicator with a passion for sharing the Good News of Jesus right into the middle of life. He comes from the perspective that this Christianity thing - it isn't just a faith that lives in our heads or even our hearts, but that it actually works right here in the middle of our lives.

Christianity actually works when we dare to accept Jesus Christ into our lives!! Not just as Saviour, but also as Lord.

Millions of people around the globe tune into Berni's radio programs each week. The Lord has given him a special gift for sharing the Gospel in a truly practical way. In a way that really connects into the hearts and lives of real people in real places, transforming their lives. That's what the ministry of Christianityworks is all about. Leading people into a dynamic relationship with Jesus Christ.

But Berni's passion, his enthusiasm and his insights into the day to day realities of life are simply tools in God's hands. The real change agent is God Himself.

And to Him - and Him alone - be all the glory.

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Berni Dymet

## The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

It's one thing to know *about* God, it's another thing entirely to *know* God. Experiencing the reality of Him in our lives – in a real relationship – is the most wonderful thing. Enter the Holy Spirit. But who or what is the Holy Spirit?

In this booklet – *The Gifts of the Holy Spirit* – Berni Dymet explores what God has to say about His Holy Spirit.

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