



HAPPY NOTES *at home*

for the Vineyard Church family



Spiritual Gifts

by Happy Leman

The Holy Spirit is Moving in Fresh, New Ways

Our Vineyard is enjoying the wonderful privilege of a new dynamic move of the Holy Spirit. The weekend worship services, increased spiritual hunger, and the sovereign grace of the Lord have come together to make something special. As the level of spiritual activity increases, so does the level of spiritual gifts. This Happy Note will give a brief overview of some of the things that we can be looking for as we move ahead.

Spiritual Gifts

The Bible speaks clearly about Jesus giving gifts when He came (Ephesians 4:8-16). These gifts are essential for continuing the work of Jesus Christ. In fact, without them we are stripped of the very tools Jesus himself used. It is important to note, however, that gifts come in at least 2 major categories. When we understand these, we're able to flow in them more easily.

Constituted Gifts

Just as the name implies, these are gifts that are more or less permanently part of our life. For example the 5 ministry gifts found in Ephesians 4:11 (apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, and teacher) as well as those listed in Romans 12:6-8 (serving, teaching, giving, showing mercy, etc.) tend to be gifts that are with us on a permanent basis. These gifts are enmeshed with our personality, temperaments, natural skills and abilities, and our experience that we would say they are "**constituted gifts.**" In other words, we would say they make up part of our life and our lifestyle.

Situational Gifts

Situational gifts are somewhat different. These are found in 1 Corinthians 12:7-11: word of wisdom, word of knowledge, discerning of spirits, faith, miracles, healings, prophecy, tongues, and interpretation of tongues. These gifts tend to be "**situational**" in that they come and go as needed in a situation. In other words, whenever we need them, we are eligible to receive any of these 9 gifts at any time as the Holy Spirit wills. We're much like the plumber responding to a house call. He brings a box of tools but doesn't know what he'll use until he encounters the actual situation. These gifts are available to all of us at any time through the mighty Holy Spirit that lives and empowers us all.

Everyone Gets to Play

This has long been a Vineyard slogan. We believe it to be true from the youngest to the oldest of us in the body of Christ. If we're going to continue the work of Jesus, we need the gifts of the Spirit. We especially need to be able to move in situational gifts which allow us to do supernatural things as we partner with God.

To learn how to use these gifts, we recommend taking *Learning To Minister Like Jesus* (Learning to Minister – part 1). This is absolutely essential for everyone who is committed to this church and its mission statement of "**...continuing the work of Jesus.**" The next LTMLJ will take place on the weekend of April 3rd and 4th!

Final Thoughts

There's obviously more to learn than this brief statement on **constituted and situational gifts**. Let's put it this way, I urge everyone to pursue all the gifts they possibly can in every realm. We can never have too many gifts – they are what help us fulfill the call on our lives.