

Sermon Notes

The New Life Part 12: Spiritual Gifts

August 13th – 14th, 2022

- **Spiritual Gifts**

- God has a plan, Amen? Let's talk about God's plan and how we fit into it today.
 - o God's plan involves you and me being productive citizens of the Kingdom of God.
 - o God has work for His church to do and He expects us to do it. Not a popular a message today...
 - o Parable of the Talents (bags of gold) **Matthew 25:14-30**, Vine and branches **John 15:1-8**.
- How do we understand these parables? Pressure to perform? Fear of rejection? Opportunity for glory??
- Let me start with a question: What does God want to do today?
- We are the hands and feet of Jesus, the Body of Christ. So, accomplishing the will of God is up to us.
 - o Notice, I did not say it is up to you. That is not what I'm saying at all.
 - Building addition story. Not about giving more, but about including more people.
 - o This is nicely described in **Ephesians 4:11-16**. It's all of us working together to do this.
 - o Hallelujah, God doesn't abandon us to the task, but empowers us to succeed! **John 15:5** is the headline, **1 Corinthians 12:1-11** describes the process in greater detail.
 - God empowers His followers, then we work together to accomplish His will.
 - From the New Vision Children's Home to Mega Camp to Sunday Service, etc.
- But what if I'm weird and don't fit in??
 - o If you don't fit in because you hate Jesus and reject the Bible we have some things to work on...
 - o HOWEVER, if you don't fit in even though you love Jesus we have something to work with!!!!
 - The whole point of the Biblical teaching on the Body of Christ is to show that we are stronger together because of our differences. **1 Corinthians 12:12-14**
 - o Understand, we succeed or fail together. We must stand together for the cause of Christ.
- Next week: The Fruit of the Spirit. Very, very important.
- Finish today with something rolling around in my head. So, please give me some grace with this...
- I'm trying to communicate that you are vital, valuable, and important to the effort. I hope you see that.
 - o 2 major ways value is processed in the human heart: through love and through respect.
 - Love has to do with affection and care.
 - Respect has to do with noticing ability and character.
 - I think a healthy understanding of personal and human value incorporates both.
 - o Yet, I think the people who process value through respect can hit some roadblocks in church.
 - "God loves you" wasn't a big motivator for me. I processed value through respect.
 - Love is a common theme in today's Christianity...AND it is true!
 - "God is asking you to do something important" was a big motivator for me.
 - This is not as common of a theme today...BUT it is also true!
 - This involves responsibility and accountability, but also results and real impact!
 - o There are things you can do that no one else is going to do. It goes undone if you don't do it.
 - I believe that "God is asking you to do something important."
 - He will empower you with Spiritual gifts.
 - You will need to work with others to accomplish these things.
 - There will be sacrifices, but the difference you make is worth it. PLUS there are rewards!
- As we finish, let's look back at **John 15:5**.
 - o Let's remain in Him. Staying connected through prayer, worship, study, service, giving, etc.
 - o Apart from the Lord we can do nothing. Together with Jesus we can do our part to change the world.
- Get personal prayer by emailing prayer@goodhope.ag.