



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Holy Spirit Blaze Series, Lesson 4

Lesson Title: The Holy Spirit Equips Us to Serve

Take Home Point: The Holy Spirit equips us to serve.

Warm-Up:

Suppose you are a member of a military unit responsible for maintaining communications between headquarters and the soldiers on the front line. You have been personally selected for this position. You have been given all the best equipment suited just for your role, plus the training manuals and access to other experienced personnel with similar tasks to perform. You know the job is critical to the success of the mission and that all members of your team must do their part. Your superior has given you directions on when and where to take action. However, your time is taken with other activities that you believe are more important, so you decide not to read the manuals or learn from the experts or train on using the equipment. When it's time for battle, will you be able to fight? Will you be ready to win?

Read: 1 Corinthians 12:7-11, 14-19, 27

Observation (What happened?):

List the various gifts Paul identifies in these verses.

Why does each believer receive one or more gifts from the Holy Spirit?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What is Paul's point in using the analogy of the human body?

What does it mean to be a part of the body of Christ?

Insight:

Remember last week's Insight? That it is the Holy Spirit who opens our eyes to our need for a Savior and brings us to faith? One of the reasons was so we could not boast about what we did to be rescued. The same reason applies to this week's lesson. It is God's Holy Spirit who gives you what you need to serve in the way God wants you to as a part of Christ's body, a part he selected just for you. Receiving and exercising a spiritual gift does not mean you ignore or attempt to abandon the talents and traits you were born with – you will certainly also use them for advancing God's kingdom. But his gifts go beyond what you were blessed with either by human birth or experience. Not only does the Spirit give spiritual gifts, he also gives the power and guidance to know how and when to use them. So every time we use them, God's power goes before and after us, doing the Spirit's work. But it is a partnership between God and us. What an amazing thing, that God Almighty would choose to partner with you and me to accomplish his work on earth! Remembering this helps us to not trivialize or minimize our gifts, but to really seek out and understand what we've been given, and use our gifts for our Lord.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

What are your spiritual gifts given to you by the Spirit? How do you know?

How are you using your gifts? What is God telling you to do with your gifts?

Kingdom Quest Year 1 - Lesson 4