

**Day 1**

Weekly Theme - Praying Over The Giftedness of the Church

Daily Theme - The Purpose of Gifts

Scripture - Ephesians 4:11-16

The older our body gets, the more often the Check Engine Light comes on. We long for yesteryear, when we were young, had great energy and the stamina to go, go, go! But age catches up to each of us and we soon realize how vital every organ, muscle and joint truly is. So when the indicator light of our physical body illuminates, we head into the shop for a tune-up.

It's no different in a community of faith, every person of that church body is vital and needed to ensure 'that it builds itself up in love.' (Ephesians 4:16)

This week in the 100 Days of Prayer, we are going to focus on the Spiritual Giftedness of a Church. I trust that we each take the time to digest the Scriptures on this and pray for our church family and how we can realize our personal gifts to ensure we work properly as a community of faith.

**Themes to pray over today**

- Thank God for the gifts being used by our church today
- Ask God how you can serve Him and bless His body with your giftedness
- Pray for an outpouring of gifts being utilized in the future days of Hope Fellowship

**A Prayer For Us All**

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your perfect plan of redemption and for Jesus, my precious Saviour. Thank You for bringing me into Your heavenly family and making me a part of the Church of God. Help me to grow in my faith, in unity with my brothers and sisters in Christ and in an ever-increasing knowledge of my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Father, I long for that day when, together with all the saints of God, I shall be fully mature and reach a measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. In Jesus' name, AMEN.

**Heart Question**

- Am I exercising my spiritual gifts? Or am I content with atrophy setting in? If changes need to be made, what is the first step toward that?

**Journal**

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**Day 2**

Weekly Theme - Praying Over The Giftedness of the Church

Daily Theme - Stuntedness of gifts

Scripture - Colossians 1:24-29

Have you ever received a gift from a child, promising to use it but simply shelve it instead? You may forget about it or not want to use it to begin with, but that child is watching and is likely to call you on it. As you are busted, you can likely picture the look of disappointment in the eyes of that child. When we don't use a gift, the giver is disappointed, especially if they know that the gift can make a major difference in life.

As you read Colossians 1:28, its evident that the Apostle Paul wants to present MATURE Christ-followers to God. Can you imagine if Paul let his giftedness from the Holy Spirit just sit around? There is no way that the members of Colossian church would mature to be the followers of Christ that God desired of them.

If Paul allowed his gifts to atrophy, God would be disappointed. Two thousand years later, if we become stunted in our giftedness, then God will be disappointed in us and we see in Revelation 2 and 3 what happens to those churches.

Let's not chance disappointing the gift-giver, for the usage of those gifts have eternal ramifications.

**Themes to pray over today**

- Ask God for forgiveness for relaxing your usage of your spiritual gift(s)
- Pray for the maturing of disciples of Jesus
- Ask God to wake us from a state of stuntedness
- Seek the Lord

**A Prayer For Us All**

Heavenly Father, thank You for the ministry which was revealed to the apostle Paul.. and for the truths that are laid out for our learning in the God-breathed scriptures. I pray that You would lead and guide me into full maturity and that in turn You would use me to encourage others brothers and sisters in Christ, to Your praise and glory, AMEN.

**Heart Question**

Have you strayed from using your gifts to serve the Lord and bless His church? Do you want to return to the fulfilment of servanthood? It's never too late.

**Journal**

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**Day 3**

Weekly Theme - Praying Over The Giftedness of the Church

Daily Theme - Givers are Blessed

Scripture - Acts 20:35, 1 Peter 4:10-11

It's extremely satisfying to serve, albeit we sometimes enter a time of service with the wrong attitude but usually the Holy Spirit brings new perspective as we complete that service. How often have each of us walked away from serving God and others in some particular fashion and we feel a tinge of guilt because we know that we didn't begin with the right attitude.

The reality is that we are truly happier when we serve, which counters the message that our culture sends us. Paul in Acts 20, repeats the words of Christ when he says, It's better to give than receive. We all have time and resources (some more than others, but that's okay) and when we give of ourselves, especially in the area of our spiritual gifts (see 1 Peter 4:10-11) we are blessed with a joy and an energy that only the Holy Spirit can bring. The world doesn't experience that satisfaction.

As we are obedient, move out of our comfort zones and give ourselves to others in service, then God increases our faith by revealing new potential in ourselves and in His Church.

**Themes To Pray Over Today**

- Ask God that we as a church embrace the attitude of giving of ourselves
- Pray that each of us understand that when we serve, we are never more like Jesus
- Pray that each of us move from a place of entitlement

**A Prayer For Us All**

Almighty God, you've given me more blessings that I can count. I ask that you give me opportunities to share my gifts. I pray that you help me to serve others and strengthen them. Humble me so that all this is done in your name and for your glory, not mine. Also help me to cultivate and strengthen my gifts so that they can be of even more service. Amen.

**Heart Question**

- What is your true motivation in serving God?

**Journal**

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**Day 4**

Weekly Theme - Praying Over The Giftedness of the Church

Daily Theme - Offer a living sacrifice, we serve to enlarge and enhance the kingdom of God.

Scripture - Romans 12:1-2

Have you realized that every day you engage in a battle? Some battles are trivial and range from traffic and the constant interruption of a project, while other battles are consuming and can include a relationship or our health. Some battles are public and others are private. But one that is personal for each of us, is the battle to offer our lives daily as a living sacrifice to God. It seems we can always find something 'better' to do or possibility fall into the pattern of 'I don't feel like it.'

Paul pleads with us to get into sacrificial mode in Romans 12:1-2, not to earn our right-standing with God (Paul openly condemns that idea) but to simply return love and honour to the one who has given us everything.

What is a 'living sacrifice' as 'spiritual worship'? It means ministry or service. As we search for ways to serve the Lord in our lives, we put a smile on His face because we are demonstrating that we get His plan for our lives...to know Him and make Him known.

**Themes to pray over today**

- Pray that your service would be a sweet aroma to our Lord
- Ask God to go ahead of you in battle to not serve your self, but Him
- Pray that each of us realize the responsibility we have to help enhance the kingdom of God

**A prayer for us today**

Loving Father, too often my mind is deflected from Jesus onto the things of the world, especially when times are difficult, but I want to keep my mind on Christ, knowing that this is Your best will for me. I pray that I become increasingly aware of the Spirit's promptings in my life, so that day by day, my heart and mind may become saturated with the lovely Lord Jesus. May His nature be reflected through my actions and attitude and may my life be transformed daily, by the renewing of my mind. Help me to prove in my life what Your will for me is, and may I do only those things that are good, and acceptable and perfect in Your sight - for Your praise and glory, and for the benefit of others. This I ask in the matchless name of Jesus, AMEN.

**Heart Question**

- Has your life been anything lately but a sweet aroma to God? How long are you willing to let that go on? Are you ready to step to the alter and offer your service to Him?

**Journal**

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**Day 5**

Weekly Theme - Praying Over The Giftedness of the Church

Daily Theme - God redeems you, gifts you, gives you to the church to fulfill His body

1 Corinthians 12:14-31

As children, we loved receiving gifts. We likely had that selfish aspect of 'what's in it for me?' But as we age and mature, hopefully we shed that selfishness of getting a gift and we shift our attitude to appreciation and thankfulness.

The spiritual reality is that God has redeemed us (paid a price for us; that is the death of Jesus at Calvary) and then He gifted each of us. He looked at His creation in you and He thoughtfully gave you a gift to glorify Jesus and then God gifted you to the church. The question to each us is this, do I show appreciation to God for His gifting to me and am I grateful that He thinks enough of me to gift me to His church?

It's time for each us to move past ourselves and to use our lives to show God our thankful hearts. We will all face Jesus one day to give account of our days for Him. Let's move into that mode of using the gifts He gave us to bless His kingdom.

**Themes to pray over today**

- Pray for an appreciation that God has trusted a gift to you, He values you that much
- Ask God to experience fulfilling moments as you serve Him; encourage you personally and to inspire others by sharing those experiences

**A prayer for us all**

Heavenly Father, thank You that I am a full and equal member of Church and that by Your grace I was baptized into the Body of Christ at salvation. Thank You that I can partake of the same spiritual benefits that have been promised to all Your children. Thank You for the gifts, graces, benefits, and ministry You have seen fit to give me, by Your grace. I pray that I may be a willing and obedient member of Christ's Body and fulfil all the work You have prepared for me to do - to Your praise and glory. This I ask in Jesus' name and for His eternal glory, AMEN.

**Heart Question**

What gift/talent/skill do you possess that isn't being used for God today?

**Journal**

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**Day 6**

Weekly Theme - Praying Over The Giftedness of the Church

Daily Theme - Using gifts means we partner with God's team in change

Matthew 28:20

Some of the great partnerships in history include Helen Keller and Anne Sullivan, James Watson and Frances Crick, Larry Page and Sergey Brin, Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir, Frederick Banting and Charles Best, God and YOU!

That last pairing may cause you to pause and take a breath, but that's okay. Have you ever thought of being mentioned in the greatest partnerships of history? You likely haven't but you need to know that God has invited you, actually commanded you, to join with Him in partnership in changing this world.

If you have spent time within a community of faith, having appreciated and valued the experience, then you should be aware that others are using their spiritual giftedness to make that experience a reality. Others build into your spiritual health and it needs to be reciprocal. You need to bring and use your spiritual giftedness, in partnership with God, to build into the spiritual lives of others. The Scripture of Matthew 28:20 commands us to 'make disciples', you play a role in that by...

- Modelling Christ
- Serving like Christ
- Loving like Christ
- Giving like Christ

It's time to partner with God and bring change.

**Themes to pray over today**

- Ask God for a willingness to live up to your end of the partnership
- Thank God for the people who have used their gifts to bless you throughout your lifetime
- Pray to embrace the Great Commission of Matthew 28

**A prayer for us all**

Thank You Father for Jesus. Thank You that He is the Head of His body and thank You that He is with me no matter what difficulties press in on me or what evil circumstances surround me. Thank You for His reassuring presence and His precious promise to be with me always. Give me the grace and opportunity to witness for You and to teach the truth of Your word, to all with whom I come in contact - to Your praise and glory, AMEN.

**A Heart Question**

What will it take for you to live out your end of the partnership with God?

**Journal**

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## Day 7

Weekly Theme - Praying Over The Giftedness of the Church

Daily Theme - All of us have been given a gift(s) by the Holy Spirit

All of us have been given a gift(s) by the Holy Spirit to build up one another in the church body. According to the verses below, there are quite a few and they are varied. Some of us know exactly what our gifting is, whereas others of us have a difficult time seeing where we fit.

Attached is a Simple Spiritual Gifts Test to help clarify which gift is most dominant in us. This is only one of many questionnaires, but it will be a good starting point. As we find out what our main gift(s) are, we can then begin to use them to bring glory to God.

In the resource link below, the Spiritual gifts are listed and then defined. As you read through them, see if one resonates with you more than the others. Asking a trusted Christ follower may be another way to pinpoint or confirm your gift. And, as always, it is good to pray and ask the Lord to make it clear the gift He has placed in you.

All of the Spiritual gifts are important and valuable no matter how small they may seem, but if any of them are not done out of love, they become worthless. (see 1 Corinthians 13:1-3) We must check our motives to make sure we don't just pursue the gifting and not the Giver. "Attaining spiritual gifts is not the goal - they are the gateway. They are not a hobby to play with - they are tools to build with, weapons to fight with. We will be more effective as we put them to use for God's glory and not our own." (Resource link - Tyndale, Unfolding Faith)

**Themes to pray today**

- Thank the Lord for giving each of us different gifts
- Ask the Holy Spirit to show you what your gifting is
- Ask God how He would have you put your gifting into action

**A Prayer to bring to God**

I praise you Lord that I am a part of Your body! Show me the divine gifting You have given me so I can use it to glorify Your name and build into Your kingdom. Help me to be content in my gifting and not be envious of someone else's; for You are the one who appointed different gifts to each person so that we can grow to be healthy and full of Your love. In Jesus name, Amen!

Romans 12:6-8 - "God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out when you have faith that God is speaking through you. If your gift is that of serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, do a good job of teaching. If your gift is to encourage others, do it! If you have money, share it generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

Ephesians 4:11 - "He is the one who gave these gifts to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers."

## Additional Resources

<https://youtu.be/OgqYYk-0wDs>

**Journal**

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