

The Love Gifts - Study Questions Leaders' Guide

27 September 2020

1. In the sermon James spoke of the need to place any study of the Spiritual Gifts in the context of the Spiritual Disciplines and the Fruit of the Spirit. Why is that important?
 - a. Without the Disciplines and the Fruit the gifts will either be much diminished in their effectiveness, or even become dangerous and destructive.
2. In the sermon the Spiritual Disciplines were identified as our habits and the Fruit of the Spirit were identified as our character.
3. How many of the 12 Spiritual Disciplines can you remember? (from Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*.
 - a. *The Inward Disciplines*
 - i. Meditation
 - ii. Prayer
 - iii. Fasting
 - iv. Study
 - b. *The Outward Disciplines*
 - i. Simplicity
 - ii. Solitude
 - iii. Submission
 - iv. Service
 - c. *The Corporate Disciplines*
 - i. Confession
 - ii. Worship
 - iii. Guidance
 - iv. Celebration

4. Read Galatians 5:19-23. Why is it helpful to include the “works of the flesh” in the reading of the Fruit of the Spirit? And what is the common thread of the works of the flesh?
 - a. They are there to provide a stark contrast between the two and we can learn much about our spiritual well being from that contrast. If we can see a developmental trajectory in our character away from the works of the flesh and toward the fruit of the Spirit, we can be confident and encouraged that the trajectory is a good one.
 - b. The common thread of the works of the flesh is that they are all alienating. They will either alienate us from God, alienate us from others, or usually both.
5. How does the Fruit of the Spirit grow in us?
 - a. It grows from the fertile soil of the Disciplines - the habits - and our increasing surrender to the presence and work of the Spirit in our lives.
6. How many of the Love Gifts can you name? (there are four)
 - a. *Administration/Guidance*: This gift is a support ministry. It is a leadership team gift, but it is directed primarily toward the leader or leaders of the community itself and key elements of its effect are felt only indirectly by the larger community. Biblical example: Acts 4: 1-4.
 - b. *Helps/Serving/Hospitality*: Biblical example: Martha in Luke ch 10.
 - c. *Mercy*: This gift draws one with a powerful love - a love that is not saccharine or sentimental - toward those in pain or hardship.
 - d. *Giving*: “The gift of Giving refers to the capacity to give liberally to meet the needs of others and yet to do so with a purity of motive which senses that the giving is simply sharing of what God has given.” J Robert Clinton.
7. Have you been the recipient of one of the love gifts? If so, how did it impact you?
8. Did you feel a tingle of longing, excitement or recognition with any of these gifts as they were described? Did you wonder "Is that me?"