



## PURPOSE

## CONVERSATION #2: USING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

### ICEBREAKER: HELP WANTED

Take a moment to think about a time when you were stuck, overwhelmed, or unable to do something on your own – and someone stepped in to help. They may have noticed your need, or you could have reached out to them for help. Think about how that act of help impacted you and what it revealed about the person's character.

- Who helped you, and what did they help you with?
- How did receiving that help change how you felt in that moment or season?
- What did that experience teach you about what meaningful help actually looks like?



### STUDY: GOD-GIVEN GIFTS

What we just talked about shows us something important: the moments that shaped us most were often when someone else stepped in and used what they had to meet a real need. That kind of help didn't happen by accident - it flowed from awareness, willingness, and love.

Scripture speaks directly to this idea, showing us that God intentionally gives His people what they need - not to keep for themselves, but to serve others. Listen for how God describes both the source of our gifts and the purpose behind them.

### READ 1 PETER 4:8-10

- Verse 8 starts with the words "above all." How does love change the way we respond to people when it costs us time, energy, or comfort?
- Why do you think serving can sometimes turn into an obligation instead of joy?
- What stands out to you about the phrase "each of you" in verse 10? How does that challenge the idea that only certain people are meant to serve?
- Peter describes gifts as something we have "received." How does viewing your gifts as received - not earned - change the pressure you feel about using them?

When we talk about spiritual gifts, we need to be clear about what they are from the start. Spiritual gifts are God-given abilities meant to build up others - not to spotlight ourselves, showcase our strengths, or center on personal passion. Spiritual maturity helps us see that these gifts are given by God, not earned through experience or confidence. They grow through use, not waiting for the perfect moment. Ultimately, spiritual gifts exist for service, so God's grace can reach others through us - not for self-expression or recognition.

## STUDY: GOD-GIVEN GIFTS

Spiritually mature people don't wait to be asked before they serve, don't measure their impact by applause or recognition, and don't hoard what God has given them. They see their faith as a supply line, not a storage unit - something meant to move, not sit still. To understand this even better, we are going to dig into an analogy Paul used to encourage the believers in Corinth.

### READ 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15

- Here, Paul compares generosity to planting seeds. What would happen if a farmer ate all the seeds instead of planting them? How does that image help us understand why God gives us gifts in the first place?
- Verse 8 says God provides so we can "abound in every good work." How does this challenge the idea that we should wait until we feel fully prepared or confident before serving?
- Paul explains that generosity produces more than results - it produces thanksgiving to God. How can using your gifts in ordinary ways point people toward God instead of toward you?
- What might it look like to 'store up' gifts instead of using them? Why do you think fear, comparison, or comfort can keep people from sowing what God has given them?
- Paul describes generosity as something that keeps flowing, not something that runs out. How does this passage reshape the way you think about God's supply when you choose to give your time, energy, or abilities?
- Looking at your life right now, what is one gift, ability, or opportunity God may be asking you to plant rather than protect?

## CHALLENGE: DESIGN YOUR TRAINING

Picture the image Paul gives us: God places seed in the hands of sowers, not spectators. A seed only multiplies when it's planted. This week, identify one area where you've been waiting to feel confident, qualified, or fully prepared - and choose to step into it anyway. Discuss with your discipleship partner(s) where you've been holding back, and ask them to pray for you as you step forward.

As you act, ask yourself honestly: *What fear or assumption has been keeping me on the sidelines?* This matters because God's provision is designed to move through us. Growth happens when we stop watching and start sowing.