

WEEK 4 STUDY GUIDE

“The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit” - Bishop Frank J. Beard

Read John 15: 1-8

- What jumps out at you in this passage?

- Look again at verses 1-4 and point out the roles of the Godhead (Son – v.1, Father – v.1, Holy Spirit – v.4) in the production of spiritual fruit.

- Look at verse 8 and share your assessment of the importance of spiritual fruitfulness as proof of discipleship (belonging to Christ).

What Are Spiritual Gifts?

Are spiritual gifts emphasized in your congregation? Why or why not?

“Charismata” are free gifts, provided because of God’s grace. In what way(s) do you believe spiritual gifts are a means of grace? (A means of grace refers to all the ways by which Christians grow stronger in their faith).

Take a moment and read the following passages of Scripture, answering the question, “What are the gifts listed here and why are they important in ordering the life of the church?”

Ephesians 4: 11-13:

1 Corinthians 12:1-11:

I Corinthians 12: 28-31:

Romans 12: 3-8:

In your opinion, why is it that most Christians are not experiencing success with or operating in their spiritual gift?

How might we use spiritual gifts more appropriately in the church?

Discovering Your Unique Spiritual Gift:

Start by reviewing and discussing four hinderances to discovering and using spiritual gifts. Feel free to discuss any of these:

- Some Christians are totally unaware that there is a personal relationship with the Holy Spirit or that there are spiritual gifts.
- Some Christians trust in their own strength and power to live a Christian life.
- Some Christians struggle with maintaining consistency in their spiritual walk.
- Some Christians are rendered powerless because of willful disobedience or chronic sin.

Does your church, to your knowledge, use spiritual gift assessment tools? If so, how widely are they used in your congregation? What are the benefits? What are the challenges?

If your church does not use spiritual gifts assessment tools, how are people selected for ministry?

What do you think would be a positive outcome of members understanding and operating in the church within their area(s) of spiritual giftedness?