



# Weekly Booster

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Jeff Hiser

### Sunday Facebook Host

Craig Harris,

### Facebook Contributors

Pastor David B. Clark,  
Barb Cunningham,  
Craig Harris, Jeff Hiser

### Sunday Praise Team

Terry Stafford, Linda Haldane,  
Margaret Brady, Deb Finlay,  
Jeff Hiser, Jodi Anderzhon



## How to Discover and Use Your Spiritual Gifts

One of the most exciting things about being born again as a follower of Christ is learning what your spiritual gift(s) is, and then putting it or them to use.

In this article, we'll explore what spiritual gifts are, the various kinds of gifts, and how you can discover yours. Next, we'll look at a key biblical passage on the topic of spiritual gifts, 1 Peter 4:10-11, and uncover two important principles for how we can use them. Finally, we'll conclude with a contemplation exercise that will help us think deeply about this passage.

### What Are Spiritual Gifts?

Bible scholars define a spiritual gift as "a graciously given supernaturally designed ability granted to every believer by which the Holy Spirit ministers to the body of Christ. A spiritual gift cannot be earned, pursued, or worked up. It's merely 'received' through the grace of God."

To highlight a couple of important points from this definition, Scripture tells us that every Christian believer has at least one spiritual gift, which is given according to God's will.

*Continued page 2.*

Question and Answer –

*Q: What did Jonah's family say when he told them about what happened before reaching Nineveh?*

*A: "Hmm, sounds fishy."*

**Reminders**

July 15<sup>th</sup>

Men's Bible Study – 8:00 a.m.

July 16<sup>th</sup>

Methodist Men's Breakfast  
8:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall  
All Men Are Welcome

July 18<sup>th</sup>

Ad Board Meeting – 6:30 p.m.

July 19<sup>th</sup>

Praise Team - 5:00 p.m.

July 20<sup>th</sup>

T.O.P.S. – 5:30 p.m.

July 19- 21

Church Office Closed

**\*\*Worship Assistants are needed  
for July 30<sup>th</sup> & August**

**\*\* Fellowship Volunteers needed  
sign-up in Fellowship Hall**



**Two Volunteers Needed each Thursday  
to Deliver Meals  
Sign-Up Sheet for July on the  
Welcome Center Counter**

**Spiritual Gifts - Continued from page 1.**

The apostle Paul declared, "Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. . . . [The Spirit] distributes them to each one, just as he determines" (1 Corinthians 12:7, 11).

**What Is the Purpose of Spiritual Gifts?**

As Paul also writes here, these gifts are given "for the common good" of God's people. Elsewhere, he elaborates that the purpose of the gifts is "to equip [God's] people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and the knowledge of

Thus, the purpose of spiritual gifts is to help God's people become more like Christ in all that they think, say, and do.

**What Kinds of Spiritual Gifts Are There?**

Several passages in the New Testament list various spiritual gifts, and none of the lists are identical (Romans 12:6–8; 1 Corinthians 12:8–10; 12:27–31; Ephesians 4:11; 1 Peter 4:9–11). This suggests that none of the lists is comprehensive and that there are likely many other spiritual gifts not explicitly named. Some that are specifically mentioned include service, teaching, encouragement, mercy, helping, guidance, evangelism, and generosity.

**How Can I Discover My Spiritual Gifts?**

It's not always immediately obvious which spiritual gift(s) we've been given. In addition, God may use a talent that you possessed before being born again or may give you a brand-new gift that you never had before. Pastor and author Max Lucado offer the following helpful advice for discovering your gift:

*What ignites your heart? Forgotten orphans? Untouched nations? The inner city? The outer limits?*

*Heed the fire within!*

*Do you have a passion to sing? Then sing!*

*Are you stirred to manage? Then manage!*

**Continued page 5.**

Question and Answer

*Q: What was Moses' wife, Zippora, known as when she'd throw dinner parties?  
A: "The hostess with the Moses."*

**Volunteers Needed**



**LAST PERSON LEAVING  
PLEASE TURN OUT LIGHTS  
AND LOCK DOORS**

**First United Methodist Church**  
**Please wear your  
name tag on  
Sunday mornings**



**Church Office Hours**

**\*\* Children & Jr.-Sr. High  
Sunday School finished  
until September 2023**

**\*\*NO Chancel Choir Until  
Fall – Wednesdays, 6:45  
p.m. Sunday 8:30 a.m.**

The front door to the church  
will be unlocked during  
office hours and closed only  
for errands and lunch.

**Monday**  
9:00-11:00  
12:00-3:00  
**Tuesday**  
9:00-11:00  
12:00-3:00  
**Wednesday**  
**CLOSED**  
**Thursday**  
9:00-11:00  
12:00-3:00  
**Friday**  
9:00-11:00  
12:00-3:00

Please continue to call in  
advance if you need in the  
church to make sure  
someone is in the office. If  
you reach the answering  
machine please leave  
your name, number, and  
a brief message and your  
call will be returned. Calls  
after 2:00 p.m. may be  
returned the next  
business day.



What did the Lord say he that  
reads what Habakkuk wrote  
will do?

- a) stumble
- b) run
- c) fly
- d) sit and think

Who tore a piece from  
Samuel's robe?

- a) Saul
- b) David
- c) Eli
- d) Solomon

Whose offspring did  
Jesus come to help  
according to the book of  
Hebrews?

- a) Adam
- b) Jacob
- c) Isaac
- d) Abraham

**Check page 4 for answers  
from the previous week.**

**Birthdays and Anniversaries**



16th – Keven & Becky Livengood  
17th – Mace Hensen  
18th – Brent Ehlers, Hali Giese Mayer  
21st – Sherri Hiser

**\*\*See a wrong birthday or anniversary, or need one  
added, please call the office, or send an email to  
[office@shen.church](mailto:office@shen.church)**

**Shenandoah First United  
Methodist Church**

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Phone 712-246-2081

Church E-mail  
[office@shen.church](mailto:office@shen.church)

Same address – a new look at  
<https://shen.church>



<https://shenchurch.onechurchsoftware.com/>



United Methodist Church,  
Shenandoah, IA

<https://www.facebook.com/methodist.church.shenandoah>



Services are now on our Youtube  
channel only.

<https://www.youtube.com/@shen.church8192/streams>

**\*Prelude/Postlude/Accompanist: Terry Stafford**

**Call to Worship**

**Leader: God's word is a lamp for our steps,**

**People: It lights the path before us.**

**L: God's word instructs us in the ways of justice,**

**P: Do not let us forget your teaching, O God.**

**Leader: God's word is forever,**

**People: It brings joy to our lives.**

*"Learning to Listen"*

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

**Songs**

**For the Healing of the Nations #428**

**Breathe #3112**

**My Life Is in You, Lord #2032**

**Let There Be Peace on Earth #431**

**Last Week's Attendance**

**In-Person Worship – 59**

**On-Line Worship – 28**

**Our Mission:**

***"Know & Serve God by Sharing Christ's Love."***

**Our Vision:**

***"We will grow in holiness, our community will thrive, & we will make a difference in our world."***

**Answers for July 9<sup>th</sup> are b) Jonah b) Jehu b) Incense**

**Quiz s hints – Q1) Habakkuk Q2) 1 Samuel Q3) Hebrews**

*Do you ache for the ill? Then treat them!*

*Do you hurt for the lost? Then teach them!*

*The fire of your heart is the light of your path. Disregard it at your own expense. Fan it at your own delight. Blow it. Stir it. Nourish it. . .*

*You have been given spiritual gifts. Have you identified them? If not, consider taking a spiritual inventory test (your local church can help you). Or ask friends and family to help you discover and use your gifts. Then pray about ways you can use your gifts to build up the body of believers and share the good news of salvation.*

## **Two Principles for Using Your Spiritual Gifts**

Besides knowing what our spiritual gift(s) is, it's also important to know how to use it. Below, we'll look at 1 Peter 4:10-11, where Peter suggests two practical principles for using our spiritual gifts:

*“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.”*

The first principle, which we've already alluded to, is that we should use our gifts “to serve others” (v. 10). In his discussion of spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians, Paul compares individual Christians to the parts of a human body (1 Corinthians 12:12-27). Each part of our physical body plays a significant role, which contributes to the flourishing of our whole being. In the same way, each of our spiritual gifts contributes to the flourishing of the body of Christ. When we use our gifts to minister to one another, we will be “faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms” (1 Peter 4:10).

The second principle is that we should exercise our gifts so that “in all things, God may be praised through Jesus Christ” (v. 11). Said differently, we should use our gifts in ways that glorify God. As the *Expositor’s Bible Commentary* helpfully observes, “Serving fellow Christians does glorify God because people will praise him for his grace that comes to them through Jesus and his followers.” It can be tempting to become prideful about our gifts and use them to elevate our status. But as one scholar warns,

*Anyone who performs any kind of service should do it with the humble recognition that it is God who empowers him. Then the glory will go to God—to whom it belongs. A man should not become proud no matter how highly gifted he is in Christian service. The gift did not originate from his effort but was given to him from above. In fact, he has nothing that he did not receive. All service should be performed so that God gets the credit.*



## Engaging with 1 Peter 4:10-11

A fitting way to conclude our brief study of spiritual gifts is to end with the **Contemplation** exercise of these verses found in *The Abide Bible*.<sup>\*</sup> This is one of several methods of engaging more deeply with Scripture presented in this volume. Contemplation consists of four parts

- read
- meditate
- pray
- contemplate.

By working through each part, you'll immerse yourself in this passage and find that you have a deeper understanding of it and how you can apply it to your own life and circumstances.

**Read.** Ask God to speak to you through his Word. Then read the passage a few times.

**Meditate.** How can you connect your life and gifts to the work of the kingdom of God? Do you seek opportunities to show love through using your gifts for the glory of God? What needs in your church or community are currently unfulfilled?

**Pray.** Ask God to reveal ways you may follow the exhortations in these verses more closely. Turn anything the Spirit revealed to you into a prayer and request God to guide your growth.

**Contemplate.** Rest in the assurance that God himself works to fulfill his purposes through your gifts as you minister to others through them.

*Adapted from an article by Christopher Reese., Guest Post, Bible Gateway Blog, May 9, 2022.*

This Sunday our Gospel reading from Matthew has Jesus repeating the refrain, "Those who have ears to hear, listen!" Listening seems like such an easy thing to do, and yet Jesus repeats this refrain throughout the gospels, as though it is a foundational act of faith. But it is one that we often overlook, especially in our modern world. How difficult it is to truly listen with so much noise. Not only to listen to God but to listen to others. Some of the noise we encounter comes from within in the form of biases and over the next couple of weeks, in the booster, I want to look at some that are found in every one of us: confirmation bias, complexity bias, community bias, conservative/liberal bias, contact bias, and cash bias.



Biases have a strong negative connotation in our culture and that is for good reason, we have all seen biases in other people distort their view of the world, negatively affect their decision-making, and in the process harm others or perhaps ourselves. The act, then, of looking within to see how each one of these biases plays out in our own lives is a courageous act. But in our current culture, this is work that is just as foundational in the way of Jesus as getting away to pray and serving others in compassion.

Next week, we'll explore confirmation bias, but first a bit more about biases in general. Yes, we have a negative reaction toward bias and sometimes think that being unbiased is the only way to arrive at the truth. But we are going to discover that it is impossible to be without bias and that bias, in and of itself, is neither good nor bad. In fact, some of these biases come about because of our survival instinct. It's a part of our DNA. It's a part of who we are as human beings.

So bias just is; it is neither good nor bad. Where it starts to be harmful is when we allow these biases to control what kind of information we let in. When we allow these biases to control how we engage or relate to another person. When we let these biases sever a relationship or connection with our neighbor; that's when these biases turn harmful. We need to be aware of these biases and to recognize when the bias does this. Understanding why it's hard for me to hear my neighbor share new information with me. Understanding why it's so hard for me to even understand where my neighbor is coming from.

What I hope to gain from this exploration of biases is to begin to recognize, not to completely get rid of them (because we're never going to get rid of our biases), but to be able to recognize when they are getting in the way. This way we can make the choice whether or not to go along with the bias. Whether or not to say, "You know what, this bias is leading me in a direction that's against my values. This bias is leading me against truth and beauty." While noticing the bias at work, we can shed the bias and venture outside of our biases so that we might learn to listen and grow; so that we might begin to interact compassionately with others.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor David B. Clark



## Food Pantry Needs for July



Mandarin Oranges, pineapple, corn, green beans, sugar-free Jell-O, pudding mixes, pancake syrup, soda, graham crackers, cake, brownie, and muffin mixes, potato flakes, tuna and chicken helper, ketchup, mustard, salt and pepper, disposable razors, shampoo, and crème rinse.

There are times when people who use the Food Pantry come to the pantry on foot. They are then forced to walk home carrying, pushing, or pulling several pounds of food. Southwest Iowa Transit, for a very reasonable fee of \$5.00, will take individuals with their food items home.

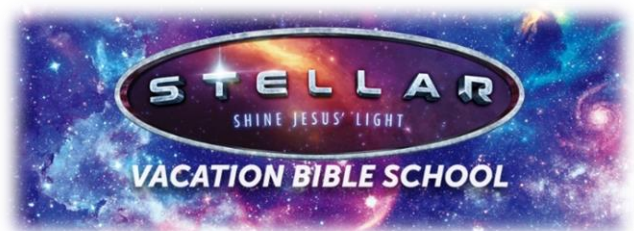


If you are interested in helping pay for these fees, simply seal your cash (whatever you would like to give) in a plain envelope and add it to your donated food items.



We are looking for special music for the summer. If you are interested in providing special music or know of someone that might be interested, please contact Mace Hensen or call the office and the message will be forwarded to him.

- August 1-3, 2023, 5:00-8:20 p.m.
- VBS Program, August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:45 p.m.
- FREE
- Dinner provided
- Age 4 through 6<sup>th</sup> grade (those that just finished 6<sup>th</sup>)



**Registration forms are available on the counter of the Welcome Center**





The church office will be closed next Wednesday, July 19<sup>th</sup> – Friday, July 21<sup>st</sup>.

The office will be open during normal hours on Monday & Tuesday, July 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Pastor David will have normal office hours Monday-Thursday. Off on Friday.

Doors will be locked so please call before coming to the church so Pastor David can unlock the doors for you.

