



5 MINUTE LESSONS ON THE KINGDOM OF GOD

There Are Things That We Must Do

I had a friend that was a missionary to Denmark. He had an amazing teaching gift and he illustrated everything he taught about with pictures. We would go to a restaurant together and he would have his pad of blank white paper and a pen. I would ask him hard questions and he always taught me with his pen and illustrations. I learned a lot from him.

I asked him one time about what it meant to have a total commitment to Christ. He shared with me that there are some things that we can't do. For instance, I can't sing like Elvis Presley. I can't play golf like Tiger Woods. I can't play basketball like Michael Jordan. But there are some things that I must do and I can do. These are gifts of the Holy Spirit. These are gifts and talents from God. After a few dozen people say, "You made that so easy to understand." Realize that you may have a gift to teach.

"¹⁰God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. ¹¹Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you..."
(1 Peter 4:10-11 NLT)

Or you may always be giving to others in a big way and sometimes in a small way. You may have a gift of giving.

"⁸If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously..." (Romans 12:8a NLT)

Do you love to pray for the sick? You may have a gift of healing.

"The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing." (1 Corinthians 12:9 NLT)

1 Corinthians 12:4-11 says,

"⁴There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. ⁵There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. ⁶God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us.

⁷A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. ⁸To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge. ⁹The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing. ¹⁰He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, while another is given the ability to interpret what is being said. ¹¹It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.”
(1 Corinthians 12:4-11 NLT)

So you can see, as a Christian, there are some things you can't do, and there are other things that you must do. Work with what God has given you and He may increase it and give you more (Matthew 25:28-29). Stephen was a deacon and served people in practical ways (Acts 6:5), but we find out later that his ministry increased to signs, wonders and miracles among the people (Acts 6:8). He became such a powerful preacher that the unbelievers could not resist the wisdom and power by which he spoke (Acts 6:10). He later gave his life as a martyr for Jesus Christ (Acts 7:59-60). He started with what God gave him, he was faithful, God increased his ministry and he became one of the greatest men of God.

So total commitment is being faithful in what God has given you to do and God will give you more (Matthew 25:29).

The Apostle Paul said to follow the way of love and you may even desire more spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 14:1).

As I look back on my life, I realize I have done more in Jesus' name than I could have even imagined. I have done more than my natural abilities. Who did that? It was God!

Well, what if you are old and feeble?

³⁶Anna, a prophet, was also there in the Temple. She was the daughter of Phanuel from the tribe of Asher, and she was very old. Her husband died when they had been married only seven years. ³⁷Then she lived as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the Temple but stayed there day and night, worshiping God with fasting and prayer.” (Luke 2:36-37 NLT)

Notice how the elderly lady Anna served God, she never left the Temple as she served and worshiped God with her prayer and fasting.

Total Commitment — Some things you can't do, but some things we must do.

Questions

- 1 What are some of the gifts God gives to His children?
- 2 What are some other gifts that God gives to his children?
- 3 God has given some men as gifts. Who are they?
- 4 Are you being faithful in what God has given you to do?

We want to hear from you!

We would love to hear your feedback on these lessons and how you use them in your own study or in discipling others. If you have any thoughts, stories, testimonies, comments, or questions we would love to hear them!

delessons.org/contact

DKM
10065 Sun Ridge Circle
Rogers, AR 72756 U.S.A.
delessons.org

Answer Key

1 What are some of the gifts God gives to His children?

“⁴There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. ⁵There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. ⁶God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us.

⁷A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. ⁸To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge. ⁹The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing. ¹⁰He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, while another is given the ability to interpret what is being said. ¹¹It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.”

(1 Corinthians 12:4-11 NLT)

2 What are some other gifts that God gives to his children?

“⁶In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. ⁷If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. ⁸If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give 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.” (Romans 12:6-8 NLT)

3 God has given some men as gifts. Who are they?

“¹¹Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. ¹²Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:11-12 NLT)

4 Are you being faithful in what God has given you to do?