

# Spiritual Gifts: *Exercising Other Gifts*

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November 17, 2001

## One Gift, Many Gifts

Brethren, today is a day of miracles. First, Peter did *not* tell me to keep this short. (Actually, Peter has been very gracious with granting us time to present these spiritual gifts to you.) Secondly, I *will* keep it short. Now *that's* a miracle!

Though God has given each of us a *primary* spiritual gift, there are times when He calls upon us to exercise *another* spiritual gift, perhaps even one that is totally foreign to us. Because Jesus lives in us, He can empower us to exhibit any spiritual gift at any time according to His will.

Brethren, I love you. And I know that you are a loving people. Many of you are gifted with a desire to visit the sick and shut-ins, those in hospitals or who are terminally ill. I have on occasion done that, but that is not my gift.

Let me share this with you. You know John Wolbert and most of you knew his wife, June. Last year June was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's Disease and she later passed away.

God filled my heart with love, compassion and empathy for June and John and a deep desire to comfort them, encourage them and grieve with them. So I took every opportunity to do what little I could to help them. Yet, I feel I didn't do enough. As I later told John, it was the purest thing I've ever done in my life.

I know that June was better for it and I am so thankful that she asked that I give her eulogy – I was honored and blessed. Knowing and helping John and June has forever changed who I am as a person.

Last summer Roy McCoy and I were sitting on the bench outside the church. As we were talking, John was bringing June in her wheelchair up to the building. I immediately got up, greeted them, gave June a big hug, and opened the door for them. Sitting down, I said to Roy, "She's a lovely person." Roy replied, "You're a lovely person, too." Brethren, that wasn't *me*. That was *Jesus Christ*. I tell you this not for *my* glory but for *His*. It is *His* love and compassion which came out of me.

I tell you this for two reasons:

1. If your heart is open to God and you are willing to leave your comfort zone, He will use you to help others in a special way and *you will be changed*.
2. We should not be so single-mindedly focused on *our* gifts (which are really God's) that we ignore *other* gifts that He wants us to use at particular times in specific ways.

So, as we go through this series on spiritual gifts, bear in mind that God may call upon us to use *any* of these gifts at *any* time for *any* of His purposes. After all, *Jesus Christ* lives in you and *He* is the *source* of *all* of these gifts.

We should always be alert to how God wants us to respond to an individual or a situation. It may be a totally new experience for us, but we should heed His call. There may come a time when *you* are the only one who can be Christ to that person, at that time, in that way.

Last year, God wanted me to be Jesus Christ at that time in that way for John and June. Please, brethren, be alert to how Jesus wants *you* to express *Him* to others. You *will* be blessed. I know *I* was.