

CEC - Sunday Circle
Lesson October 24, 2021
Stewardship and Gratitude: Gifts and Fruit

Opening prayer:

"Come, Holy Spirit!"

Come and quiet my soul to hear you.

Come and soften my heart to accept your words.

Come and guide my steps.

Come and equip me to do your work.

Come and help me trust where you are taking me.

Come and make my life new.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. ~Romans 15:13

Icebreaker : Name, favorite fruit to eat, favorite fruit of Spirit, what is your spiritual gift if you know it.

Bible Verses

Galatians 5 NRSV

For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters;^[a] only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence,^[a] but through love become slaves to one another.¹⁴ For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."¹⁵ If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

The Works of the Flesh -¹⁶ Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh.¹⁷ For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want.¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law.¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness,²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions,²¹ envy,^[a] drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

The Fruit of the Spirit -²² By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another.

Spiritual Gifts

Romans 12:6 NRSV

We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Ephesians 4:11 NRSV

The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

Corinthians 12:4 NRSV

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

16 SPIRITUAL GIFTS LISTS

(Romans 12, Ephesians 4 & Corinthians 12)

Administration / Ruling
Apostleship / Pioneering
Discernment
Encouraging / Exhorting
Evangelism
Faith
Giving
Hospitality
Knowledge
Leadership
Pastor / Shepherding
Prophecy / Perceiving
Teaching
Serving / Ministry
Showing Mercy
Wisdom

Marks of the True Christian - Romans 12 NRSV

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.[ⓐ] ¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly;[ⓑ] do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge

yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; ¹⁹ for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Closing Prayer:

Heavenly Lord,

Do not let us neglect Your Spirit or the gifts You have given us. Give us the courage to use these gifts and the humility to not use them for our glory, but for You and Your glory. Help us see the good work You have ready for us and embrace that work with willingness and joy.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.