



Sermon Discussion Guide for Groups

"The Gifts of the Holy Spirit | Part Two"

Preached by Pastor Brady Boyd
1 June 2025

"So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists,
the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so
that the body of Christ may be built up."

E P H E S I A N S 4 : 1 1 - 1 2 N I V

Summary

Have someone from your group read the following summary aloud.

In today's message, Pastor Brady continued his compelling series on the gifts of the Spirit by diving into some of the more supernatural and often misunderstood gifts: healing, miracles, prophecy, and the ability to distinguish between spirits. Rather than treating these as mystical powers reserved for spiritual superstars, he reminded us that these gifts are given to every believer and are meant to be used for the common good of the church and community. Pastor Brady emphasized that in our current world, which is filled with confusion, division, and genuine spiritual warfare, these gifts aren't just nice-to-have extras, but critical tools that God has equipped his people with to navigate the challenges we face.

What made this message particularly powerful was Pastor Brady's refreshing honesty about his own experiences with these gifts, especially healing prayer. He didn't paint a picture of constant miraculous breakthroughs but instead shared transparently about times when he prayed for healing and witnessed God's power in remarkable ways, as well as moments when healing didn't come in the way he had hoped or expected. His key message was both challenging and comforting: we're called to remain faithful in exercising these gifts regardless of whether we see the visible results we're hoping for. The goal is remain obedient to use what God has given us and trust him, alone, with the outcomes.

Opening Prayer

Open your session in prayer, using the words below or your own.

"Heavenly Father, thank you for gathering us today to explore the mystery of your spiritual gifts of healing, miracles, prophecy, and discernment. We come with different experiences and questions, some excited, others uncertain about these gifts. Either way, please meet us where we are. Help us remember that your gifts aren't based on our perfection but on your love for your people.

"As we discuss times when healing comes and times when it doesn't, teach us to hold both truth and mystery with open hands. Give us courage to be honest about our questions and learn from each other's stories. Help us remain faithful in exercising these gifts, not because we control outcomes, but because we trust your character. Holy Spirit, be our teacher today. Open our hearts and help us leave with greater faith and compassion. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Getting Going

Allow time for each group member to answer the following question before moving on.

Share about a time when someone used his or her spiritual gift, (either a gift discussed this week or another gift altogether), to help you in an unexpected way.

What was the situation, and how did the manifestation of that gift make a difference for you?

Discussion Questions

Answer as many of the following questions as time and interest permit.

1. Pastor Brady emphasized that spiritual gifts are given to every believer, not just spiritual "superstars." What's the difference between genuine spiritual gifts and our natural talents or abilities?
2. Pastor Brady was refreshingly honest about times when his prayers for healing weren't answered the way he hoped. How do we make sense of this reality?
3. How do we keep spiritual gifts focused on serving others rather than building our own reputation or feeling spiritually superior?
4. In a world full of conflicting voices, conspiracy theories, and spiritual confusion, how do we develop the gift of "distinguishing between spirits"?
5. What holds us back from stepping out and using our spiritual gifts?

6. How can we create an environment where people feel safe to discover and use their spiritual gifts without comparing themselves to others or competing for recognition?

Making It Personal

Take the opportunity noted below to apply this week's sermon to your everyday life.

Practice "everyday prophecy" by intentionally speaking God's heart to others.

Based on 1 Corinthians 14:3, prophecy is about strengthening, encouraging, and comforting people instead of predicting the future. This week, ask God to show you his heart for the people you encounter, and then speak words that build them up.

Your challenge: Each day, look for one person who could use a word of encouragement, strength, or comfort. It might be:

- Telling a co-worker you notice his or her hard work and dedication.
- Texting a friend to remind him or her of a strength you see.
- Encouraging someone who's going through a tough time by speaking truth about his or her intrinsic value.
- Affirming a family member's character or gifting when he or she is feeling down.

The key: Before you speak, take a moment to pray and ask, "God, what do you want this person to know about how you see them?" Then trust him to give you words that reflect his heart.

Also, remember this: Keep it simple! You don't need to say "God told me ..." Instead, just speak genuine, life-giving truth. Pay attention to how people respond and how it feels to be intentionally used by God to bless others.

Key Takeaways

Commit to memory one point from the message before you dismiss.

Which of these points will you carry with you this week?

- Every believer has been given spiritual gifts for the common good of the body of Christ.
- The gift of healing and miracles should be exercised faithfully, regardless of visible results.
- Prophecy in the New Testament context is primarily about strengthening, encouraging, and comforting others.

- Spiritual discernment is crucial for distinguishing between genuine spiritual influence and counterfeit.
- What we do reveals who we are; therefore, our actions should reflect our identity in Christ.

Closing Prayer

Have someone from your group close your time in prayer, using the words below or your own.

"Lord Jesus, thank you for the amazing gift of your Holy Spirit and for trusting each of us with spiritual gifts that reflect your heart and power. It's incredible that you would choose to work through ordinary people like us to bring healing, encouragement, and Your presence into a hurting world.

"As we head back into our week, help us be faithful with what you've given us. When we meet someone who needs healing, give us courage to pray for them and trust you with whatever happens. When people around us are discouraged, help us speak your words of strength and comfort.

"Give us wisdom to recognize your voice and know when you're nudging us to step out. Keep us humble when we see you work through us, and keep us hopeful when things don't go the way we expected.

"Most of all, help us stay focused on your love for people instead of worrying about our own spiritual performance. As we practice speaking life into others this week, open our eyes to see people in the merciful way that you see them.

"Use us, Lord, for your glory and for the good of others. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Key Passage | 1 Corinthians 12:7-10

These verses were highlighted during this week's sermon and appear here for your reference.

"Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues."

Verses for Further Study

- John 14:12-13
- 1 Corinthians 14:1-3
- Nehemiah 8:10