

## **Gifts of the Spirit - God working in your leadership.**

By Jeff Neuman-Lee

There are things that you are supposed to do. They are good things. And they are not assigned to anyone else. If you don't do them, who will? They may probably just not get done. And they are good things which need doing.

I am talking about good things to do. Things, which if they are done, will benefit others. Make others genuinely happy things to do. Things which will remind others of the love of God because it *is* the love of God shining through you. That's what I'm talking about.

Well, if you read last month's essay, you will know that I'm talking about Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

There is a hidden quality in these "gifts". It is something which solves the problem of how adults are to relate to one another. This hidden quality orders society not with an artificial hierarchical basis, but rather liberates each individual within the community. It makes life thrilling for us each as individuals and it gives all humanity the tremendous power which God has offered to it.

That quality hidden in your gift is that when you simply use your gift, you will have to give back your leadership.

The upshot is that in our gifts given by God through the Holy Spirit, God intends for the mature follower of Jesus to be a leader of the community. The goal of the community is not for it to simply follow one individual or a board of elders, but rather for each one to grow into maturity in Jesus Christ.

**The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.**  
*Ephesians 4: 11 - 13*

Imagine how better things would be if each of us used our gift from the Holy Spirit with the eager and energized attitude of one who sees how God is bringing truly good things to each other and to God's mission to share Christ's love in the world! When you tap into that core within yourself, you are truly touching what is real in you, God drawing you out to share His love for others. This is true freedom. Not the negative stuff, but rather the true "yes" within your heart.

You will know you are giving your leadership when you see relationships grow, when friends or even enemies overcome their difficulties with each other and are reconciled, when the people of God, gathered for worship or for service are filled with joy.

Pray for the courage to live with such power.