

## You Have Spiritual Gifts, Message 2- The Ultimate Purpose of Spiritual Gifts

### Introduction:

Depending on which study is cited there are great disparities between what people state they believe regarding church and what they believe regarding Jesus. The general population has a “positive” view of Jesus. Some polls can show this number as high as 85%. However, when asked if they have a positive view of the church, this number plummets to less than 20%. According to Barna Research Group, even among those who have had some form of regular church attendance in their lives, between 40 and 60% of various groups as defined by gender and region of the country are apt to say they strongly agree with the statement, “I love Jesus but not His church.”

Two main reasons cited by those who feel this way are that they see the church as divisive and unloving, and that they see no evidence of God’s work there/ the church makes no tangible difference in their life or circumstance.

**Main Idea- Spiritual Gifts help unlock the tangible love of God.**

### **1. It used to all be about obedience.**

Exodus 34:27- “Then the Lord said to Moses, “Write down these words, for in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel.”

Exodus 19:5- “Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations I will treasure you.”

### TEN COMMANDMENTS

- Until Jesus, the standard by which we were considered righteous- “right with God”- was obedience.

### **2. Jesus changed the standard.**

David’s Idea- the temple. Sometimes, God will let us run with our own idea- even as He warns us.

2nd Samuel 7:2- “Look at this: Here I am, comfortable in a luxurious house of cedar, and the Chest of God sits in a plain tent.”

2nd Samuel 7:6-9 “I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day...”Wherever I have moved with the Israelites, did I ever say to any of the rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”

- By the time of Jesus, the temple became the seat of power, influence, and wealth for a large construct of priests and temple leaders.
- Jesus states in John 2:19 that if the temple were destroyed, He would rebuild it in three days. This statement is cited by Mark as an accusation placed against him at trial.
- The Romans certainly had no love for the temple as its prestige made it harder for them to subjugate.

And then:

*“Now when Jesus returned, a crowd welcomed him, for they were all expecting him. Then a man named Jairus, a **synagogue leader**, came and fell at Jesus’ feet, pleading with him to come to his house because his only daughter, a girl of about twelve, was dying.”* - Luke 8:40-42

- Jairus was one of their own.
- If the people- encouraged by one of their own- began to believe that God could do His work anywhere and not just in a building, the bureaucracy of the priesthood would crumble.
- The temple leaders resolve to publicly discredit Jesus. They already had attempted to do so with the woman caught in adultery on a moral standpoint as well as taxation to Caesar on a legal standpoint and failed both times.
- They hire a hitman lawyer while Jesus was traveling through Samaria. The Samaritans rejected him and wouldn’t let him in based on his ethnicity as a Jew.
- Lawyer confronts him when he gets back into the city

*“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”*

- Jesus quotes the Shema. But when he goes on and combines it with the encouragement from later in Deuteronomy to “Love your neighbor as yourself” He

changes the standard of being right with God from obedience to the commandments to showing God's love to others.

*29 But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbor?' 30 Jesus replied, 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho...*

- Through the parable, Jesus shows how those who were merely obedient to the law did not demonstrate the love of God.
- He uses a Samaritan- the very people who had just rejected Him- as an example of what love looks like. Anyone can be made righteous now.

### **3. Spiritual gifts grow out of the new standard of love.**

- The most detailed scriptural view of love is found in 1 Corinthians 13.
- Most people associate this with loving, romantic relationships. It's often read at weddings.
- The new standard that "love" brings is actually tremendously higher and more rigorous than sacrificial obedience ever was.
- The actual, full context of 1 Cor 13 is to explain the real motivation of using Spiritual Gifts.

*"If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. " 1 Cor 13: 1-2*

- The very reason God gives us all Spiritual Gifts is they provide another way of unlocking the tangible love of God through supernatural power..

*"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."*  
*1 Cor 13:13*