

Taking it Home:

- Unfortunately, insecurity drives some to compare their giftedness with others. Harold Hoehner notes that, “difference of gift does not determine value [to the body]. Value is determined by individuals’ use of their gifting within the body.” How can you work to increase **the benefit to others** of your giftedness?
- Ephesians 4:15 answers “how” we can grow in spiritual maturity by practicing the truth in love. In a very practical way, what would this look like in your growth group, at your job, or in your home?
- We are in a dangerous place spiritually when we begin to trust the gift more than the Giver. Be sure to acknowledge the grace given to you in Christ this week as you seek to serve in your giftedness. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Additional Resources

The following online assessments may be helpful if you are seeking to discover more about how you are uniquely gifted for ministry. The best way to discover your gifts is in serving and recognizing when the body of Christ affirms your gifts.

- Membership and Ministry - Combining 16 SGs & 4 DISC Profile – www.uniquelyyou.com (\$15)
- Your Unique Design – www.youruniquedesign.com (\$35)
- Spiritual Gifts Assessment – www.tricalico.com/spiritualgifts (free)

A Home Improvement Approach to Ministry

Growth Group Homework

For the week of August 29, 2010

Ephesians 4:12

Quick Review: In Ephesians 4, we discovered that Christ is the source of spiritual gifts given to each believer. These spiritual gifts are given to equip believers for the work of the ministry so that the body of Christ may be mature. The practice of truth in love is evidence of spiritual maturity.

My Story

- When has your lack of confidence or confusion about your spiritual gifts kept you from serving?

- If you know your spiritual gifts, share with your group a time when you were serving Christ and had a deep sense that your gifts were being used to the benefit of the Body.

Growing Deeper

- List the spiritual gifts described in Ephesians 4:11, Romans 12:3-8, and 1 Corinthians 12:4-11. Take time to notice the strong emphasis on unity within diversity. The gifts are unique to the person. There is oneness within the Body of Christ. How does each spiritual gift on your list benefit other believers?

- Gifts are not the same as offices. One can have the gift of shepherding/pastor without the office of pastor. Next to each of the gifts on your list, write down one person you know with that gift. Next time you see them, affirm their giftedness and encourage them.

- What does 1 Peter 4:10 say about receiving and using your gifts? How does Philippians 1:21 inspire you to service for Christ?