



MINISTRY EQUIPPING GIFTS INTRODUCTION

FUNCTION & PURPOSE: EQUIPPING THE CHURCH TO DO THE MINISTRY

Who Equips the Church | Ephesians 4:11–13

11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Stewardship of God's Grace in Speaking and Serving | 1 Peter 4:10–11

10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 11 If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Sufficiency Comes from God, Not Ourselves | 2 Corinthians 3:5-6

5 Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. 6 He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

The Manifestation of the Spirit for the Good of the Body | 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

4 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

LET'S OBSERVE THE TEXT...

Observe 1 Peter 4:10-11

- **Verse 10** - Each of you should use whatever gift you have _____ to _____ others, as faithful _____ of God's grace in its various forms.
 - Was the gift earned? Is it for self? Do you own it?
- **Verse 11** - If anyone _____, they should do so as one who speaks the very _____ of God. If anyone _____, they should do so with the strength God _____, so that in all things _____ may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.
 - Speaking on God's behalf (aligned in speech and motive) to the truth of His Word) is a great responsibility.
 - Read James 3:1
 - This *strength* mentioned is a special *grace* for the assignment. That's why it's of vital importance to align with God's truth and calling in your life. Don't do what you're not called to do.
 - Why do we serve? To bring glory to God, not ourselves.



CONCORDANCE



Steward (oikonomos)

Strong's G3623

Found in 1 Peter 4:10



Ministers (diakonos)

Strong's G1249

Found in 2 Corinthians 3:6



Competent (hikanoó)

Strong's G2427

Found in 2 Corinthians 3:5

Observe 2 Corinthians 3:5-6

- **Verse 5** - Not that we are _____ in _____ to claim anything for _____, but our competence comes _____ God.
 - God makes us competent. He orders our steps, which gives us the life experience needed to do His will, and His Spirit (and the fear and reverence we have towards Him) gives us wisdom.
 - Read Proverbs 9:10
- **Verse 6** - He has made us competent as _____ of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.
 - We are servants to the advancing of the New Covenant.
 - What is the New Covenant? The atoning blood of Jesus, which reconciles sinners to the Father. Now that we have received such great mercy in our sin, we advance His gospel by pointing others to the One who saved our wretched souls.

Observe 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

4 There are different kinds of _____, but the _____ Spirit _____ them. 5 There are different kinds of _____, but the _____ Lord. 6 There are different kinds of _____, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same _____ at _____.
7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the _____.

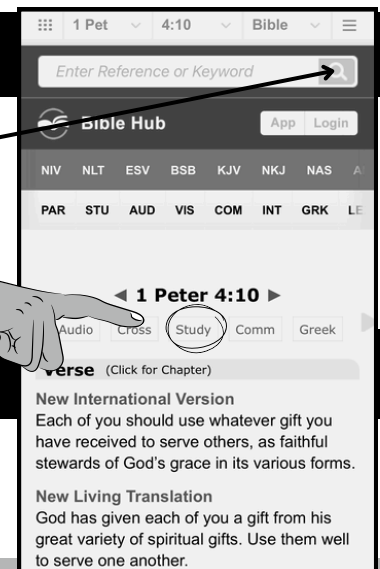
- **Verses 4 -6** - We are all assigned different gifts and tasks by the same God. He decides.
- **Verse 7** - Each of us with our own responsibility that He sees fit for the purpose of serving the common good.



ONLINE RESOURCE ACTIVITIES

Observe 1 Peter 4:10 & 2 Corinthians 3:6

- Go to BibleHub.com and do a search for **1 Peter 4:10** in the "Enter Reference or Keyword" box and then click on the magnifying glass.
- Once it loads, click on the button titled "Study"
 - Read the **Study Bible** section.
- Now do the same for **2 Corinthians 3:6**.



LET'S INTERPRET...

- What do you believe all of these verses mean?
- What is God speaking to you personally through this study?
- Read a trusted commentary and compare to your interpretation.



LET'S READ THE AFTER-SUMMARY TOGETHER

This study brings us back to the heart of why Christ gave gifts to the Church in the first place (Ephesians 4:11-13). The five fold ministry was never meant to create hierarchy or distance between leaders and people, but to serve the body through God ordained leadership so the Church can grow strong, unified, and mature in Christ (Ephesians 4:12-13). These gifts function best when they remain rooted in humility and submission to the Spirit, not ambition or personal identity (2 Corinthians 3:5-6).

One of the clearest truths throughout Scripture is that gifts are given, not earned (1 Peter 4:10). They are entrusted to believers as stewardship, not ownership. Whether someone speaks or serves, Scripture makes it clear that ministry flows from God's grace and strength, not human effort (1 Peter 4:11). When ministry is driven by self reliance, it produces division and exhaustion. When it flows from the Spirit, it produces life and builds up the body (2 Corinthians 3:6).

The five fold ministry is not the finish line. It is the training ground (Ephesians 4:11-12). Those called into these roles are equipped by God to bear witness to what He has deposited in His people, to help identify and confirm spiritual gifts, and to invest in those gifts through teaching, guidance, and oversight. Their role is to equip believers so ministry does not remain with a few, but flows through the whole Church in a healthy and ordered way (Ephesians 4:12, 1 Corinthians 12:7).

At the center of that equipping is the mission of Christ Himself. Jesus commanded His disciples to go and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:18-20). This commission is carried out through the ministry of reconciliation, which God has entrusted to His Church (2 Corinthians 5:18-19). Having been reconciled to the Father through Christ, believers are now equipped to point others to that same mercy, serving as ministers of a new covenant under the guidance of the Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:6, 2 Corinthians 5:20).

In the end, this study calls each believer to responsibility, not pressure (1 Peter 4:10). God supplies what He requires (1 Peter 4:11, 2 Corinthians 3:5). As leaders equip and shepherd the body according to God's design, and as believers faithfully step into their God given function, the Church becomes a living witness of reconciliation. Through this shared obedience, the gospel advances, disciples are made, and the world is invited back to the Father (2 Corinthians 5:18-20, Matthew 28:19-20).

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Applying Ephesians 4:11-13

Application Question

How do you personally understand your role in the ministry of the church?

Deeper Question

In what ways might you be depending on others to do the work God is equipping you to step into yourself?

Applying 1 Peter 4:10-11

Application Question

What gift or ability has God given you that you are actively using to serve others?

Deeper Question

Where might you be treating your gift like personal property instead of a stewardship entrusted to you by God?

Applying 2 Corinthians 3:5-6

Application Question

When you serve or step into responsibility, do you rely more on your own ability or on God's strength?

Deeper Question

What areas of ministry might you be avoiding or forcing because you are either afraid of inadequacy or trusting in yourself instead of the Spirit? Or is it that you do not know where or how to serve?

Applying 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

Application Question

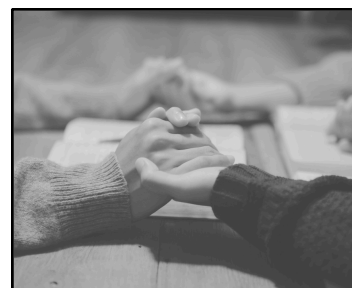
Do you recognize that your role in the body is different from others but equally valuable?

Deeper Question

Have comparison, competition, or insecurity kept you from embracing your assignment for the good of the whole church?

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, we are so grateful for the honor and privilege to be equipped and activated as Ministers of Reconciliation. As if your grace and mercy to wash away our sins was not enough, it is Your desire to partner with us in doing *Your* holy work. We pray that you recalibrate our minds to see the purpose of the church in this hour of need. The world is dark, and You've chosen us to shine the light of Christ. Equip us with competence, wisdom, and boldness to love the unloveable, deliver the bound, heal the sick, and restore the broken. All to Your glory we pray, in Jesus name...amen!



WHAT'S AHEAD...

Next Session

Outward Facing Gifts in the 5-Fold:
Building & Advancing the Kingdom

Homework

Read Acts 13:1-3