



GROWING – Releasing Spiritual Gifts 31st May 2020 Brian Greenaway

This Study Guide provides a summarised study with additional discussion questions based on the scriptures mentioned in the sermon.

Connect:

1. What is the purpose of the kingdom of God?
2. Read and discuss Ephesians 4:7-10
3. Where did Jesus descend too?
4. Who are the captives?
 - Jesus descended and died upon the cross and ascended to the Father. His descending and ascending proved His victory over death and over the cross.

Engage:

5. Do you recall the foundations (steps for growing relationally strong) set by Pastor Mark last week?
 - The 3 R's (fill in the blanks):
 1. R : Mistakes, Mischief, 'MY' needs
 2. R : Humble, Gentle, Patient, Make allowance
 3. R : Choices that build one another up

“If you don't deal with areas in your character, then your gifts will not function properly.”

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Framework:



6. Why does God give us spiritual gifts? What are they for?
7. Read 1 Corinthians 13:1
8. **Spiritual gifts that God can give us:**
 - Read Ephesians 4:11
 - Read Romans 12:4-8
 - Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

“The Holy Spirit can bring unity in diversity. He brings the body of Christ together; He brings all our abilities and skills together.”

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9. Read and discuss 1 Peter 4-10

- 3 Principles to Releasing Spiritual Gifts:
- **1) How do I use my natural talents and abilities to serve others? (That is a baseline for growing in gifting)**
 - Read Ephesians 3:7-8
 - Paul didn't allow himself to become distracted by the gifts that others had, he only focused on and developed the gifts that God had already given to him.

“God wants to work on you supernaturally. Don't be satisfied by the mundane.”

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- **2) Renew your submission to the Lordship of Christ**
 - If you want to start living the Ephesians lifestyle, then you need to submit daily to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.
 - Are you willing to submit daily to the Lordship of Christ in your life?
 - Read Zechariah 4-6
 - “*Might*” (*hayil*) human prowess - used in the context of Solomon's army of workers
 - “*Power*” (*koah*) - used in context of the load carriers who worked with Nehemiah
 - “*By my Spirit*” (*ruah*) the breath of power of God, seen in creation and also parting of the Red Sea and Ezekiel- the breath that brought a whole army to life
 - Even if you're doing something that seems practical, you need the Holy Spirit to breathe life into it. Don't go ahead and do things without Him!
- **3) Increase your dependency on God and look for the gifts that God has for you**
 - In order to build God's kingdom what must you do?
 - How much of your life depends on God?
 - Is He really Lord of your life?
 - Are you asking God what He's doing in your life?
 - Are the things you do inspired by the Holy Spirit?

“God has gifts for all of us, they are given by grace for the growth of the body of Christ. Our attitude should be one of serving one another, under the Lordship of Jesus.”

Paul wasn't worried about the gifts he did not have, instead he was focused on getting the most out of what he had been given by God. Why is it we can be so distracted by what others have, when we should be focussed on what God has given us? In fact, you could go your whole life looking at others and completely miss what God has for you.”

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Prayer:

Lord, I acknowledge your Lordship in my life. I submit myself to you, today and every day. I submit everything I have, all my desires, my resources, my relationships, my talents and

gifts, my future to your absolute Lordship. You are my King and I am captive to your love, mercy and grace. May my will submit to your will. In Jesus Name Amen

Extra Resources:

[Click here to discover your spiritual gifts and how to use them](#)

