



Week 5: Spiritual Gifts

Day 1 Reflection

TRUTH

Read **1 Samuel Chapter 17** and answer the following questions.

What SHAPE did David have in this Chapter?

S – spiritual gifts – how had the Holy Spirit gifted David?

H – heart -What passions did David have?

A – abilities -What comes natural to David?

P – personality -How has God wired David?

E – experience- What had David learned prior to this?

What happened when David tried to use Saul's armor? Why? What could this imply for us, when we compare ourselves with others or try to wear their SHAPE?

Think of a time when God gave you an assignment. What SHAPE were you given to complete the task? How did He equip you? Journal about this time using the letters, SHAPE.

Day 2 Reflection

TRUTH

When considering gifts that come from our Father, it is important to look to Scripture to see what God says about them. Read Matthew 25:14-30. What can we learn from this parable about the distribution of gifts, be they spiritual or natural ones? Who gives them? Are all given the same amount? (Important to note that one Talent is a very large sum of money, so all had been given a lot.) To whom do the gifts belong? What does this parable teach about why we are given gifts? What lessons from this parable can you take away for your own life? Take time to list out all of the gifts- spiritual and natural gifts that the Father has entrusted to you. Don't forget to list resources like a house, cars etc... Are you using all of them to build His Kingdom? Perhaps you need to ask forgiveness for burying what God has entrusted to you? If so, make a plan to remedy this. Journal all your answers/thoughts.

EVIDENCE

William Lane Craig is a leading philosopher, theologian and apologist, renowned for his defense of Christianity. If you would like to know more about his ministry, please go to: <https://www.reasonablefaith.org>

On February 1st, 2013, at Purdue University, Dr William Lane Craig participated in a debate with Dr Alex Rosenberg on the topic, "Is Faith in God Reasonable?" Over 5,000 people watched the event on the Purdue University campus along with tens of thousands streaming it live online from around the world.

Dr Alex Rosenberg is a prominent atheist.

You have the option to watch this debate or read an article about it. This is a chance to really see how arguments are constructed in defense of our faith. Now don't think we are telling you all to become debaters. More, we are pointing you in the direction of resources that perhaps you have not encountered before and arguments you have not heard or been exposed to.

Article Link: <https://www.christianpost.com/news/atheist-says-hell-turn-christian-if-evil-is-explained-during-major-debate-89362/>

Article with link to debate (yes, it is a long debate!): <https://www.biola.edu/blogs/biola-news/2013/leading-christian-apologist-draws-thousands-major> (link to the debate is at the bottom of the article and it takes you to Biola University's free online educational site)

Day 3 Reflection

TRUTH

Sketch the outline of a body. Label this drawing, "The Body of Christ". Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. Rewrite this passage in your own words explaining how the Body of Christ can be compared to a physical Body. Does this image help your understanding of spiritual gifts? If so, how?

TACTICS

We are getting practical today ladies! And today it is about a new tool or tactic that you can use to effortlessly introduce spiritual topics into a conversation. Give it a try and then practice!

We are looking at something called the "Columbo Tactic".

Greg Koukl, from Stand to Reason, wrote a book called "Tactics" where he introduced methods that can be used to have conversations about spiritual topics. Here is an excerpt from their website:

The goal of the tactical approach is to stay in the driver's seat of any conversation without being pushy, uptight, or unpleasant, but also without having to be especially clever or knowledgeable. You can do that by learning a handful of simple techniques to help you deal with objections, manage aggressive challengers, and even turn the tables by exploiting the bad thinking found in many of the objections against Christianity.

Our theme verse is Colossians 4:5-6: "Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned, as it were, with salt, so that you may know how you should respond to each person." Simply put, Paul says we are to be wise, gracious, and tactical when talking with others about the things we believe.

To go into this topic, you have some options:

- High level overview: <https://www.str.org/w/the-columbo-tactic>
- More in depth information that allows you to drill into the Columbo Tactic in three parts: <https://subsplash.com/strquickreference/media/mi/+2730358>
- Watch a video where Greg Koukl provides an overview of Tactics – the video is the first in a series that has been published to teach the content of the book: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=csrSA3nPP7I>

Jot down some key takeaways. What do you want to investigate more? Do you have more questions that need answering? What are they? Who can you identify to help you get to the answers you need? What are your thoughts on using the tactics presented in your area of influence?

Additional Resources: Check out www.str.org – there is a plethora of great resources on this site. In addition, we will be hosting the Stand to Reason Conference at CF Downingtown in March 2022. They even have free courses that you can do online – look for www.training.str.org. Amazing courses

Day 4 Reflection

TRUTH

Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 & 12:27-31. Then go back to your sketch from yesterday, and list on the drawing of the body, all of the spiritual gifts given within these verses. Has the Spirit gifted you with any of these gifts? According to v. 7, why are the gifts given? According to v. 11, who gives each gift and how does He choose what to give? From v. 7 and 11, what can you conclude about the attitude we should have regarding our gift from the Spirit? Then look to Romans 12:3-8, Ephesians 4:11 and 1 Peter 4:8-11, for more examples of gifts from the Spirit. List these on your illustration as well. Do you have any of these gifts?

CHURCH HISTORY & ALTERNATE WORLD VIEWS

You have probably heard the term "Paganism" and maybe you even know what it means. Today you get to listen to a podcast where Pastor John helps us explore Paganism in a bit more detail. What is Paganism? Is it still even around? Wasn't Paganism something that only really existed in the Middle Ages? Do I need to concern myself with Paganism? How would I recognize paganistic practices today? Are there any paganistic practices that have crept into our Western living without us realizing? If so, what do we do?

Here is the link to the podcast: <https://soundcloud.com/cfdowntown/womens-bible-study-paganism>

Note some of the key points that you want to remember below:

Day 5 Reflection

TRUTH

Read Ephesians 4:15-16. Label the Head on your body drawing with its appropriate Name. What two things happen when each part of the body is working properly? What is your part in the body? What do you need to do in order for your part to be working properly? Explain in your own words how this passage calls us to be contributors in church versus consumers. Why or why not would the title, "Unity in Diversity" be a good title for your drawing? If you think it is, entitle your drawing, "Unity in Diversity". And give a great shout out to the creative God who knits all of us together as His beautiful Bride. Glory!

DIGGING DEEPER

We recently had Brett Kunkle speak at our church. To dig deeper today, we encourage you to check out his ministry's website – www.maventruth.com. Explore and discover the resources they offer. Sign up for their newsletter and listen to one of their podcasts!

Based on what you have read or listened to, what is your response? What are some of your key takeaways?