

Living Stones: What Makes You Come Alive?

“Birthstones: What Makes You Unique?”

1 Peter 4:7-11 – March 6, 2005

Overview of This Series

Living Stones: What Makes You Come Alive?				
A Six Week Series on Servanthood Based on 1 Peter 2:5				
Date	Living Stones	Message Title	Major Topic	Scripture
Feb 20	Diamond in Rough	What Makes You Great?	Serving	Luke 22:24-30
Feb 27	Family Gems	What Makes a Great Family?	Serving Family	Eph. 5:21-6:4
Mar 6	Birthstones	What Makes You Unique?	Spiritual Gifts	1 Peter 4:7-11
Mar 13	Sapphires	What Makes You Come Alive?	Passions Plus	Rom. 12:1-8
Mar 20	Kidney Stones	What Makes You Usable?	Experiences	2 Cor. 1:3-11
Mar 27	Chief Cornerstone	What Makes You Like Jesus?	Serving Like JC	Phil. 2:3-11

Overview of Easter Weekend, March 26-27

- 4 Easter services with identical sermons
- Saturday, March 26, 7:00 p.m. (Wayne Kerr; no children’s ministry)
- Sunday, March 27, 7:30 a.m. (GF worship team, no children’s ministry)
- Sunday, March 27, 9:00 a.m. (GF worship team, yes children’s ministry)
- Sunday, March 27, 10:45 a.m. (GF worship team, yes children’s ministry)
- No junior high or senior high classes/programs during any of these 4 services
- Come ready to bring your “Living Stones” service card to the altar

Theme Scripture for This Six Weeks

“You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” – 1 Peter 2:5

Ten Fast Facts on Spiritual Gifts

- Definition: A spiritual gift is a special ability given by the Holy Spirit to every member of the Body of Christ, according to God’s grace, for use within the context of the Body (1 Corinth 12:1,4,7; 14:1; Romans 12:6; Eph. 4:7,8,11).
- The Bible names at least 25 spiritual gifts (see chart).
- Only believers have spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 2:14).
- Every Christian has at least one gift (1 Corinthians 7:7).
- No one receives all 25 gifts (1 Corinthians 12:27-30).
- No single gift is given to all Christians (1 Corinthians 12:29-30).
- Spiritual gifts are received not achieved (Ephesians 4:7).
- The Holy Spirit decides which gift(s) I get (1 Corinthians 12:11)
- Spiritual gifts are different from natural talents.
- Spiritual gifts are distinct from Christian role. A Christian role is a general command that all Christians are called to fulfill whereas a spiritual gift is a special ability given by God to a Christian to do that particular role at a supernatural level.

Role All Christians Called To	Spiritual Gift Some Christians Have
Faith (Eph. 2:8-9; Heb. 11:6; 2 Cor. 5:7)	Faith (1 Corinthians. 12:9)
Evangelism (1 Peter 3:15; Acts 1:8)	Evangelist (Ephesians 4:11)
Giving (2 Corinth. 9:7)	Giving (Romans 12:8)
Celibacy Outside of Marriage (1 Corinth. 6:18)	Celibacy (1 Corinth. 7:7-8)
Serving one another (Galatians 5:13)	Service (Romans 12:7)
Practice hospitality (Romans 12:13)	Hospitality (1 Peter 4:9)
Exhort one another (Hebrews 10:25)	Exhortation (Romans 12:8)
Make disciples by teaching (Matt. 28:19)	Teaching (Ephesians 4:11)
Pray continually (1 Thess. 5:17)	Intercession (Colossians 4:12-13)

Side note: Avoid the dangers and guilt of gift projection -- projecting the supernatural abilities, passion, and results of other people’s spiritual gifts onto your Christian role. Examples would include:

- Comparing your faith to that of George Mueller’s.
- Comparing your witnessing to that of Bill Bright.
- Comparing your time commitments to someone who has the gift of celibacy.
- Feeling bad because you are not going overseas to make disciples.
- Feeling without faith because you don’t see people healed like Smith Wigglesworth.
- Feeling unspiritual because you don’t pray 7 hours a day like John Welsh.
- Feeling bad because you don’t enjoy housing guests like someone with the gift of hospitality.
- Assuming that you are not filled with God’s Spirit because you have not spoken in tongues.

1 Peter 4:7-11 on “Why You Should Use Your Spiritual Gifts to Serve Others” (4:10)

1) Because time is short (4:7)

- You have a limited amount of time to use your gift
- Context of 1 Peter 4:7-11 is suffering (4:1-6 and 4:12-19)

2) Because to serve is to love (4:8-9)

- And loving is the greatest commandment (Mark 12:30-31; John 13:34-35; Galatians 5:14; 1 John 3:23)

3) Because it is good stewardship (4:10)

- oikonomos* = steward; house manager; the word denotes a slave/servant who was responsible for managing his master’s property or household and for distributing wages/food to its members
- Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30)
- Parable of the Unfaithful Steward (Luke 12:35-48)
- God takes stewardship seriously!
- Application: Have I been a good steward of what God has entrusted to me? _____ In the way that I am stewarding, am I ready for Christ to come back today? _____

4) Because it brings glory to Jesus Christ (4:11)

- Westminster Confession: “The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.”

1 Peter 4:7-11 on “How to Use Your Spiritual Gifts to Serve Others”

1) Pray for direction (4:7)

- Ask God what to do and how to do it (“And God Talked to Me”)
- It’s a relationship not a formula! (Blackaby’s What’s So Spiritual...)
- Application: Lord, what are You calling me to do? _____

2) Serve in love (4:8)

- Spiritual gifts without spiritual fruit are worthless (1 Corinth 13)

3) Serve without grumbling (4:9)

- Application: Lord, I confess my grumbings: _____

4) Serve strategically (4:10)

- Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30)
- Ways that we “bury” our talent/gift:
 - By being afraid to even try serving others with my gift(s)
 - By busying myself with things God has not called me to
 - By watching too much TV/internet
 - By investing in service that does not match my spiritual gifts (unless God calls me to that service)
- Ways that we can “maximize” our talent/gift:
 - By praying for God’s direction in how to invest my time
 - By serving in ways that use the spiritual gift(s) that God has given me
 - By trying – simply stepping out in faith and serving
- Application: In what ways am I “burying” my gift(s)? _____
What are some ways that I can maximize the use of my gift(s) for the Kingdom? _____

5) Serve faithfully (4:10)

- 1 Corinthians 4:2 - Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.*

6) Serve reverently (4:11)

- Attitude of those with speaking gifts: “I am stewarding the very words of God!”
- Attitude of those with serving gifts: “I am stewarding the very power of God!”

7) Serve in the power of the Holy Spirit (4:11)

- Application: Confess all unconfessed sin (1 John 1:9) and ask the Spirit of God to sit in the driver’s seat of your life (Ephesians 5:18).
- Result: When we serve in the power of the Holy Spirit, He gets all the glory and praise! (eyes are turned toward Him, not us).

My Time of Listening Today –

- Lord, what are the spiritual gifts that You have entrusted to me? _____
- Lord, how do You want me to serve others using (or not using) these gifts? _____
- What is Your next step for me? _____

	<i>Gift</i>	<i>Scripture</i>	<i>Definition</i>	<i>GFUMC</i>
<i>Equipping gifts</i>	Apostle	Eph 4:11	Leadership over multiple churches	Bishop; District Superintendent; Church of Katy; Networks
	Prophecy	Eph 4:11	Communicates God’s message	Home Groups, prayer ministries, leadership
	Evangelism	Eph 4:11	Shares the gospel	Relationships; Evanglsm group; children; youth
	Pastor	Eph 4:11	Shepherds God’s people	Home Group Pastors; Pastors; children; youth
	Teaching	Eph 4:11	Teaches God’s people	Pastors; Study groups; Home Groups; Growth Institute; children; youth
<i>Gifts the saints use for works of service</i>	Service	Rom 12:7	Fill unmet needs	Everywhere, Care
	Exhortation	Rom 12:8	Encouragement, counsel, comfort	Home Groups, Stephen, Care, Everywhere
	Giving	Rom 12:8	Liberal financial giving	Everywhere, building, projects
	Leadership	Rom 12:8	Discern/communicate God’s plans – people follow	Leadership Tm, Gov Tm Pastors, Area Chairs, leading service areas
	Mercy	Rom 12:8	Compassion that translates into deeds	KCM, PHC, StephenM, Care, Home Groups
	Wisdom	1Cor 12:8	Wisdom	Leaders, everywhere
	Knowledge	1Cor 12:8	Discover/clarify information	Teaching roles, prayer, administrative
	Faith	1Cor 12:9	Know and believe God’s will	Everywhere, leaders, Home Groups, prayer
	Healing	1Cor 12:9	Pray for healing	Prayer altar, prayer ministries
	Miracles	1Cor 12:10	Pray for miracles	Prayer altar, leadership, prayer ministries
	Discerning of spirits	1Cor 12:10	Discern what is of Spirit, Satan, or flesh	Prayer ministries, leadership
	Tongues	1Cor 12:10	God’s message in different language; or prayer language	Personal life, missionary field, prayer ministries (see sermon 3-12-00)
	Interpretation of tongues	1Cor 12:10	Interpret message to the vernacular	Personal life, prayer ministries
	Helps	1Cor 12:28	Help/multiply others’ work	Everywhere, office, children, youth, music
	Admnstration	1Cor 12:28	Execute plans	Everywhere, leadership
	Celibacy	1Cor 7:7	Remain single and godly	Combine with other gifts
	Voluntary Poverty	1Cor 13:3	Live at poverty level to serve God and others	Wow! Divine calling.
	Martyrdom	1Cor 13:3	Die for faith	Wow! Divine calling.
	Hospitality	1Pet 4:9-10	Warm welcome	Greeters & many events
	Missionary	Eph 3:7-9	Minister in another culture	Combine with other gifts to do missions work
Intercession	Acts 12:5,12	Gifted prayer life	Prayer ministries	
Deliverance	Acts 16:16-18	Cast out demons	Prayer ministries	