

# Champions/Women of Destiny

Year 2 LESSON 17



## Your Gift from God

### Read Ephesians 4:7-32

During this holiday season, America has decided that the way Americans celebrate Christmas is with the giving of gifts to each other or themselves. There will be the exchanging of gifts, buying of gifts and returning of gifts; and when the holiday is over, everyone would have received gifts except for Christ – the main reason behind this **Christ**mas season. However, God has given **YOU** a gift and He wants you to open it and use it for His glory. Let's investigate Ephesians to find out about this gift.

### Understanding the Gift Given to You

At Salvation, the Holy Spirit gives each believer a spiritual gift just for that person. We don't choose our spiritual gifts, God chooses them for us. Although you may not know what your spiritual gift is, every Christian has at least one. That means you, too, possess a spiritual gift. "But what are the spiritual gifts?" you may wonder. **Go ahead and read 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 28; Romans 12:6-8; and Ephesians 4:11:**

- **Evangelism** – winning people to Christ
- **Pastoring** – leading and teaching a group of believers to mature in Christ and equipping them to serve others
- **Teaching** – making the Scriptures clear and practical to others
- **Helps** – fulfilling the need of others
- **Wisdom** – making decisions from God's perspective
- **Knowledge** – understanding and explaining spiritual truths
- **Faith** – trusting God to accomplish the unusual
- **Exhortation** – encouraging, comforting, or giving advice to others
- **Giving** – being generous with one's resources
- **Ruling** – leading or governing others
- **Mercy** – being patient or long-suffering with others
- **Administration** – organizing, thinking clearly and practically
- **Ministry** – serving others in practical ways



Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers were people God gave as gifts to the Church. Because God equips these people with abilities for their ministry, they have no reason to be proud, and neither do we. The Apostle Paul understood the importance of humility when he wrote: *By the grace of God, I am what I am* (1 Cor. 15:10).

## What God Wants From You

Many Christians **wrongly confuse** spiritual gifts with talents. **Talents are natural abilities God give us** – like musical or artistic skills. God develops **spiritual gifts within each one of us with the purpose of building up Christians and winning non-believers into the Body of Christ.**

As each believer ministers through his/her gift, we are to know God until we are all united. How long? Until we are all united. We must be united in our faith and knowledge of the Son of God. We must become like a full-grown man/woman, reaching for the greatest potential of Christ.



Ephesians 4:13-14 says, *“Then we will not be little children anymore. The waves will not throw us back and forth. We won't be blown away by the winds of false teaching which clever men invent to trick people into following error.”*

**God wants us to be well-grounded in His Word** so we will be able to test what other preachers and teachers say. **Spiritual gifts are not meant to divide, but to unify and edify the Body of Christ.**

## I am – I'm Not!

In the last half of Ephesians 4, Paul shifts from the subject of spiritual gifts and contrasts the old man (sinful nature) with the new man (godly nature). The contrast is a picture of someone changing coats – putting off the old man and putting on the new man. Romans 6:11 expresses the idea this way, ***“In the same way, think of yourselves as being dead to sin, but alive to God by Christ Jesus.”*** The power to make such a change rests in the faith we have in Jesus Christ. Only through faith in Jesus Christ and His power can we put off the old man and put on the new man. Eph. 4:22-24 tells us the old man is... ***You were taught to put away your old way of living. It will destroy you. Those evil desires can fool you.*** But the new man is ***clothed with a new personality like that of God. It was created with true righteousness and holiness.***

## The Challenge

The struggle between the “new man” and the “old man” continues today. The believers Paul was ministering to struggled with lying (v. 25), having an unforgiving spirit (v. 26), stealing (v. 28), evil speaking (vs. 29, 31), and grieving the Holy Spirit (v. 30). Because sinful lives grieve the Holy Spirit, let us honor the Lord by putting on the “new man.”

*Are you and God close or merely acquaintances? Have you grieved God in any way that would put a strain on your fellowship with Him? If you're normal, you probably sin beyond your own desire. That's because we'll never be free of the old man living within until we reach heaven. Until then, we need to confess our sins to God daily. Otherwise, those unconfessed sins will keep us from being close to God and make our prayer lives ineffective.  
(Psalm 66:18)*

**Now watch this Supplemental Video about your lesson:**

[https://youtu.be/XEOpGng\\_b5M](https://youtu.be/XEOpGng_b5M)

# Champions and Women of *Destiny*

## LESSON 17 Review Quiz



Click here if you are taking your quiz online, then send the email you receive to your mentor to grade and discuss: <https://forms.gle/RdiRRPvDS8KvaJwd7>

Student name \_\_\_\_\_  
(PRINT CLEARLY)

1. Fill in the Blanks. "Spiritual gifts are not meant to \_\_\_\_\_ but to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ the Body of Christ."
2. Why does the Holy Spirit give us spiritual gifts?
3. Taking off the "old man" and putting on the "new man" is like what?
4. Fill in the Blanks. "Sinful \_\_\_\_\_ grieve the \_\_\_\_\_ Spirit."
5. True/False. We can choose spiritual gifts.
6. Fill in the Blanks. Romans 6:11 expresses the idea [of putting off the old man] this way: *In the same way, think of \_\_\_\_\_ as being \_\_\_\_\_ to sin, but \_\_\_\_\_ to God by Christ Jesus.*
7. True/False. Only certain Christians who have experienced a special call from God have spiritual gifts.
8. What opportunities do you think you have to use your spiritual gifts? Discuss this with your mentor.