

by the scriptural standards? If we take this stance, should openness and determination to evaluate be combined with a generally skeptical attitude or a generally believing, acceptant attitude?

5. How can we recognize the spiritual gift(s) God has given us?
- a. We need to realize that God has given each believer at least one spiritual gift.

Romans 12:1-6 says: "Just as each of us has one body with many members and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us."

Ephesians 4:7-8 says: "But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why It says: 'When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men.' "

- b. We need to ask God to guide us to discern our gift(s).
- c. We need to get to know ourselves
- (1) By evaluating our background
- (2) By realistically appraising and assessing our abilities and skills
- (3) By trying our hand at various kinds of service, in order to discern our aptitudes and inclinations
- d. We need to submit to the Lordship of Christ, and to become willing to serve Him in whatever way He would be pleased to use us
- e. We need to be hesitant to claim a particular gift until we have tested it in the crucible of experiential exercise, and then only after a period of time.

B. The question of continuance or noncontinuance of the spiritual gifts

Thomas R. Edgar (pp. 42-45) writes:

The above discussion should be sufficient to show that the proper goal for the individual believer is a godly life and spiritual maturity. This is the end toward which all believers should be moving. There is not the slightest hint in the Bible that possession of a spiritual gift (regardless of which specific