

STUDY GUIDE: Week #6
I'm In <3 | Romantic Gifts
October 12-18

This fall we are going through a seven week sermon series based on Pastor Bruce's new book, "I'm In <3," in which he challenges us "to know the deep intimate love of God through the person of the Holy Spirit."

INTRODUCTION

"Romantic gifts"... where's that phrase take you?

Candles, love notes, flowers, jewelry, the list goes on, but this week we need to think differently. The Holy Spirit is a romantic and a gift giver. The Spirit gives us gifts to experience life to the full so that we may fully live in the mystery and excitement of God's love (remember the real definition of romance?). This week Pastor Bruce leads us to look at our Spirit gifts in a new way.

CHAT

Have you ever done a personal inventory, gifts assessment, talent survey or some tool to help clarify your strengths and weaknesses? What did it reveal about you? What would you say your gifts are?

What would you say about your "Spiritual gifts" list?

READ & DISCUSS

Sermon snippet to read and reflect upon:
What stands out to you?

"The Spirit of God has been at work in our world and in our lives before we ever encountered Jesus or became his follower. The inclusive Spirit, at work in the world all around us, was already at work helping each of us discover our purpose. Thus, we discovered in childhood that we have some talents and abilities. Some of us are gifted as athletes and others are gifted as musicians. Some of us get good grades and some of us watch the daisies grow. Some are introverts and others are extroverts. We grow up in a family and culture that shapes our personalities. We are each unique and God has a place in history for us.

Then we meet Jesus. The Holy Spirit, who has formerly been all around us and calling to us, now enters inside us as a special gift of salvation. We begin hearing this Spirit whispering words of love and encouragement. We barely get used to hearing the holy whisper of love, when we discover the Holy Spirit presenting us with gifts chosen specially for each of us. Along with our abilities and talents, our personalities and inner wiring, we are invited to open these gifts intended to take to us to another level of blessing and serving others."

- Share what stands out to you.
- Is this different than how you've understood "spiritual gifts" previously?

There are numerous “spiritual gifts” listed in the New Testament.

If you read Romans 12, Ephesians 1 and 4, and 1 Corinthians 12, you can come up with 23+/- Spiritual gifts. These lists were never meant to be exhaustive, meaning the ONLY gifts that the Holy Spirit gives you are listed right here. They are suggestive of HOW the Spirit gifts believers to function in the world.

Take a minute to read these on your own... Which of these gifts resonate with you?

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|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| - Administration/Ruling | - Apostleship/Pioneering | - Craftsmanship |
| - Creative Communication | - Discernment | - Encouragement |
| - Evangelism | - Faith | - Giving |
| - Healing | - Hospitality | - Intercession |
| - Interpretation | - Knowledge | - Leadership |
| - Miracles | - Pastor/Shepherd | - Prophecy |
| - Teaching | - Tongues | - Serving |
| - Showing mercy | - Wisdom | |

- As you look around your group, which of these gifts do you see in people around you?
 - Why does the Holy Spirit gift you? Really, what for?
- Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 and listen for the why (hint, vs. 7).

APPLY

Bruce shared that at the end of 1 Cor. 13, Paul concludes that Spirit gifts are intended for THIS world, they will not be needed in heaven. These gifts are for the common good, to bless others. Remember the base of the hourglass here?

In your life, are your gifts and your Spirit gifts being used to bless others? Do you even have time for that? And be honest with yourself, do you have a desire to discover how you’ve been gifted to be a gift to people around you?

Pray this week for God to open your eyes to your own gifts, and ways in which you can be a gift to people you encounter. Gifts take practice to develop, try practicing your gift in some way this next week. Take the risk, enter the awkward, and have that adventure with the Holy Spirit. Amen.

CLOSE IN PRAYER

