

PRECEPT  
UPON  
PRECEPT

*Spiritual  
Gifts*

PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT®

## SPIRITUAL GIFTS

ISBN 978-1-63687-052-6

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1<sup>st</sup> edition

Printed in the United States of America

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## HELPFUL STUDY TOOLS

ARTHUR, KAY; ARTHUR, DAVID; DE LACY, PETE

**How to Study Your Bible**

*Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2010*

**The New Inductive Study Bible—New American Standard Bible**

*Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2000*

**Greek Word Study Tools**

## RECOMMENDED COMMENTARIES

**The Expositor's Bible Commentary**

*Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House*

**The New American Commentary**

*Nashville, Tennessee: B & H Publishing Group*

WALVOORD, JOHN F., ZUCK, ROY B., EDS.

**The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures—  
New Testament**

*Wheaton, Illinois: Victor Books, 1983-c1985*

## RECOMMENDED SOFTWARE

**Logos Bible Software**

Powerful search engines and up to 4,000 electronic Bible study resources (commentaries, lexicons, Bible dictionaries etc.) make it fast and easy to do simple and complex searches of multiple sources, then pull materials together for orderly presentation—excellent for word and topical studies based on English or original Hebrew and Greek. Available at [www.logos.com](http://www.logos.com).



## LESSON ONE

### 1 Peter 4:10-11 and Ephesians 4:1-16

THIS LESSON INCORPORATES The following located in the Appendix:  
 “General Information About Spiritual Gifts”  
 Observation Worksheet of 1 Peter 4:10-11  
 Observation Worksheet of Ephesians 4:1-16  
 “Spiritual Gifts as Listed in Scripture”  
 Word studies  
 Cross-references

**We can be grateful to the Lord for those who have provided Christian literature for the body of Jesus Christ on the subject of spiritual gifts. Yet with all the literature available, how many of us can speak with confidence and authority on the subject? As you read, you will find varied teachings on these gifts. These variations include their number, their operation within the body of Christ, and even their definitions.**

**If we read any two of these authors and they vary in their teaching on the gifts, how can we know which interpretation is correct?**

**O Beloved, we will never be sure of what is true until we know truth for ourselves. God’s Word is truth. Jesus’ prayer was, “Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth” (John 17:17).**

**Our approach to this subject of spiritual gifts will be to search out what the Word of God says; then we will compare what we have seen with the insights of other men of God. Having searched out truth for ourselves, we will be better qualified to evaluate what we read or hear from others; and above all, we will be able to walk in the light we have received from the Spirit of God through the truth of God’s Word.**

**So, let us begin . . . with the Word. Observation is the key that unlocks the door to correct interpretation of Scripture. Be diligent this week to lay a strong foundation through observation of these passages on spiritual gifts. It will make all the difference to a biblical understanding of the gifts.**

DAY  
ONE

1. Always begin your study with prayer asking God to reveal truth to you so you can live in a way that pleases Him.
2. We'll begin our study with one of the New Testament passages about spiritual gifts. But first, a little setting for the passage. Peter was one of the twelve apostles chosen by the Lord Jesus Christ to be with Him during His earthly ministry. Peter wrote two letters that are part of the Bible. We're going to observe part of his first letter to believers.

In the Appendix you'll find a 1 Peter 4:10-11 Observation Worksheet. Read it and mark *gift* with a box. Also mark *God*. On the back of your workbook you'll find a Key Word Bookmark with suggestions for marking words used frequently in the Bible. The suggested marking for *God* is listed there.

3. Now let's answer some key questions.
  - a. Who receives the gifts?
  - b. How are they to be exercised?
  - c. What are the two categories of gifts?
  - d. What instructions does Peter give concerning the gifts?
  - e. Why are the gifts given?



4. There is a chart in the Appendix entitled “General Information About Spiritual Gifts” that we’ll use for each of the passages we study. So when you finish this whole Precept Upon Precept course, you’ll have a page with all of this information about gifts.

Record the Scripture reference in the first column (Ref.). Then fill in what you observe about gifts under the appropriate heading on the chart. Don’t be concerned if there is not something for each header.

5. Using your Greek word study tools, look up the definition of “gift” in verse 10 and record it below.

For assistance in doing a word study, read the chapter entitled “It’s All Greek to Me!” and “How to Use Word Study Tools” in *How to Study Your Bible*.

6. What do you learn from these verses that applies to you?
  - a. In evaluating your spiritual gift(s), are you drawn more to minister by speaking or serving in the Church?
  - b. How are you serving other believers?
  - c. Are you being a good steward of God’s grace by using your gift?
  - d. What effect will serving according to God’s strength have on “burnout”?

7. Finally, you can read what commentaries say about these two verses.

*Now talk to the Father about what you've learned today. Thank Him for His Word—this, Beloved, is the truth. Truth that sanctifies you—sets you apart, makes you more like Jesus, and keeps you from the evil one (John 17:14-18). And we are just beginning!*

DAY  
TWO

1. Don't forget to begin today in prayer asking God to help you understand what He wrote for you.
2. For the rest of this week, our focus will be on another passage about spiritual gifts, Ephesians 4:1-16.

Ephesians 4 begins a new segment in this letter. In the first three chapters of Ephesians Paul explains what believers have in Christ—in essence, the spiritual wealth of a Christian. In Ephesians 4–6 he then discusses the walk of the Christian, our walk in light of our wealth. If you observe Ephesians 4–6, you will see that *walk* is a key repeated word in this segment of the book.

Ephesians 4:1-16 is printed in the Appendix as an Observation Worksheet.

- a. Using this worksheet, read these verses and do the following:

- 1) Mark *love*.\*
- 2) Mark *Spirit*.\*
- 3) Draw a stick figure over the word *body* and its pronoun.

\*Words with suggested markings on the Key Word Bookmark are noted with an asterisk [\*].

- b. Read the worksheet again and mark the following words:

- 1) Put a large 1 over the words *one* and *unity*.
- 2) Mark *grace*.\*
- 3) Put a box around *gift, gifts*.

3. Now read this text one more time and number on your Observation Worksheet the gifts or gifted men listed in verse 11.

4. Note how Paul integrated spiritual gifts with this context. How does his teaching on gifts relate to what he said at the beginning of the chapter?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. According to this passage:
  - a. Who gives the gifts?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. When were gifts first given?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. Who receives the gifts?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - d. What is the purpose of these gifts?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. According to 1 Peter 4:11:
  - a. Which category of gifts do the ones in Ephesians 4:11 fit into?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. What or how are the speakers to speak?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. Finally, to end today, let's add to the chart "General Information About Spiritual Gifts." Draw a line under the information you wrote from 1 Peter 4:10-11. Below the line add to the chart from Ephesians 4:1-16.

*Think of what you have learned for yourself—of what you know that you know because of the time and careful attention you've given to the words of Almighty God—the Sovereign Ruler of the universe.*

DAY  
THREE

1. After prayer, read 1 Peter 4:10-11 and Ephesians 4:1-16 to refresh your memory of what you've observed about spiritual gifts from these two passages.
2. Today we begin a second chart to help us understand spiritual gifts better. This chart titled "Spiritual Gifts as Listed in Scripture" is also in the Appendix. Simply list the gifts you've identified in the column for Ephesians 4:11. This might not seem beneficial at this point, but it will as we continue our study.
3. Now, look up the definitions of the following words in Ephesians 4:7-11.
  - a. gifts, verse 8 (This is a different Greek word from the one in 1 Peter 4:10.)

b. apostle

c. prophet

d. evangelist

e. pastor

f. teacher

4. Review: when men with these gifts are speaking God's Word, what results does that have for the church?



- d. 1 Thessalonians 1:1; 2:1-6
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- e. 2 Corinthians 11:13-15
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 4. We're going to study the spiritual gift of prophecy in the next lesson, so we'll move on to "evangelist." Read the cross-references and note what is said about this gift. Who had the gift, and what did he do?
  - a. Acts 8:5, 12, 26-40
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Acts 21:8
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. 2 Timothy 4:5 (Paul wrote this to Timothy.)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 5. Our last gift to look at today is "pastor." Look at how this gift is listed compared to the others in Ephesians 4:11. Some think that this gift is the combination of pastor and teacher, but others think they are two separate gifts. What do you think?

6. Now read these cross-references to see what they say about pastors—shepherds—and note what you learn. (We’ll study “teacher” more later.)

a. Acts 20:17-28

b. 1 Peter 5:1-4

DAY  
FIVE

1. Now for some thinking questions about everything you’ve studied this week. How might the spiritual gifts in Ephesians 4:11 be exercised today?

a. What did you learn that apostles do, and how do you see that happening now?

b. What do evangelists do? Who are they drawn to—believers or unbelievers? How do you see this gift working today?

c. How do you see your pastor working? How can you better support him?



2. Do you think you have any of the speaking gifts listed in Ephesians 4? Why? A couple of questions you might ask in evaluating which spiritual gifts you have are:
  - a. Are you drawn to a particular gift?
  - b. As you serve the body, do other believers recognize a particular spiritual gift in you and comment to you about it?

*As we study the rest of the gifts, keep these questions in mind to help you evaluate which God has given you.*

3. Finally, if you have access to a commentary or two, see what they say about Ephesians 4:1-16. You might want to record any helpful insights.

*“As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another...” (1 Peter 4:10). “And He gave some as...until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:11, 13).*

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***Spiritual Gifts***

*Lesson 1, 1 Peter 4:10-11 and Ephesians 4:1-16*

## 1 PETER 4:10-11

### Observation Worksheet

- 10 As each one has received a *special* gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.
- 11 Whoever speaks, *is to do so* as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves *is to do so* as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever.  
Amen.



## EPHESIANS 4:1-16

### Observation Worksheet

- THEREFORE I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,
- 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love,
  - 3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
  - 4 *There is* one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling;
  - 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
  - 6 one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.
  - 7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.
  - 8 Therefore it says,
 

“WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH,  
HE LED CAPTIVE A HOST OF CAPTIVES,  
AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN.”
  - 9 (Now this *expression*, “He ascended,” what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth?
  - 10 He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.)
  - 11 And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers,
  - 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

- 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.
- 14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;
- 15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ,
- 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Ref.	Who gives	Who receives	What	How employ/use	Results	When given	When received





SPIRITUAL GIFTS AS LISTED IN SCRIPTURE

<p><b>Ephesians 4:11</b></p>	<p><b>Romans 12:6-8</b></p>	<p><b>1 Corinthians 12:8-10</b></p>	<p><b>1 Corinthians 12:28-30</b></p>
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