



A MINUTE WITH MISS LINDA



“You Have a Gift”

When we receive Christ as Savior, many beautiful things happen, the first being that we are given eternal life. But it doesn't stop there; the Holy Spirit also gives us spiritual gifts. There have been many

excellent teachings on the gifts of the Spirit, but in this article, I want to point out something that has been overlooked.

Most teachings on the gifts focus on the speaking gifts. Speaking gifts include a word of wisdom, a word of knowledge, prophecy, discerning of spirits, speaking in tongues, and interpreting tongues. However, many Christians do not desire these gifts because, in most churches, this would require that they go up front to give a word, and they don't want any part of that. This is probably true because they haven't been given one of the speaking gifts. Does that mean that they have not been given any gifts? What does scripture have to say about this?

Most teachers focus on what Paul says because Paul has written more about spiritual gifts than anyone else. But Peter had something to say that we must not ignore. According to 1 Peter 4:11, there are

two main categories of spiritual gifts: speaking gifts and serving gifts.

1 Peter 4:11 ERV

11 If your gift is speaking, your words should be like words from God. **If your gift is serving**, you should serve with the strength that God gives. Then, it is God who will be praised in everything through Jesus Christ. Power and glory belong to him forever and ever. Amen.

The serving gifts may be less obvious than the speaking gifts, but they are essential. Some serving gifts include ministry of helps, exhortation, giving, showing mercy, and hospitality. People with these gifts often don't even realize they have supernatural abilities because doing these things seems to come naturally to them. They also don't view their actions as "spiritual". However, according to Peter, what they are doing and their ability to do it well is only possible because they have a gift from God.

For many years, I have been amazed as I observed those who had a serving gift. I must say that without them, the Body of Christ could not function as God intended it to. No church can be successful without them. They are the ones who take spiritual things and make them become reality in everyday life. Through them, "love" becomes a verb because it manifests as an action.

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I have seen many examples, but the best was in 2008. On May 22, 2008, a three-quarter-mile-wide tornado hit Windsor with wind speeds over 150 miles per hour. We spent the rest of that day trying to contact people from our church who could have been impacted. One family needed some help, so a call was sent out, and the following day, about 40 people showed up, ready to do whatever was needed.

The house had not sustained significant damage, but the yard was filled with debris, which was all cleaned up by noon. Only one thing was left that needed attention. A tree about 30 feet tall had blown over and was leaning against the side of the house. The homeowner said that it probably would need to be cut down. Two men who had pick-up trucks with heavy-duty winches came to my husband and said that they felt the tree could be saved. I thought it was impossible, but the homeowner said he had nothing to lose by giving it a try. I watched in amazement as those young men hooked their winches to the tree and pulled it off the

house until it stood straight again. Then they got some steel cable and staked it. Today, it still stands strong and healthy! If someone had asked them if they had exercised a spiritual gift that day, they probably would have said, "No." But I assure you they did!

All the gifts are important, but the speaking gifts become empty and meaningless without the serving gifts.

1 Corinthians 13:1-2 TLB

1 If I had the gift of being able to speak in other languages without learning them and could speak in every language there is in all of heaven and earth, but didn't love others, I would only be making noise.

2 If I had the gift of prophecy and knew all about what is going to happen in the future, knew everything about everything, but didn't love others, what good would it do? Even if I had the gift of faith so that I could speak to a mountain and make it move, I would still be worth nothing at all without love.

