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## **So You Want to be the Greatest**

### **Part 4 – Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts**

Pastor Ted Cunningham

Today, we're finishing up *So You Want to be the Greatest* and we're looking at this text where Jesus says the greatest among you will be your servant. We've looked at it in the context of the church and the family. Today, we want to talk about spiritual gifts. *Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts*, understanding your spiritual gifts.

There's something we've heard from folks for years and years around our church. It's almost word for word. You may think I'm going to paraphrase some of this, but I've heard this come out of the mouths of so many people. Some folks show up to Woodland Hills and they'll say things like this: "I don't have a place." That's different than this next one. "I know there's a place for me here; I just can't find my place. I need someone to help guide me in that. I would love to talk to someone. I'd love to find out more as I stop by the Welcome Center. I'd love to just know what's going on around here." You're well aware of your spiritual gifts and you want to find a place to use those in this church family.

When we say using your spiritual gifts, we're not talking about just stuff that happens around here on Sunday morning, but in this church family here at service times, but all throughout the week, in home groups and in ministry to the community.

We want to help you find your place, but we also hear people who believe this: "I have nothing to offer." They walk in and everything seems to be going well. What possibly could I do here? Which leads to this next one. "They seem to have everything covered. So, I don't have a part to play here." I've heard this and I get pretty passionate about this one. "That's what we have pastors and church staff for. They do the work of ministry." We have a core value around here that says every member is a minister. All of us are called to do the work of ministry.

I hear this quite often from folks too. "I'm still recovering from my last church." We usually don't have people raise their hand for this personal stuff, but if you're recovering from your last church, would you raise your hand? We had a lot in the first service. We have people that show up and they want to hide. They don't want to be known. They slip in on the back row and they don't want anybody talking to them. They need a season of ministry to them.

I met somebody last week that told me this. She said, "We've been here a year." She shared with me her last church season that she went through and she's really just burned out. The church ran her crazy. She moved here from another city, so it wasn't a church in our town. She said, "We've just soaked it up. We've allowed the Lord, through this church family and through this body, to minister to us."

She said, “But, the whole time, we knew this was just a season. We were being ministered to in order to get fresh again, to be filled again, so that we can go out and do ministry again.” We’re grateful for you and we want you to have a plan for this.

No matter what resonated with you that just came across the screen, we want you to know that every single believer, all of you have something to contribute. If you have professed faith in Jesus Christ, as we’re going to see today, the Holy Spirit came into you at the moment of your conversion and you have a spiritual gift. You’re a part of this church family, you have a part to play, you have a role to play, and you’re gifted to do so. Today, we want to begin that journey of discovering and understanding and what that is.

Please understand this. Whether you're sitting here after being burned out from another ministry or you've been at Woodland Hills for five years and you've never plugged in and you've never served and you're tired throughout the week from work or whatever you're doing or through family and you feel like you just don't have anything to give right now, we just want you to know we believe God is at work in you and through you. If you believe in Jesus, if you profess faith in Christ and you're a follower of Jesus, he's at work in you and through you, **for his glory and the benefit of others**. He is working in you and through you for the common good of all here, but ultimately for his glory.

If you have your Bibles, turn to 1 Corinthians 12. I've always been taught that you should study 1 Corinthians 12, 13, and 14 as one unit. This week, we're in 1 Corinthians 12 and we're going to cover a lot of that chapter. Next week, we start series called *I Wanna Know What Love Is*. A lot of people hear that and think we're doing an 11-part series on romantic relationships. No. There is going to be application obviously, but most of us, the only time we hear 1 Corinthians 13 is at a wedding. You need to understand that's not the context that we have in scripture for 1 Corinthians 13. It's in the context of unity in the body of Christ. It's sandwiched between 12 and 14. We are speaking about spiritual gifts.

Today, we'll go through Chapter 12. This makes a lot of sense; we'll give one week to Chapter 12 and 11 weeks to Chapter 13 because we're fair and balanced here at Woodland Hills. We want to really dive into this so you can begin to discover.

Let me just ask. If you know what your spiritual gift is, would you raise your hand? You know what spiritual gifts are, but you're not very clear on what yours is. How many of you have no idea what a spiritual gift is? We thought a lot about that last group I just mentioned and how to process this. So it's like the introductory of 1 Corinthians 12 into the understanding and discovery of spiritual gifts.

1 Corinthians 12 - ***4 There are different kinds of gifts...*** At work in the body of Christ, the church family, those who have professed faith in Jesus, those who have a walk with the Lord. ***...but the same Spirit distributes them. 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.***

In these first three verses we see today, we see the Triune God at work. What is the Trinity? God the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit. This is where it begins. We worship a Triune God. In that, we see unity and that's going to lead us into the conversation of the unity that we're supposed to have as the body of

Christ. And if there has ever been a time that our nation needs to be reminded of the concept of unity, wouldn't it be great if they learn the concept of unity through the local church? Wouldn't it be great for them to see how different those people are? They don't look alike, they have different personalities, they come from different backgrounds, and they have such great unity together because they understand that at the center of it all is we worship God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We worship a Triune God.

Let's define spiritual gifts before we jump into them. We've used this definition at our church for 16 years. Starting Point is now one hour. To become a member of our church, you go through Starting Point, you sign the membership covenant. Somebody reminded me a couple of weeks ago that when they became a member 16 years ago there were four classes for membership and they lasted a total of 16 hours. That's when we were a church that ran about 30 people. I don't know why anybody would join after a 16-hour membership class.

So now it's an hour. We've lowered the bar, but we still teach this. We haven't lowered the bar. That sounded terrible. It's still a pretty high bar. You have to be a Christian, you have to profess faith in Jesus. Technically, you only had to do the first four hours, then you signed the membership covenant and then we took your Social Security number, did an automatic withdrawal from your bank account, and finger printed you. Finger printing didn't come until the fifth and sixth hours. So, let's get back to this; we have limited time.

**“A spiritual gift is a special ability, given by the Holy Spirit to every believer at their conversion, to be used to minister to others and therefore build up the body of Christ. Although spiritual gifts are given when the Holy Spirit enters new believers, their use and purpose need to be understood and developed as we grow spiritually.”**

That's why I asked the second question. Some of you know what a spiritual gift is, but you haven't really discovered yours or understood it or developed it. That's where we want you to go with this today. We want you to dig in a little bit more to find out how God has gifted you and then how you can assimilate into the body of Christ.

So, let's jump in. We're going to start with a list of nine spiritual gifts. If you're wondering where we get the spiritual gifts... I stick pretty close to the biblical list. I've read some spiritual gifts assessments, which I'll encourage you to take, but don't rest on those wholly or solely alone. Make sure you do what we're going to talk about at the end.

There are other ways to discover your gifts. I've read some spiritual gifts assessments and I think they're making up a couple of these. So, we stick with 1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12, and Ephesians 4. We're going to get the first nine as we jump into to Verse 7-11 of 1 Corinthians 12

**Z Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.** So, the spiritual gift, also referred to as the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good, for the benefit of all, for the glory of God and the benefit of all. **g To one...** This is very important. It's going to teach us something in just a little bit. Not to all, but to one, meaning to some in here, but not to all in here.

*...there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing...* We keep coming back. If you study this, as we are going to encourage you to do at the end of the message, circle the number of times in Chapters 12-14, you see the word “one.” Again, unity.

*...by that one Spirit, 10 to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues...* We’ll talk about that because there’s nothing controversial in the church today about that. *...and to still another the interpretation of tongues. 11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.* That’s very important. For those of you who raised your hand that you know nothing about spiritual gifts, if you were to look at a spiritual gifts assessment, the point of looking at that isn’t to discover which ones you want. That’s not how this works. You don’t determine your spiritual gifts. They’ve been placed in you by Almighty God as he determines.

Let’s look through those nine gifts with quick definitions:

**Wisdom** - Insight into doctrinal truth.

**Knowledge** - Wisdom is different than the gift of knowledge which is applying doctrinal truth to life.

I don’t believe I have the spiritual gift of wisdom, but I do believe I have the spiritual gift of knowledge in that I’m never one to love debating theology at deep levels. It’s just never been anything in me that just fires me up, but what does, and I know it’s the work of the Lord in me, is I love taking the deep truths of scripture and helping people understand how to work that out in their everyday, ordinary lives. That’s that practical outpouring of doctrinal truth.

**Faith** – Unusual measure of trust. We are all supposed to have faith, but, in just a moment, we’re going to look at the difference between a spiritual gift, a spiritual discipline, and spiritual responsibilities. Right now, we’re talking about spiritual gifts. There are some in here that their immediate response to an issue or to a situation is to pray and to believe. You tell them something that’s going on in your life and they respond, “We know that this can happen, and we know God can do this.” You just know God has placed this within them. Many of you in here have the spiritual gift of faith.

**Healing** – That spiritual gift of restoring health.

**Miraculous power** – Exorcizing demons. I’ve been a part of three of these moments where a demon-possessed person approaches and I’m usually hiding. That’s probably one sign I don’t have this spiritual gift. But I’ve been standing by the pastor when he looks at them and says, “In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, shut your mouth.”

**Prophecy** – To declare a message of God for his people.

**Distinguishing between spirits** – Discerning between the word of God and a doctrine of demons. This is one I believe I have. I got in trouble a couple of weeks ago talking to a group of young people using this

term. I use this term often and I have no problem this morning declaring to you again what the New York Legislature did this week is satanic and demonic. Many of you, just being Bible believing Christians, that worked you up, but others of you, who could just go to the scripture immediately... Again, be careful, if I can caution you not go online out there with the venom and the toxicity, that we would speak this truth boldly, as we're going to see next week in Chapter 13, with love. Next week's message is if you want to declare this with no love, you might as well just keep your mouth shut. I'm paraphrasing Paul in 1 Corinthians 13. You can speak, but if you do it without love... no.

**Tongues** – Speak in an unlearned, living language that comes upon you

**Interpretation** – Translate unlearned, known language.

Let's talk about **speaking in tongues** for just a second because the church is not split over this issue at all. There are three ways tongues are interpreted from scripture, not with the gift of interpretation, but through exegesis, understanding the Bible study method.

**Cessationism** – I went to Dallas Seminary. Dallas Seminary teaches cessationism. What that means is the miracle gifts – the gifts of tongues, the gifts of interpretation – have ceased, they are no longer valid in the church today. The reason for that and the reason we were taught that is they believe that when the Canon was closed, when the Bible was complete, we had the word of God. In the past, God spoke through the prophets, but today, he speaks through Jesus. In the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the word was God. We have the Bible and the Canon is closed. A cessationist would say that if you believe in the gift of tongues, you believe the Canon is open and we can continue to add the word of God to scripture. If you listen to John MacArthur... he wrote a book called Charismatic Chaos. I don't listen to John MacArthur, but I know he's a cessationist and he's very outspoken on it.

**Open but cautious** – I follow more in line with Dr. Tony Evans who is a Dallas Seminary graduate. He would be in this category. He would say God can speak to whom ever he wants, however he wants, whenever he wants. But we do have to proceed with caution in the church and Paul addresses that. Remember, in 1 Corinthians, we're going to read about how disruptive the church services were. In 1 Corinthians 11, the chapter before this one, even when they got together for the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is supposed to unite us.

**Charismatic** – Let's hear the charismatics in the room right now. Not right now, not after you went after us in cessationism. Isn't it perfect? Of all weeks to do this message, the Assemblies of God Conference is happening at the Chateau this week. I met several of my AG friends that came forward after the last service. I love what that one pastor from New Jersey told me, "You needed

to add one more. There are charismatics and then there are crazimatics.” He said, “I would be in the charismatic category, Ted.”

What’s sad to me is this conversation is in the context of unity. I’m shocked at the number of people that will break off fellowship when they don’t agree on all of this. The whole point of this is one Spirit, one Lord, one God the Father of them all.

I had one person from the first service say, “I’m not on the same page with on that.” Remember what we teach in this church. Healthy people are able to listen to the opinions of others without being threatened, without seeing it as an attack on their opinion. We teach the essentials at our church. What are the essential beliefs? It’s what we believe about God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, the Bible, what we believe about man, what we believe about sin.

We have never put this discussion here on the essentials list. It’s why I am fellowshipping today with friends who don’t agree with me entirely. And do you want to know something even more? We don’t even have a church staff that’s all on the same page with this stuff. We don’t even have a teaching team that’s on the same page with this. We all try to stick on the same page when we proclaim, but what we’re saying is unity.

I found favor with AG churches for some reason. I visit a lot of AG churches around the country. I go to some and when they find out I’m not charismatic, it’s such a disappointment to them. They’re not even sure why they invited me. I say, “It’s because I’m speaking on marriage, not tongues. But if you would like me to speak on tongues, I can throw in a few jokes just to make it... And I’ll swing from the chandeliers with the best of them if you need me to.” That would be the crazimatics.

In Romans 12, we get to another list. **6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.** So, it’s a grace, a manifestation of the Spirit. **If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; 7 if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8 if it is to encourage, then give encouragement...**

Some of you have the gift of exhortation. I know who in this church has the gift of exhortation and I find you when I need you. Does anybody have that person in your life that you know they have the gift of exhortation and you seek them out? By the way, I don’t have the spiritual gift of exhortation. **...if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently...** I don’t believe I have the spiritual gift of leading. This one just wipes me out.

The other day, I heard a pastor talk about how sometimes he’s upset or sad when he walks by meetings in the church and he realizes he wasn’t invited to them. He talks about how sad he is and how much he wants to be a part of it. I can tell you that I’ve never had that feeling in my entire life. I’ve never walked by a meeting going, “Oh, why can’t I be in there?” I walk by it wanting to high five them for taking care of it on their own. **...if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.**

I've been kind of revisiting this because Amy said, "The funerals I've been going to with you lately, Ted... You cry more than the people that lost someone." I'm trying to figure that out. Maybe I have mercy... I'm even still working this out. I think what happens in ministry after a while is I don't have mercy towards whining. Does anybody know what I'm talking about? It wears me out. I have mercy towards legitimate needs and hurts and pains, but the whiney, complaining person that we bless other churches with in this community... How many of you share that gift with me? Send them on down the road gift. No, that's not it at all. I've been around this gift, I recognize this gift when I see it in other believers.

John Piper says this about the gifts, and I love it. *"God did not give us spiritual gifts to make us unique. He gave us spiritual gifts to uniquely equip us to serve others."* For the glory of God and the benefit of others.

**Our differences are supposed to unite us.** There is unity in our diversity. It's a beautiful picture, the body of Christ. When Jesus left this earth after his ministry, after his death and resurrection and then his appearance to many... When he left and the church got started, he said, "I'm not going to give all of myself and the gifts to one person. I'm going to spread it out. So, when you come together, people see me. When you're functioning together as one body; you're the bride of Christ, the body of Christ, you come together and people see the way you love each other and care for one another and work through your gifts, they are going to see me."

Do you remember the day after 9/11? Has anyone ever felt more unity in this country? From that day. I know there were other times in our history, but from that day. In the last 18 years now, I don't remember a time where our country has been as united as it was the day after 9/11 and the weeks to follow. We weren't talking politics. We weren't throwing our opinions out there and being all argumentative. We were Americans. That was pretty much it.

When President Bush stood up and talked to the firemen and the workers at Ground Zero, we all felt that. He said, "I hear you and the American people hear you." It was just great unity, coming together. I often think about that picture and think *Yeah; the world should not be beating the church to that picture. That should be the church. We should be showing a corrupt and immoral group leading us what unity looks like and it's under the name of Jesus.* We shouldn't be screaming and yelling and full of venom on social media towards what happened in New York. We should be calling it out with bold truth, the Word of God in a way that points people to Jesus, in a way that shows them he values life.

I got on my friends this week. Many of them have talked non-stop on social media about everything happening at the southern border but then completely and totally silent about what's happening in New York. I just said, "Hey, let's be consistent. Let's value the life of children at the southern border and let's value the life of children in New York."

1 Corinthians 12 - ***12 Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.*** This is probably a message that Travis Brawner should have taught, being the doctor on the team. ***15 Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body.*** It's still part of the body; it's just not functioning and it's going to make the other parts have to pick up the slack.

Have you ever had your foot fall asleep and then you get up and try to walk? You try to be cool, especially if you're in front of people. You're probably walking normally, but that foot is completely asleep. It's throwing the whole body off until the foot wakes up, so you'll just lean against the wall until you get the blood back down there to the foot.

That's what happens in the body of Christ when the foot says "Yeah, I'm not as important as the hand..." Do you know what this is talking about? Stop comparing. You don't need to be the person you're sitting next to. God needs you to be you. He needs you to function in the gifts, not that you chose, but in the gift he gave you. He needs you to live in that and walk in that so that the person sitting next to you... If you're the foot and the person next to you is the hand, the whole body is healthy and functioning together. Nobody wants to be the appendix. You can cut that out and we don't miss you and we're glad you're gone. You don't want to be that.

***16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. 19 If they were all one part, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, but one body.***

The bottom line is this. **Every believer has at least one spiritual gift.** As you begin to discover and understand your spiritual gifts, we want you to also see that you have a gift mix, that you have more than one spiritual gift, and discover what those are.

We want you to understand that as you're on this journey, we want you to remember what we talked about at the beginning. **Every member matters.** You have a part to play here because you're part of the body. If you're here, we don't want to be that church that's walking around like our foot is asleep. We want to be a healthy body.

At this church, we focus more on being healthy in the body of Christ than we do growing the body of Christ. May we always be interested and after it and studying and learning and promoting health, not growth.

**Every ministry is significant.** We believe you're a ten at something. God has gifted you to do something. Get after it, go for it, don't look around like, "Well, they seem to have it covered." No, find your place.

In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul says it's for this reason, ***25 so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.*** We dealt with that with The Lord's Supper in Chapter 11 and now he's dealing with that with spiritual gifts in this chapter. He's saying you're to be one because your one body. And you do this by having equal concern for each other. For you to start serving so that someone else can start serving.

For those of you who are here recovering from a past church or a bad situation, that you would grab hold of that and realize *okay, I've got to get going so that other parts of the body can function in what they're called to do as well.*

1 Corinthians 12... We can debate this and I did have a slight debate after the first service with... it may have been a crazimatic, I don't know. I think it was a charismatic, but this is a rhetorical set of questions – **29 Are all apostles?** Does everybody function in this? **Are all prophets?** Does everybody function in this? **Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? 30 Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?**

The bottom line is this. **No single gift is given to all believers.** They have been distributed. And **no single believer has all the gifts.** Some of you grew up in church... I have to set this straight because some of you learned this and it's faulty learning. I don't know if you just picked it up. No one ever said this, but you just kind of assumed this. I've talked to people who have said, "You're the pastor; you have all the gifts." No! Do you know why? It's because I'm not Jesus. This is very important to understand that you'd stop looking at leaders as ones that have it all. Let a leader... Let your home group leader function in their spiritual gifts.

Some are going to function as teachers. They're the ones that you skip right past snack time and you get to fill in the blanks. I hate those groups. I don't go to those groups. I go to the ones that value snack time. Can you trust a leader that doesn't value snack time? I don't think so. But that leader has the gift of serving or helps or of hospitality.

How many of you have a home group leader that has the gift of mercy? They want to spend time praying together and just asking how the other is doing. They want to help them through whatever they're going through. No single believer has all the gifts. Don't look to one person for all of it.

**Spiritual Gifts** – As we discussed earlier, we've been talking about spiritual gifts: teaching, faith, helps, giving, etc. We've looked at two lists today. If you want to find those lists, go to 1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12, and Ephesians 4. These are different than spiritual disciplines.

**Spiritual Disciplines** –When you hear us use the term *spiritual disciplines*, that's fasting, prayer, studying the Word of God, solitude, getting alone, meditating on the scriptures. And those are different from spiritual responsibilities.

**Spiritual Responsibilities** – You'll see that these look very much the same. Welcoming strangers – we're all called to do that. Giving – you can't go, "Well, I don't have the spiritual gift of giving, so I don't have to put anything in or I don't have to be generous." No, that's a spiritual responsibility and it may not be a measure of faith that you've been given or a manifestation of the Spirit in your life, but it is a duty you have as a follower of Christ.

Encouraging one another – We're called to rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn. Showing mercy – Have you ever met that person that uses their personality... They're like, "I'm just a high D" and they just run over the top of people. That's not why you study personalities, to learn how to treat people poorly. You learn personalities to bring balance to it.

We learn the spiritual responsibilities and understand that's not something that has been placed in us, but we know we're called to do it as a follower of Christ.

This week, at our church... When I say at our church, I'm not just talking about what happens here on Sunday morning. This is part of it, but it's not all of it. So, when we say this, we're talking about people in this body right here using their spiritual gifts here this morning and all throughout the week. These are different tasks and things going on in ministry around our church and community where people are using their gifts.

**Encouraging others** – Just so you get an idea, today, we're seeing it. There are people here encouraging others. I've seen it. The prayer team does this a lot. Someone needs prayer, yes, but someone also just needs to be encouraged. They are in a difficult situation. They don't have a boss or coworker that encourages them. They don't have a family member or a spouse that encourages them. They came here and someone is using that gift of exhortation.

**Visiting the sick in the hospital** – Some are using their gift of mercy in visiting the sick in the hospital.

**Counting money** – Yeah, the people that are here today doing administrative tasks, having that gift of serving, that gift of helps.

**Driving golf carts** – Some are driving golf carts and it just flows out of them.

**Holding babies**

**Teaching children** – Some of using the gift of teaching to teach children.

**Holding open doors** – We have people around here with the gift of hospitality.

**Praying with those who are hurting** – Using the mercy gift. Again, using their faith gift.

**Leading in worship**

**Serving coffee**

**Discipling couples in crisis**

**Gathering strangers around kitchen tables and family rooms**

**Cleaning up after we all leave** – Have you ever watched people clean up around this church with big smiles on their face and the joy that comes with that?

**Leading large groups**

**Helping a family move out of a hotel into permanent housing**

You're like, "Okay, I'm in that last group. I don't know what my spiritual gift is, but I want to discover it." "I've learned about spiritual gifts in the past; I just never really discovered mine." "I know what they are. This reminded me of a lot of that today." "I know what they are, but I need to get going with them."

Some of you know what it is, know what your gift is, you're clear on that, but you're new to the church, you've just never found your place yet. Here are three ways to discover your spiritual gifts and begin to understand them better:

**1. Start serving.** I believe you can take a spiritual gifts assessment and there are plenty of them online to get you started in that direction. I was going to put one up here today, but there are so many of them online and we do have them here at the church as well, but just start serving. When you serve, you start to identify your spiritual gifts, but you also see it played out in other people. I've traveled with Joe White for years. I've told you this. He has the spiritual gift of an evangelist. He's an evangelist. I am not, but that doesn't remove the spiritual responsibility, my Christian responsibility of sharing my faith. I just see this extra measure of it in men and women around this church. Start serving. You'll see it in other people, you'll see what is in you and what is not in you. I think of the number of times I have passed out while visiting the sick in the hospital. I'm just assuming *Lord if you would have given me the gift of mercy, you'd give me the ability to stay awake.*

**2. Seek input from others.** Have you ever had to help someone see this? "You should really think about going in this direction." This is what we need to get good at in the body of Christ, calling this out in other people. Just to walk up to them and go, "I've been watching you lately..." Do this in home group. "I've been watching you and here's what I see."

**3. Study for yourself.** Dig in this week to 1 Corinthians 12 – 14. Dig into Ephesians 4. Dig into Romans 12 to discover and learn more. The key here is to be united and to be one. And all God's people said... Amen.

Father, I am grateful for the gifts at work in this church and grateful for what you're doing at Woodland Hills. I pray that as we leave here today and for those who are wanting to discover what their gifts are, that many will be encouraged and challenged by your Word and they will be self-feeders this week. I pray they'll dig into it for themselves to learn more and discover more and study more.

For those who know what it is but they just haven't found their place here, that they would begin to dig in and start serving and seeking input from others that they are serving with and from leaders that they're serving with so that they can have a better understanding of this.

Our desire is to serve you in everything. We love you with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength. And for this we are grateful. It's in the name of Jesus that everyone agreed and said... Amen.