

Good morning brothers and sisters. Today's message is the first one in a series of four messages on DESIRING, DISCOVERING, DEVELOPING AND DEPLOYING GIFTS-SETS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. It is important that each believer discovers, develops and deploys special gifts-sets that have been distributed to them by the Holy Spirit for edifying the body of Christ i.e. strengthening and building the church community and for evangelizing pre-believers in the home, business school and social spaces. These special abilities or gifts-sets distributed to each believer by the Holy Spirit are referred to as grace-gifts or spiritual-gifts. When believers desire, discover, develop and deploy gifts-sets that are distributed to them by the Holy-Spirit then our worship, witness and works of service in and through the church become more fulfilling, more dynamic, more fruit-bearing and more-impactful. Our worship, witness and works of service in the home, business and social spaces become more fulfilling, dynamic, fruit-bearing and impactful. The lists of the gifts of the Holy Spirit that we find listed in the New Testament are not comprehensive or exhaustive lists but rather basic lists. These special abilities/endowments given by the Holy Spirit are referred to as charismatic gifts because they are not earned or merited but rather distributed by the Holy Spirit based on God's grace alone. These special abilities/endowments given by the Holy Spirit are referred to as spiritual gifts because through them believers may worship, witness and serve God under the direction and control of the Holy Spirit. Today I will suggest one way to divide these lists of spiritual gifts into four clusters to help us remember them.

1.Foundation-Establish Gifts (Eph.4:11-13) i.e. Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists and Pastor Teachers

2.Communication-Speech Gifts (1 COR.12: 4-11) i.e. prophecy, speaking in tongues and interpreting tongues

3.Revelation-Know Gifts (1 COR. 12:4-11) i.e. word of wisdom, word of knowledge and discernment

4.Demonstration-Power Gifts (1 COR. 12:4-11) i.e. gifts of healing, gifts of faith and gift of miracles

5.Administration-Lead Gifts (Romans 12:4-11) i.e. leadership, service, mercy, helps and giving.

It is always important to remind ourselves that each believer may deploy combinations of gifts-sets as primary, secondary or periphery gifts. It is always important to remind ourselves that these gifts-sets are distributed and deployed on the basis of God's grace i.e. undeserved favor. It is always important to remind ourselves that these spiritual gifts-sets are not meant for showing off or competition but rather to serve, build and strengthen the body of Christ as well as to evangelize pre-believers.