

DAVID K. BERNARD

A sepia-toned photograph of two hands raised in a gesture of prayer or praise, with fingers spread and palms facing forward. The hands are positioned centrally, with the left hand slightly behind the right one. The background is dark, making the lighter-toned hands stand out. The overall mood is spiritual and reverent.

# SPIRITUAL GIFTS

**FACILITATOR'S GUIDE**

# Spiritual Gifts

## Small Group Facilitator's Guide

by **David K. Bernard** with **Abraham LaVoi** and **Lee Ann Alexander**

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# SMALL GROUP

## FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

Welcome to the Spiritual Gifts small group study, a tool designed to help Christians pursue greater intimacy with God and position themselves to be used in the supernatural gifts God has given to the church.

Thank you for providing leadership for this six-session study. Your enthusiasm for the study and pursuit of spiritual gifts will inspire and motivate your group members to seek their own understanding and experiences.

### Spiritual Gifts Small Group Overview

Session One	Three Categories of Gifts <i>Read Chapters 1-2 before this meeting</i>
Session Two	The Purpose and Exercise of Spiritual Gifts <i>Read Chapters 3-4 before this meeting</i>
Session Three	Love in the Body of Christ <i>Read Chapters 5-6 before this meeting</i>
Session Four	Gifts of Revelation <i>Read Chapter 7 before this meeting</i>
Session Five	Gifts of Power <i>Read Chapters 8-11 before this meeting</i>
Session Six	Gifts of Utterance <i>Read Chapters 12-14 before this meeting</i>

## Launching the Study

This study focuses on God's supernatural interaction with everyday, ordinary people. It is designed to make the gifts of the Spirit something accessible in the life and congregation of every follower of Jesus. In other words, there is no special criteria for inclusion in this study—it is open to anyone who is hungry for God.

This study uses the book ***Spiritual Gifts*** by David K. Bernard as the text and participant's resource. Every member of your group should have a copy. As the leader, you will have a copy of the book, a DVD, and this facilitator's guide.

## Before the Study

- Pray that you and the members of the group will be ready to receive what God wants to teach them through this study.
- Make sure your group size is small enough to encourage interaction by all participants; if it is too large, consider breaking up into several study groups.
- Make sure you have a DVD player available and ready.
- Set up a circular area where all participants have a seat that allows them to see each other and the TV monitor.
- As the facilitator, you should read the entire book and watch all six sessions on the DVD to familiarize yourself with the complete scope of the study.
- Each week, read the discussion questions and think through the answers you anticipate will be given. Prepare to lead the conversation and make notes on the direction you will take.
- Make certain each member of the study group purchases or has access to the book. Ask them to read the chapters included in Session 1 before the first meeting.
- Each week, instruct your study group members to read the chapters included in the following week's discussion.

## During the Study

- **Focus.** It is easy for small group discussions to veer away from the goal of the study. Gently encourage group members back to the question at hand if this happens.
- **Include.** Ask specific questions of those who are more hesitant to participate to encourage them to join the discussion.



## Chapters 1-2

To learn the different categories of spiritual gifts and understand the motivation and regulations that guide their use.

Romans 12:6-8

## Ephesians 4:11

1 Corinthians 12

Ask each member to describe the best gift they remember receiving. Ask them to share the name and relationship to the person who gave them this gift. How did the gift affect their relationship with the giver?

**Discuss the following questions:**

1. Who do you know who is used in the service gifts? Describe their gifting and how it helps the church.
2. How are the service gifts different from the supernatural spiritual gifts? Why do you think both are valuable in a local church?
3. Why do you think some people are skeptical of spiritual gifts?

Notes:

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4. Why shouldn't spiritual gifts supersede the Bible as the primary means of understanding God and His will for our lives?
5. Is it appropriate to desire spiritual gifts in one's life? If so what is the proper motivation for this desire?

## Closing Prayer

- Thank God that He gave the church gifts to better enable us to love and serve Him.
- Ask God to give you a desire for the best spiritual gifts.
- Ask God to purify your motives for desiring spiritual gifts.
- Ask God to exercise His gifts in your life and church according to His will.

## Assignment

Read Chapters 3 - 4 before next week's group meeting.

**“The supernatural gifts should be normal, not abnormal; expected, not unexpected.”**





## Chapters 3-4

To determine God's purpose in granting spiritual gifts and to explore proper motivations for and conclusions about the exercise of the gifts.

- I Corinthians 12:7
- I Corinthians 14:3
- I Corinthians 1:2, 5-7

Ask each member to describe a time they were offered a gift but conditions were attached in order for them to receive it. How did that make them feel?

## Watch the Session 2 Video Clip

**Discuss the following questions:**

1. Describe a time when God used someone with a spiritual gift to minister to you.
2. What is the ultimate purpose of spiritual gifts and how could it apply to a local church?
3. Is there a correct way to exercise the spiritual gifts? How can we be assured we are doing so?

Notes:

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- ## Closing Prayer

- Thank God that He is sovereign and knows how best to supply our needs.
- Ask God to be glorified in everything you do, especially in the exercise of spiritual gifts.
- Ask God to increase your sensitivity to Him so He can operate through you with the spiritual gift of His choice.

## Assignment

Read Chapters 5 - 6 before next week's group meeting.

**“The ultimate purpose of the spiritual gifts is to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ.”**





## Chapters 5-6

To clarify each member's view of the church as the body of Christ and to establish that love is the preeminent and governing factor in all actions.

I Corinthians 12:1-11

## I Corinthians 13

Ask each member to give their definition of love. Then read I Corinthians 13. How do the definitions given by your group members differ from God's definition? Work together to come up with a one-sentence definition of love in your own words.

**Discuss the following questions:**

1. How long have you been a Christian and how would you describe your level of spiritual maturity?
2. Does the operation of certain gifts in the lives of Christians indicate their level of spiritual maturity? Why or why not?
3. If we want to be used of God in spiritual gifts, how should we pursue that? What

[illegible]





## Chapter 7

To gain understanding of the gifts of revelation and to explore the manner in which God manifests them in His church.

1 Corinthians 12:8  
1 Corinthians 12:10

Ask members to describe a situation in which they relied on information, guidance, or direction from someone else. Was it difficult to relinquish control and trust another? Did the end result turn out better or worse than if they had ignored the help from another?

### Definitions:

- The **gifts of revelation** are direct impartations from the mind of God for the benefit of the church.
- The **word of wisdom** is a particular impartation of divine wisdom for a particular need.
- The **word of knowledge** is a specific piece of information from God an individual or congregation may need.
- The **discerning of spirits** is the supernatural ability from God to discern the motive or moving force behind words or actions.

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[illegible]

1. Describe a time when you needed insight or direction from God. How did God reveal that information to you?
2. In what ways does God impart revelation to us?
3. Discuss the difference between a word of wisdom and a word of knowledge.
4. How do we discern between direction from God and our human spirit?
5. How can we apply this information about the gifts of revelation to our lives when we are in times of decision or crisis?

- Thank God for all the occasions in the past He has guided you and proven Himself trustworthy.
- Ask God to increase your faith in Him so you will always seek after and rely upon His guidance.
- Tell God of any specific circumstances you currently face and ask Him for His leadership, guidance, and wisdom.

Read Chapters 8 - 11 before next week's group meeting.

**“Like all supernatural gifts, the gifts of revelation are potentially available to every Spirit-filled believer.”**



## Gifts of Power

## Chapters 8-11

## Objective

To establish that faith in God is absolutely necessary for miracles and healing and to gain understanding of the process of healing as a miracle of God.

## Key Scriptures

### 1 Corinthians 12:9-10

## Mark 16:17-18

## Opening

Ask your group members to describe a time when they were healed. Then, ask them to describe a time they were not healed or the healing was delayed. How did they feel during the process?

## Watch the Session 5 Video Clip

**Discuss the following questions:**

1. Describe a time when you witnessed a miracle.
2. What do you think constitutes a "miracle"?
3. What do you think constitutes a "healing"?
4. What is the relationship of faith to the gifts of power?
5. How do we approach the role of faith when we pray and a person is not healed?

Notes:

[illegible]

[illegible]

- ## Closing Prayer

- ## Assignment

Read Chapters 12 - 14 before next week's group meeting.

**“What Jesus did for the early church He will do for the church today.”**



## Gifts of Utterance

## Chapters 12-14

## Objective

To gain insight into the purpose of the gifts of prophecy, tongues, and the interpretation of tongues and to discover the biblical guidelines for their operation.

## Key Scriptures

I Corinthians 12:10

## 1 Corinthians 14:1-19

## Opening

Ask the group to describe a time something they did not understand captured their attention. Was there value in the initial misunderstanding? Would the final outcome have been as memorable if there was not an attention-grabbing, though unclear, beginning?

## Watch the Session 6 Video Clip

### Definitions:

- The **gift of tongues** is the gift of a supernatural utterance in one or more languages unknown to the speaker.
- The **interpretation of tongues** is the gift of a supernatural ability to translate or explain the meaning of a public utterance in tongues.
- The **gift of prophecy** is a supernatural utterance directly from God in the language of the speaker and the hearers.

Notes:

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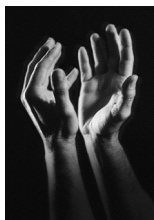


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1. Why is prophecy the most beneficial gift in a service or public meeting?
2. How can speaking in tongues be of benefit to you personally? How can it be of benefit to the church?
3. What guidelines does the Bible put on the exercise of tongues in a public worship setting and why?
4. What spiritual gifts do you feel God has given you and how do you intend to develop those gifts?
5. What does the idea of guidelines say about control of the gifts of the Spirit within an assembly?

- Thank God that He is interested in speaking to His church.
- Thank God that He knows how to communicate best to His followers.
- Ask God to speak to you in a manner that captures your attention and most effectively communicates His message.
- Pray as a group that each individual receives and exercises the spiritual gifts God wants them to have.

**“In corporate meetings, our primary goals must be to worship God, to hear from God, and to minister to one another.”**



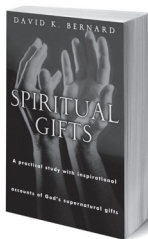
# CONCLUSION

God “is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us” (Ephesians 3:20). May we who are filled with the Holy Spirit recognize the supernatural potential that rests in us and allow God’s Spirit to flow through us. Our God is not distant; He is present in our lives with miraculous power. When we have the Holy Spirit, we have the author of all nine spiritual gifts resident within us, and He can activate any that we need.

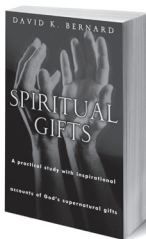
Let us exercise simple faith to receive God’s miraculous gifts, and let us stir up the gifts He has already placed in our midst. Whenever needs arise, we should believe His Word and believe that He can work through us. His power is at work “in us”; we must let it flow through us to meet the needs. In this way the gifts of the Spirit will become vital tools for strengthening the saints and reaching the lost with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

# Additional SPIRITUAL GIFTS Resources

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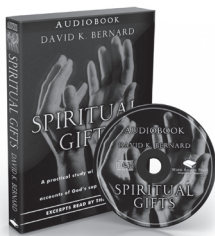
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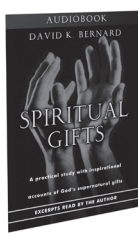
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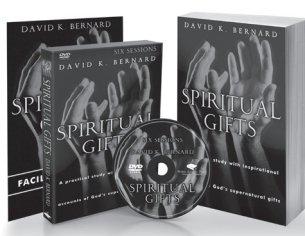
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**David K. Bernard** is the general superintendent of the United Pentecostal Church International, which has over three million constituents in forty thousand churches in 195 nations. He founded New Life United Pentecostal Church of Austin, Texas, out of which sixteen additional churches were started under his leadership. He is also the founding president of Urshan College and Urshan

Graduate School of Theology. He earned a doctor of jurisprudence with honors from the University of Texas, a doctor of theology from the University of South Africa, and a bachelor of arts magna cum laude in mathematical sciences and managerial studies from Rice University. The author of thirty-one books with circulation of over 750,000, he has been published in about forty languages and has ministered in fifty-five countries on six continents. He and his wife, Connie, have three children and several grandchildren.



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