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## Introduction!

1<sup>st</sup> in a series of 6

**Slide #1** Fire is hot, fire consumes, fire spreads, fire is contagious, fire is intriguing and fire purifies. Fire is essential for survival.

John the Baptist said...

**Slide #2 Matthew 3:11** I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

**Slide #3 Acts 2:1-4** When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.

**Slide #4** They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

There is a connection between the Holy Spirit and fire.

**Slide #5 2 Timothy 1:6-7** For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

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**Slide #6** For six weeks we are going to invite the Holy Spirit of God to ignite the fire of our Spiritual Gifts through a series of messages entitled, 'Fan the Flame'.

These gifts are called Spiritual Gifts because they are given to us by the Holy Spirit. They are called gifts because they are given. They are called gifts because they can't be earned, they are not deserved and we can't pay for them.

Why would we spend 6 weeks talking about Spiritual Gifts?

**Slide #7 Ephesians 2:10** For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

All of us here today are a product of God's creativity! He made us just the way we are and he has a specific plan for what we are to do. How many of you have figured that out? So how do we know? How do we know what God has prepared in advance for us to do?

**Slide #8** Rick Warren has developed an acronym called SHAPE in order to help us discover what God wants us to do.

**S**-Spiritual Gifts – this is our topic today

**H**-Heart – Passion, get's us up in the morning

**A**-Abilities – Fast, athletic, strong, artsy, academic, \$

**P**-Personality – Lion, Koala, Cheetah, Monkey

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**E**-Experiences –Education, moved often, big family, job, Church, sports, music,

Rick say that we need to look at our SHAPE... to help us find what God has called us to do and this is the foundation of his book, 'The Purpose Driven Life'. I firmly believe that working through our SHAPE is one of the best ways to discover what our purpose is.

So for 6 weeks we are going to be talking about the S of SHAPE, Spiritual Gifts, and we are going to bring some fire into the auditorium to encourage us to fan into flame these Spiritual Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

This morning I would like to introduce you to Patrick Meck. Patrick has been attending TL for a little over two years, he is married to Katie, and Katie's parents now attend TL, and he owns an interesting business. Patrick is a Farrier. How many of you know what a Farrier does? A Farrier is an equine (long e) hoof specialist... in other words... he trims and shoes horse's feet. I find it interesting that spell check doesn't even recognize the word Farrier?

**Slide #9** Here is a picture of Patrick at work.

**Slide #10** This morning Patrick is going to tell us a little bit about shoeing horses.

1. Since fire is the primary focus of this series... tell us about your fire source. What is this thing called and what powers it?

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2. How hot does it get and how long does it take to reach the necessary temperature?

3. Tell us a little bit about how you got started in this business? When, why and who taught you how to do it?

4. I understand you are mobile... so you actually travel to the horse... the horse doesn't come to you.... right?

So, how about if you go over to the forge and walk us through what you do from the beginning. When you arrive at the stable...

(Dim the lights when he pulls the horseshoe out)

**Questions... if necessary.**

- What kind of horses do you generally shoe and what kind of equipment do you need?
- What are you looking for when you lift a hoof and assess what needs to be done?
- What is the order of the horse shoeing process?
- How long does it generally take you?
- Does it hurt the horse?

5. What is the most dangerous part about the job... is it the fire or the horse or is it your clients?

6. Have you ever been seriously injured?

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7. What do you like best about the job?

8. Do you shoe horses for Amish?

9. I understand you also work at a market. Do you have hopes of doing this fulltime... or do you like the mix of the two jobs.

Thank you Patrick for giving us a glimpse into your life, and into the fire that makes it possible for you to earn a living and for the visual that we can carry into the rest of this message.

## **Worship Band - Soul On Fire**

**Slide #11** God, I'm running for Your heart,  
I'm running for Your heart  
Till I am a soul on fire  
Lord, I'm longing for Your ways  
I'm waiting for the day  
When I am a soul on fire,  
Till I am a soul on fire  
(repeat)

**Slide #12** Lord, restore the joy I had  
I have wandered bring me back  
In this darkness, lead me through  
Until all I see is You, yeah

**Slide #13** God, I'm running for Your heart,  
I'm running for Your heart  
Till I am a soul on fire  
Lord, I'm longing for Your ways

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I'm waiting for the day  
When I am a soul on fire,  
Till I am a soul on fire

**Slide #14** Lord, let me burn for You again  
Let me return to You again  
And Lord, let me burn for You again  
And let me return to You again

**Slide #15** God, I'm running for Your heart,  
I'm running for Your heart  
Till I am a soul on fire  
Lord, I'm longing for Your ways  
I'm waiting for the day  
When I am a soul on fire,

**Slide #16** God, I'm running for Your heart,  
I'm running for Your heart  
Till I am a soul on fire  
Till I am a soul on fire  
Till I am a soul on fire

**Slide #17 Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-11**

**Slide #18 1 Corinthians 12:7**  
Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is  
given for the common good.

The word 'Manifestation' means to 'shine forth'. The implication is that our Spiritual Gifts should be visible to others and they are given for the benefit of the community... to build up the community.

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**1 Corinthians 12:11** All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.

Every Christian has spiritual gifts. It's not a matter of 'if' but rather 'which'. Spiritual Gifts are not reserved for pastors, elders, church staff, leadership, the artsy type or mature believers. The Holy Spirit gives Spiritual Gifts to everyone who has crossed the line of faith, therefore, Spiritual Gifts, is a relevant topic for every Christ follower.

This morning is purely introductory. We are not going to look at any of the individual gifts this week... we will start with that next Sunday.

So, what are Spiritual Gifts? I'm going to give you eight words or phrases that will help us define Spiritual Gifts and you may want to jot them down.

### **Slide #19**

**1. Spiritual Gifts are the primary channel by which the Holy Spirit can minister through us.**

**J- Channel:** How many of you know what this is? This is called J channel and if I hold it like this... you can see the J. J Channel is used around doors and windows, when siding is installed, to keep water flowing in the right places. It is a channel that directs water.

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Spiritual Gifts are a channel in that they provide a conduit for the Holy Spirit to flow through us... into other people. They enable us to minister to others. They are not just for me. They are not an end in and of themselves. They are for the express purpose of building up the Church.

Several weeks ago we talked about how the Holy Spirit will cause rivers of living water to flow out of us, so that we can become channels of refreshment to other people and other places... wherever the water of the Spirit is needed. Just like we sang this morning

Open up the heavens we want to see You  
Open up the floodgates a mighty river  
Flowing from Your heart  
Filling every part of our praise

**Slide #20** Remember this statement: 'everywhere you go this week is someplace Jesus needs to be and the only way he can get there is through you.' Dick Halverson

**Slide #21**

**2. Spiritual Gifts are a supernatural capacity.**

Spiritual gifts are supernatural in that they are given to us by the Holy Spirit and they are a capacity in the sense that they don't come to us fully developed.

**Tub:** Here is one of the tubs we use at our Nafziger corn day. It has a certain capacity. How many ears



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of corn do we put in them... it depends! But it has a certain capacity. Here is a bucket... smaller... but it also has a certain capacity. All of us here this morning have a different capacity when it comes to Spiritual Gifts. How full is our Spiritual Gifts tub... it depends on how 'locked in' we are with the Holy Spirit?

## **Slide #22**

### **3. Spiritual Gifts are a supernatural desire.**

**Red Rose:** What do you think of when you see a rose? We often think of love, passion, Valentine's Day, romance... but underneath it all is... 'desire'... the longing for someone.

There is a desire placed within each Christ follower to do good works and to minister to others and this does not come from within... it comes from above. This desire brings about actions to serve others and these actions are critical in helping us find fulfillment.

## **Slide #23**

### **4. Spiritual Gifts are tools for doing the work of ministry.**

Back in 1995 my cousin Greg talked me into getting my first computer. At the time we were taking a course together at Evangelical Seminary... so we would travel back and forth... an hour up and an hour back and week after week he kept saying... you need to learn how to use a computer. And I was incredibly resistant. The thought was just overwhelming. It was

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like trying to talk me into learning to like liver... it just ain't going to happen.

But over the weeks he began to break it down and I will never forget the day when he said... a computer is just like a tool! And somehow that connected for me. Up to that point a computer seemed like some futuristic weapon from Star Wars and I'm about as Sci Fi as a block of Farmer's Cheese.

So when I was able to think of a computer as being a tool... like an... Impact Driver... it began to make sense.

**Impact Diver:** This is one of my most recent tool investments and it's just a sweet machine. As it drives in screws or bolts... it hammers.

When I was finally able to make the correlation between a computer and something that was familiar to me... it began to make sense. And this is what we need to remember about Spiritual Gifts... they are simply tools, tools to get the job done! We don't need to fear them, be overwhelmed by them or allow them to intimidate us.

Every tool is different and has a different function and in the same way every Spiritual Gift is different and has a different function.

## **Slide #24**

**5. Spiritual Gifts are the source of joy in our Christian life.**

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**Slide #25 Grad Picture:** Here is picture of the TL graduates of 2009.

I know it's a little distant for some of you, but if you look closely you should recognize some of them. My daughter Liesl is the 2<sup>nd</sup> one in from the right. I love this picture because it is a great illustration of jumping for joy! This is what exercising our Spiritual Gifts should look like... sheer joy!

Spiritual Gifts have not been given to us to divide us or confuse us or frustrate us. When we learn to understand our gifts and put them into practice... they bring joy to us and to others.

**Slide #26**

**6. Spiritual Gifts are a divine motivator.**

They create the spark to get us going.

**A carrot on a string:** When I think of motivation, I have this picture in my head of a donkey being nudged forward by a carrot on a string... just out of reach... propelled forward in anticipation of getting a bite of the carrot.

Spiritual Gifts motivate us to serve God and serve others because Spiritual Gifts put us in that sweet spot of knowing why we were created.

**Slide #27**

**7. Spiritual Gifts are a divine calling and responsibility.**

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**My badge:** A number of years ago I was issued a clergy card for hospital visitation. If you look closely at my picture you can see that it was definitely a number of years ago... back before I dyed my hair grey. My kids always thought this one was real cool because it had a retractable cord on it.

This badge designates my calling and responsibility. It confirms my Spiritual Gift of Pastor/Shepherd. For some of you it may be a wrench or a computer or a teaching certificate or some letters after your name. But regardless of the responsibility... you have been called. A calling is not just for pastors or missionaries or nurses or relief workers. Spiritual Gifts are a Divine Calling.

## **Slide #28**

### **8. Spiritual Gifts are the building blocks of the Church.**

**Building Blocks:** Think about building blocks. They are individual, they fit together, they are dependent on each other, they are more effective when placed together, they touch each other, they build on each other... the analogies are almost endless. So it is with Spiritual Gifts.

TL, gift by gift, we build the Church, we build the Kingdom, block by block!

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Now, before we leave the defining process... let's talk real briefly about what Spiritual Gifts are not!

**Slide #29 Spiritual Gifts are not:**

1. Talents – the standup comedian
2. Abilities – the jock
3. Skills – the cabinet maker
4. Character traits - honesty
5. The measure of maturity – grown up

This morning I want to wrap it up with some practical, this is what we need to do stuff.

**Slide #30 1 Timothy 4:14-15** Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you. Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress.

Let's go to our notes.

**Slide #31**

**1. Discover your Spiritual Gifts.**

Paul says to Timothy, don't neglect your gift, be diligent, give yourself wholly to them. The burden is on you to figure this out. I can't do that for you. We are going to talk about Spiritual Gifts for the next five weeks. We are going to give you a list of 19 Spiritual Gifts and define them and illustrate them. We will give you a list of books and on line inventories for you to

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take... but as far as benefiting from these messages... that will need to be on you.

### **Slide #32**

#### **2. Use your Spiritual Gifts.**

### **Slide #33**

Someone once said, 'To pick up our gifts is to pick up the cross.'

There is a certain sense of sacrifice that comes with using our Spiritual Gifts.

'Everyone has been created and born for the sake of others.'

**Slide #34 1 Peter 4:10** Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

We can study this for six weeks... but unless we use what we have been given... it means nothing!

### **Slide #35**

#### **3. Don't misuse your Spiritual Gifts.**

Here is an insightful story in the book of Acts

**Slide #36 Acts 8:18-20** When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money and said, "Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." Peter answered:

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"May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money!

Spiritual Gifts are not given for the purpose of making money, or manipulating people, or powering over others. It is for the purpose of building the Church.

### **Slide #37**

**4. Don't try to be what you are not.**

**Slide #38** Someone once said, "Churches fail because we bring people into the fellowship and try to make them into something they are not."

The Church is a body and a body is made up of many parts. And every part is critical for the functioning of the body. It doesn't matter whether we are a hand, a foot, an eye or an armpit... we all have a part to play and it's essential that an eye doesn't try to be an arm.

### **Slide #39 prayer & Reflection:**

This morning I want to invite you into a time of prayer and reflection. Invite the Holy Spirit of God to fan into flame the gifts He has given you.

**Benediction:** We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us... our selves, our time and our possessions... signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.