



03_UseThemWhereYouAre

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0:00:02.4 Sonja Corbitt: Let's get social. I'm no longer on Facebook, so come and connect with me in the new Catholic Evangelista community. Visit biblestudyevangelista.com and click community on the menu, or scroll down to the radio notes and click the link to our community. We're sharing pics and prayers, LOVE the Word takeaways and insights on the daily readings and everything else social. Come share with me.

[music]

0:00:25.0 Speaker 2: If you like having Bible Study in your pocket and you have an iPhone or iPad, why not leave a review? Search Bible Study Evangelista in iTunes and tell everyone how you're loving and lifting all you've been given. Here's Sonja.

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0:00:47.9 SC: Welcome to the Bible Study Evangelista Show. I'm Sonja Corbitt, your Catholic evangelista, and we are in our third week on our spiritual gift series, and my hair is on fire with this conference coming up here. And I hope that you have registered for that conference. If not... What are you waiting for? This is going to be life-changing for some of you who have never known that you had spiritual gifts, didn't know what they were, how to find them, how to activate them or anything. For those of you who are just being exposed to this whole idea, I am absolutely thrilled for you, because this will absolutely awaken and set on fire your spiritual life because they're supernatural, as we've been talking about in the last couple of weeks.

0:01:39.0 SC: So I just want to remind you if you haven't registered for that spiritual gifts conference, please do so. It's at the top of my website. You can do it there, but you should also be seeing it all over the internet because we have 20-plus speakers who are speaking on all of the different gifts. And part of my hair on fire has been writing the quiz for you so that you can take a spiritual gifts inventory. And I have been so dissatisfied with what I've seen out in what's available. Mostly because they are so Protestant, and Catholics have a different understanding of several of the gifts than non-Catholics do.

0:02:28.5 SC: And that's natural, but I wanted it to be very Catholic, first of all, very accessible, second of all, and not too lengthy. And so I'm writing the quiz from scratch... Well, I say from scratch, I've actually... I've pulled from several different... Two or three... Two or three, I think it's three different spiritual gifts inventories that I have found online. And I'm formulating my own questions from that. I used it as a basis to kind of let me know how many questions I needed in

order to address the variety of gifts. And even then, I'm not gonna be able to do them all.

0:03:10.4 SC: I wasn't able to include tongues, but that... I didn't do that because that's pretty obvious. If you have the gift of tongues, then you know it and you use it. And so we have a speaker on that, but I didn't actually include that in the inventory because it would be obvious if you had that, you wouldn't even need a test. A test, couldn't even really ask you that question except to say, "Do you speak in a prayer language when you pray?" Or "Have you ever spoken a language that you didn't know in a..." Like a missionary setting.

0:03:44.7 SC: So anyway, I didn't mean to digress on that. But what I'm trying to say is this spiritual gifts inventory, this quiz, I'm writing it and I'm working on the questions very carefully for you so that... A couple of the gifts are kind of similar. So you have intercession and healing. And those are very closely related. And there's a nuance in there that I've had to write into the questions so that we could differentiate between the two.

0:04:16.6 SC: Another one is mercy and caregiving. There's a real slight nuance in those two gifts too. They are very closely related, and likely if you have one, you have the other in both cases. But in a couple of those places, another one is faith and trust. What's the difference in those two spiritual gifts? There's a nuance there that I had to write into the questions so that we could discern as best we can with some sort of inventory quiz like that... Where to begin. And that's really all it's meant to do.

0:04:48.3 SC: All the conference is meant to do is give you a starting place to begin... To begin the discernment process, which will likely take a little bit of time, but I'm hoping that through this podcast, you're gonna be able to do that effectively. Because we're gonna look at all of the gifts... After the conference, we're gonna look at all of the gifts in detail. But up to this point, especially today, because we're talking about how to incorporate diversity in your understanding of the gifts... And when I say that, the diversity is not just in the gifts themselves, because they are very different, but also in the context of our vocation. So we're talking about vocations today and the fact that spiritual gifts are not an added thing that you have to do, because it's likely that you're naturally using it anyway, you just didn't know that it was a spiritual gift.

0:05:41.2 SC: And so activating the Holy Spirit in the use of that gift, ratchets it up to a whole new supernatural level. And so we're gonna talk about vocations, we're gonna talk about how to incorporate your spiritual gifts into your vocation and how your vocation actually can help you discern what your spiritual gifts are.

0:06:06.6 SC: So everybody is called to the primary vocation of knowing and loving God. I had a consult with someone recently who was really battling some existential questions like, "Why am I here. What's my purpose? What am I supposed to be doing?" And the short answer is... If you have this question, the short answer is, your primary vocation is to God, that is your purpose. Your purpose is to know God and to love Him. You were made for that.

0:06:39.8 SC: Your secondary purpose is to your vocation, whatever that is. And so we have religious life, Holy Orders, marriage, and some would argue singleness is also a vocation. Certainly... Well, we'll talk about celibacy here in just a moment. But in the vocations, there's some difference of opinion as to whether or not singleness is actually a vocation. If anyone is ever really called to singleness, apart from religious life and Holy Orders.

0:07:18.8 SC: So I don't know, I'm not gonna make that pronouncement, it's not my place to do so. But I do have a word of encouragement for those of you who are single, who are living chastely, we'll get into that in just a moment. But my point is, your first call... Your first purpose is to God Himself. We talked about that last week, that the Holy Spirit is the first gift. God Himself is the gift. So the spiritual gifts fall under that. So your first call... Your first purpose is to God.

0:07:47.6 SC: Your second call is that vocation, and your vocation then determines how your spiritual gift is going to be used. And then your third call is that call to your spiritual gift, whatever it is. A tertiary gift of the Holy Spirit. So the first gift is the Holy Spirit himself, the second gift is your vocation, the third gift is your spiritual gift. Okay, does that make sense?

0:08:12.2 SC: So we've talked about in a general way, what spiritual gifts are, we talked about how the Holy Spirit gives those to us... He's the primary gift, but he gives us spiritual gifts... Charisms, coming from the Greek word charismata, which also comes from the word grace.

0:08:32.5 SC: So we talked about that last week. And so your vocation is how you love God and come to know Him and how you serve him. So your vocation then is how you are sanctified and how you get to heaven. So if you're married then your vocation... Oh I'm sorry... Your purpose there is to help get your spouse to Heaven while learning how to know and love God and serve him through that spouse and in that spouse and with that spouse. So you're calling to your spouse is an intimate part of your relationship, your sanctification your salvation, your healing... Which eventually, I hope we'll get to that series cherished, where we can talk about that... How your vocation is involved in your healing. But your secondary vocation to marriage or religious life or Holy Orders is how you love God and know him and serve him.

0:09:38.9 SC: So you're called to the people of your vocation and you're uniquely gifted to love and serve them specifically. I talk about this a lot in my one-on-one consults that if you're a parent or if you're a spouse, your children and your spouse need you specifically. They need your personality and temperament, they need your spiritual gifts, they need the person that you are. It's less about what we know and more about who we are... Which is why you can see how the call to holiness is so important. Because if we're full of woundedness and bitterness and unforgiveness, then we're not going to be able to work in our spiritual gifts and in our personality and temperament as fully and completely and effortlessly and with as much freedom as we are intended to.

0:10:35.9 SC: So healing is... It's so necessary. It's necessary in so many ways. But as we looked at in the first part of the series, healing is wrapped up in using our spiritual gifts. So as we're using our gifts and as we're operating in our vocation, then God uses that to help heal us of woundedness. And that happens because we learn how to know and love and serve him through our vocation, the people to whom we're called to serve in our vocation and in the employment and the use of our spiritual gifts.

0:11:13.1 SC: So all of these things you can see they work together very intimately, which is part of why I wanted to do this series... And I wanted to be sure that you know that you have spiritual gifts, that you start getting that on your radar and you start discerning that with the Holy Spirit. And the very first step in that is to just ask the Holy Spirit, "What are my gifts? What have you given me to serve your church? To serve my family, what are my gifts?" And he will help you discern what those are, and I'm gonna try my best too.

[music]

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0:12:36.3 SC: The Catechism says in 864, Christ sent by the Father is the source of the church's whole apostolate, thus the fruitfulness of apostolate for ordained ministers, as well as for lay people clearly depends on their vital union with Christ. In keeping with their vocations, the demands of the times and the various gifts of the Holy Spirit, the apostolate assumes the most varied forms, but charity drawn from the Eucharist above all is always as it were, the soul of the whole apostolate. I love that. Now, apostolate, was a word that was brand new to me as a convert. I had never heard that word. And if you're a convert or if you are a non-Catholic listening, the word apostolate simply is another word in Catholic speak for a ministry. It is a ministry or an apostolate.

0:13:30.5 SC: And in the Catholic church, as also in non-Catholic churches, but in the Catholic church, it's sometimes even more formal... And apostolate is oftentimes, and it should be, submitted to the leadership of the church, so that the leadership can lift it up. And that's actually one of the things that I really appreciated when I came into the Catholic church... I was so nervous that I was not gonna be able to use my gifts. I knew what they were, and I had already been operating in them at some level. So I was teaching classes, I was doing some speaking, and I was writing my own material. I had not been published yet, but as I began to explore Catholicism and I began to suspect that, "Oh my gosh, I'm gonna have to be Catholic," I really worried about what I was supposed to do with my gifts, because I heard all the stuff that non-Catholics hear... Women don't do that stuff. That's what I heard. That's what I thought.

0:14:39.4 SC: And I didn't see much of that in the Catholic church. I didn't see women doing what I do. But once I came in, I recognized... And thankfully, my godfather who, I did a private RCIA with him, and he fed me all kinds of really good material on women in the church, particularly doctors. St. Teresa Lisieux, Teresa of Avila, Catherine of Siena, who's... I don't think is a doctor, but she's definitely a saint.

0:15:10.0 SC: Also Edith Stein, the really rich minds of the church and their apostolates. And one of the things that was particularly worrisome to me until I kinda gathered that information is what in the world am I gonna do with my gifts. Well, when I came into the church... And this whole story is actually in my book, just rest. It's got the fullest fleshing out of all that I kinda went through to come into the church, but one of the things that I appreciated the most was that right away my pastor made me the religious education director at my parish.

0:15:56.9 SC: Now, that wasn't actually necessarily a good thing, I didn't think, because I was doing things in that role that weren't really my spiritual gift, namely administration. Now,

sometimes you'll see in church documents the word administration is substituted for the word governance. But governance and administration are kind of interchangeable. And so in a role like that as a religious education director or say a school principal or something like that, those are administrative roles. And I can do administrative stuff, but I don't like it very much, and it feels like a burden.

0:16:36.4 SC: It's more of a burden than it is anything. And that's because it's not one of my highest spiritual gifts. I can do it, but I don't really like it. And if you do something, if you serve in an area in the church or in your home or whatever, and you don't love it, then that's an indication that it's probably not your spiritual gift. So I knew that that wasn't where I was supposed to land completely, but it was a role that I needed at the time, in part because I really needed the affirmation of the church. Because of my father wound, I needed the father's affirmation of my gifts and my role... My new role in the Catholic church.

0:17:20.3 SC: So it began with my pastor. And when he put me in that role, it was... As I said, it was kind of difficult, but at the same time, I got a really clear view of the deficits in the church in educational areas, especially in the adult area. I have not ever really felt called to teach children. I can, but that's not really where I'm called. I'm called to adults. And I really began to know that and understand it and see it fully when he put me in that role.

0:18:00.5 SC: So one of the things that should give you a lot of peace about discerning your spiritual gifts is you can't really get it wrong... Even if you're in, say, you're experimenting with something and you're trying it out to see if it's a spiritual gift... You may find that it's not, but that's just as valuable information as knowing what it is. So in that role, I discovered a few things. First of all, I'm not called to administration, fully. I was at that season in my life, but not as a full-time spiritual gift. I'm not called to children. And I saw a real need in the Catholic church for what I do, which is Bible... Bible learning... Bible study... Bible knowledge... Bible everything.

0:18:52.0 SC: It was a deficit, it's not so much now as it was then, but we're still catching up as a church in the Catholic church, so I saw that deficit and I thought, Oh my goodness, "Okay, well, maybe there is a role for me here," and I still wasn't sure what that was, it wasn't until I started speaking in public and I needed my bishop's, letter of good standing, I had to go speak to my Bishop, I had to go tell my bishop what I was doing, what I felt called to do. And I had to seek his approval, not in the sense of, "Can I do this..." Because we don't need from anyone to use our spiritual gifts, but we do need permission if we're going to use them in a public way, under the umbrella and the stamp of the Catholic church, and that's what I intended, that's what I felt called to do. So I needed to go to my bishop, not only that, but a WISE coordinator of some sort of event wants to know that whoever they're calling to offer their services is truly Catholic and that they are a Catholic in good standing, meaning they're baptized, they're confirmed, they're in...

0:20:08.8 SC: A marriage of valid marriage, and there are practicing faithful Catholic, you wanna know that about people, but what I found so helpful for me, because I do have a father wound, is that when my bishop gave his stamp of approval, he sort of sent me out... He sent me out with that stamp of approval, and it was healing for me, it was very healing for me. In fact, it was very, very healing for me because it validated years, decades, it validated decades of my absolute blind trust that I really had heard from God, that he really had called me to this, and that God Himself was sending me out, and he did so through my bishop and through my priest, and that was after my husband kinda sent me out too, so I had this three-pronged stamp of approval, and I needed that, I

needed it desperately. Because of my father wound, I only ever wanted God to be proud of me. I only ever wanted to do what God wanted, and it was so important to me because I understand hierarchy and I understand authority very well, I have been schooled in it for my entire life, I understand rebellion, I understand submission, I understand the beauty of it, the power of it, the humility of it.

0:21:36.9 SC: The importance of it, I understood that, and so I was so careful to be submissive to the proper authorities, and when you do that, you take a huge risk, you take a huge risk that you're gonna be misunderstood, that you're gonna be disallowed. But my faith was ultimately in God and I trusted Him, and so all I'm saying here is that using your gift is a healing kind of thing, it's very important, God, He is so smart. I don't know how He does this, right, but He allows situations and circumstances along with your gifts, along with your vocation, all of those things work together to help you in your healing. So this is a big reason why I wanted to offer this series because your spiritual gifts are going to play a role in your healing. Now, I wanna show you how that happened for me, it wasn't just the hierarchy and the confirmation and the sending out that my bishop and my priest and my husband did, it was also the fact that one of my main gifts is teaching and knowledge, so my study of the scripture, the Bible and the scriptures, and the Word of God, it was my primary healing tool.

0:23:11.9 SC: God used his Word to heal me, and had I not been studying as much as I was, which was... I was studying like 40 hours a week. I think I told you this last week, I was studying so much that God had to correct me because my husband would come home at 4 o'clock and I hadn't had a shower, I hadn't done anything, I hadn't cleaned the house, hadn't done dinner, nothing. It was time for him to be home, and I had studied all day and I would do it every single day. More on that when we get back.

[music]

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0:24:00.4 S2: Did you know you can get Bible Study Evangelista radio notes and podcast delivered to your inbox every Monday morning? Redeem Your Mondays, join thousands of your fellow listeners by subscribing at biblestudyevangelista.com. Now, here's Sonja.

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0:24:33.1 SC: You can see now why vocation is so important, not only to your healing, but also to the use of your spiritual gifts, I did not have teaching on vocations as a non-Catholic, so I was using my gifts out of balance. I didn't even know this was possible. I thought I was loving God by studying 40 hours a week. And I was... And I was also being healed, I was being consoled, I was being lifted up, all the things that happen when you use a spiritual gift, I was experiencing; however, my secondary vocation to my husband and family was suffering because I didn't have the teaching on vocations, so that's why I'm talking about vocations today, because your spiritual gifts must come under that secondary vocation, your primary vocation is to God Himself, your secondary vocation is to either religious life, holy orders, or your family. Marriage and Family.

0:25:33.9 SC: So my marriage and family had to be first, and then my spiritual gifts, and that will

be true for you as well, you're not being asked to sacrifice your family or your spouse or anything like that, and in fact, if you use your spiritual gifts and they get out of balance and you do start to sacrifice your family, then you're in error, and those of you, some of you, I just know I feel the Holy Spirit saying that some of you are in this boat, you are using your spiritual gifts, you are...

0:26:03.1 SC: You love doing it, it's good for the church, you're serving other people, but you're sacrificing your family for it, and I'm here to tell you that that is a sin. Your first vocation is to God Himself. That's your prayer time. That's your private time with him. Then comes your family. I'm just gonna talk about family because most of us have families and spouses, your family comes next, then your gifts, but you will use your gifts in the context of your vocation. So I was doing that, I was teaching classes, I was studying a lot, and I loved doing it. It healed me. If I had not been so thoroughly immersed in the Word of God, I could not have experienced the level of healing that I did, and I will be honest, it was shocking to me when I read St. John of the Cross, during that really difficult time as I was entering into the church, when I read all he said about healing and purification, I was absolutely floored that God could bring a person so very, very far without the sacraments. I couldn't believe it, I really could not believe it. He brought me so far, just with the scriptures and what I will call sacred reading, I did a whole lot of reading outside the scriptures, most of it was on healing and teaching and stuff like that.

0:27:33.9 SC: I was just an avid reader, so I read everything all the time, but I always submitted that to the Holy Spirit, I understood that whatever I picked up, and you'll find this if you're a reader, you'll pick up something and you know that you chose it for yourself, but the Holy Spirit starts to use it too. And so that is how God healed me primarily through the scriptures, and then when I got the teaching on vocations, I understood that I needed to change my priorities and put my family above the use of my spiritual gifts, once I got everything back in the right order, that's when things took off, and God used the content that is in just rest to do that, I tell that whole story in there, how he re-ordered my priorities, he got me working on a Sabbath, keeping a Sabbath properly, and he re-ordered my priorities. God first, then family, then work. Then apostolate, then ministry, that is the order in which we do things. I want to present this because it is important when you find your gift, you're gonna wanna do it all the time, and I want you to, but I want you to be sure that you keep your time with God, your prayer time, your quiet time, your alone time with God must be first.

0:28:50.7 SC: Then your family, you can't sacrifice your family or you're in error, and then your gifts, and then I say go whole hog, do it as much and as you possibly can and experiment with the different gifts, and if you find yourself in something that doesn't feel like a perfect fit then it probably isn't. You might be pretty high in that gift, but it's not your primary and what you really wanna do is follow the Holy Spirit into your primary gift, because when you find that, you will absolutely love doing it, you will see supernatural results. Your relationship with God will take off, your healing will accelerate, and people around you will be edified because you're using the gift that God gave you to do that. So there is... You cannot go wrong with spiritual gifts, and I realize that we have to have time for discernment, so that's why I'm doing the podcast to give you good information on how to discern what your gifts are, but the conference is meant to get you started. It's meant to give you an idea of what the gifts are, give you a little bit of information on what they are and give you the quiz so that you can start discerning what you might be high in.

0:30:06.0 SC: And typically they're clustered together, so you'll have more than one, usually. So 1st Corinthians, then Paul in chapter 12, he says, "There are varieties of gifts, but the same spirit," so there is a diversity of gifts, but the same spirit, then he says there are varieties of service, but the

same Lord. Service there would mean an apostolate, a ministry, a place of service, there are lots of varieties of those, and that's what's so beautiful about a spiritual gift, you can find so many places to use your gifts, I could be using my teaching gift in a school. I could be using it in a Catholic school. I actually use it in my homeschool, I use it in my parish, I use it in my podcast, I use it in my consults, I use it in my pilgrimages, I use it everywhere. I use it everywhere because it's a primary gift, my other primary gift is the gift of healing, wisdom and healing, those three right there are kind of tied... Well, also prophecy. They're clustered together, as I said. But all of those work together. And when you find what that is, you'll be able to use it in lots of different places, in lots of different ways, so I don't want you to get into this thinking that you have to be using it in a church.

0:31:19.1 SC: That's another reason why I'm talking about vocations today, because you can be using your spiritual gift in your home, in your job, your secular job, in your parish, in the marketplace, you can be using it in all of those places at one time. You don't have to use it in a parish, but it is important that you know what the gift is, so that you can ask the Holy Spirit into the use of it, because when you do that, you're activating the Holy Spirit, you're inviting him in, and it accelerates and makes the power of that gift exponential, it makes it supernatural, so you're not simply operating in your flesh, you're operating in his spirit, and that makes it eternal. That's what we talked about last week, when the Holy Spirit gets involved, there is an eternity about it, and it lasts forever, and that's what we want, we want to have...

0:32:12.8 SC: This gift of our lives, gift of ourselves, and the self donation that we make through service in our vocation and service in our gifts, to give back to God when we die, that's what we do, we hand over our life as a gift to God, we want it to be a gift, and really all we're doing is returning the gifts that he's given us, and that includes our families. He's given us a spouse and children as a gift, He's given us spiritual gifts as a gift, and He's given us places of service, also as a gift, and we operate in those gifts, while we're here and then we return them to him at death as a gift, the full gift, the full self donation of ourselves, is that not beautiful? It's utterly glorious.

0:33:06.6 SC: Then he says in Chapter 12 of 1st Corinthians, "There are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in everyone." Everything that God does is very, very diverse. So if you have a particular gift, you're gonna love using it, and when you first find it and you probably have caught yourself doing this, that person needs to be doing more of this. Don't do that, don't look at your neighbor and think that your neighbor is not using his or her spiritual gifts simply because they don't... They're not doing what you're doing. I see this a whole lot in like pro-life kind of ministry, people who are in pro-life ministry, they think that that is the only ministry that can possibly be done in the church, but as Paul said, "If everyone is an eye, where is the hearing?" There are diverse ministries, there isn't one, there are innumerable, there are innumerable places where you can use your gift, and one of them is not any better than the other, and in fact, our church documents say that, and Paul says it, the Bible says it. So, just because someone is not doing what you're doing, that doesn't mean they're not using their gifts and they're not exactly where God wants them, so be aware of that attitude that everyone should be doing what you're doing because they're not supposed to.

0:34:29.6 SC: They don't have your gifts. Some of them probably don't even have your vocation, and they don't have the experience, they don't have the personality and temperament, they don't have access to the place where you use your gifts, sometimes, not always, but that's sometimes the case. So we have to be careful to keep this idea of diversity in mind, there are diversities of vocations, There are diversities of gifts, and there are diversities of service, places of service, and

then Paul says there are varieties of working, even in one place of service, there are many people who have similar gifts who will be using them in different ways, all of that is by design, it's not accidental, and it's not everyone else's place to be doing what you're doing. So be aware of that attitude that I'm doing what I'm supposed to be doing and he's not because he's not doing what I'm doing. You have different gifts, and you're placed strategically for that gift, in the vocation you're in, in the parish you're in, in the time of history that you're in.

[music]

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[music]

0:36:31.0 SC: "Therefore," Paul says in 1st Corinthians 12, "To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." That's what we want to see. You want to be able to see the manifestation of the Spirit of God in your life for the common good, for the good of those that you serve, and if you're operating in what you think is a gift and it's not benefiting the people around you, then I'm sorry to tell you that, that's not your gift. If you are teaching a class and you find it wonderful and it's not serving the people that you're teaching, then it's likely not your gift, if you're singing and you think that music is a gift, but it's not... It's not one of those things that people appreciate from you, then you're not... That's not your gift. The point of the gifts is to edify the church, and so if you're not... If what you're doing is not benefiting other people, then it's likely not your gift, and there's nothing wrong with stepping away from something that is not your gift when you discern that it's not... It's important that you do that so that the people who do have it can be doing it.

0:37:39.0 SC: So when you begin, keep an eye out and an ear out for people who say to you, "Man, I really appreciated what you just did, I really appreciated that song that you wrote and that you sung," or whatever, "I really appreciated that teaching that you gave. Now, I understand that concept a lot better." whatever it is, be on the look out for people who affirm you in that gift, if that doesn't happen, then you need to question whether or not it's your gift, you might just be a body, filling a hole, and that's not good, it's not good for the church, and it's not good for you because you are operating then in a place that you're not actually gifted for, which takes the place of someone who is, and it keeps you from being effective in the thing that you're supposed to be doing. So if you're not being affirmed, if people are not telling you that what you're doing is helpful to them, then you need to step back and re-evaluate whether or not that's actually your spiritual gift. There's no shame in that, there should be no guilt in that you want to know what the right thing is, and sometimes we discern the right thing by finding out what the wrong thing is, so there's just a word of encouragement.

0:38:55.4 SC: And in fact, here's a word of encouragement, you need to be encouraging the people who help you. When they're using their spiritual gifts you need to say to them, "Boy that was helpful I appreciate that. Thank you. So that they know that that's what they're supposed to be

doing. So we're helping each other, we're lifting each other up we're edifying one another. And then Paul says, "All these are inspired by one and the same spirit who apportions to each one individually as he wills." I realize that many people wish they had different gifts, and I think sometimes that that is in part because they're not using their gifts enough or properly or even the right gifts, because when you do you don't even care about what everybody else is doing, you just love what you're doing. But still when you have one of them, the more helpful gifts, like helps or service, it's not very visible and if you had that gift, don't mind that but you admire those with the more visible gifts and there's nothing wrong with that as long as you don't wish that you had it in the sense that you're envious. Because the Holy Spirit apportions to each one individually as he wills, and he does so with perfect wisdom. He does so knowing where you are at... In your vocation, in history, in location, as in geo location, all of those things he has factored in to what your gifts are, so trust him that whatever you have is the right one.

0:40:28.2 SC: So we shouldn't be jealous of other people's gifts, we should just appreciate them, we should appreciate them and be thankful for them because they're so helpful to us, and I always think about hospitality in those terms because, boy, that is not my gift, but I appreciate people who have it. I don't have administration as a high gift, but I truly appreciate and need Mary Katherine who has that gift, all of them, they all work together like that. Alright, so we can appreciate one another's gifts and we can help people find ways to use them if you see that someone's trying to use what they think is a gift and it's just falling flat, it's not working for the people that they're trying to serve. See if you can redirect them in a different area because we really want to help one another find what our gifts are. Now, I wanna talk about vocation just a little more here. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are primarily about God and His work. They're not about me and my work, my ministry is not about me, and what I want, my ministry is about what the Holy Spirit is trying to accomplish in the church through me and my gifts.

0:41:39.0 SC: I have to be aware all the time of what the Holy Spirit wants from me, so that I'm doing what I need to be doing under his direction. So it's very important that you do the same. Your gifts are not about you, and you're gonna get a lot of good feedback and you shouldn't feel proud when that happens, you need it, but it's not about you, it's about God and what he is doing in the church and in the world, and even in you, in your healing and your edification, so it is about you, but not primarily... It's about God and what God is doing in the world. So we talked a little bit about vocations, we know that there's vocation to religious life, we know that there's vocation to Holy Orders, and that's where the hierarchical gifts come in. We talked about that last week. Priestly vocation, sacraments, infallibility, where that's appropriate, and also celibacy. Sherry Weddell in her book on spiritual gifts, Fruitful Discipleship, which I linked to in the show notes, she talks about celibacy as being a lifestyle gift, but the documents of the church actually talk about that in these terms, it says, "Jesus and Paul suggests that the choice of celibacy for the love of Christ should be understood as the fruit of a charism, as should that of matrimony, celibacy required of priests in the Latin tradition is clearly aligned with the charismatic gifts."

0:43:05.5 SC: "So it's not its own gift, it is not primarily functional because it's not its own gift, rather it is really a special way of conforming oneself to Christ's own way of life, in which the full offering of oneself in relation to the mission." So celibacy, then singleness, and I'm lumping singleness in here with this with Holy Orders and religious life and singleness, because all of those require celibacy, at least singleness does for a time, and if it is truly a mission or a vocation, but anyway, I'm not correcting what Sherry Weddell says in her book, I'm just saying that celibacy then is the fruit of the vocation to Holy Orders or priesthood and singleness, if that's actually a vocation,

so it's a fruit, she calls it a lifestyle gift, either way. That's one of those things we don't necessarily need a lot of help to discern, although if you do, then get her book because she does have that listed as a separate gift, and she talks about that some. I didn't do that much because most of us are called to married life, so I'm mentioning it though, because it's related then to a vocation, vocation to Holy Orders, religious life and/or singleness, if that is actually a vocation.

0:44:26.1 SC: So those of you who are single and you're celibate right now and you wonder what in the world's up, it's related to your mission, if it's truly a vocation, your singleness, your celibacy, it's probably an indication that you have charisms that either haven't been activated or that you don't know what they are, and your celibacy is meant to help foster that and keep you free for the use of that gift, those gifts, whatever they are. Now that's under the qualification that we're not sure whether or not singleness is actually a vocation, but even if it's not, if you find yourself single and celibate, at least start to ask the Holy Spirit, is this related to my spiritual gift and my mission through my spiritual gifts, because it likely is, the church documents say that it is in regarding the relationship between the hierarchical and charismatic gifts in the life and mission of the church, that's the document. It's also linked to in the show notes, but the church is directed and guided, [0:45:24.3] ____ says, "The church is directed and guided by the Holy Spirit who lavishes diverse hierarchical and charismatic gifts on all the baptized, calling them to be each in an individual way, active and co-responsible."

0:45:42.1 SC: So we really need to keep that in mind when we're talking about our gifts and using them within our vocation, and I love this, what the decree of only apostolate of the lady says about marriage and family and gifts, it says, "It has always been the duty of Christian married partners, but today it is the greatest part of their apostolate to manifest and prove by way of their own life, the insolubility and sacredness of the marriage bond, strenuously to affirm the right and duty of parents and guardians to educate children in a Christian manner and to defend the dignity and lawful autonomy of the family, they and the rest of the faithful therefore should cooperate with men of good will to ensure the preservation of these rights in civil legislation, and to make sure that governments give due attention to the needs of the family regarding housing, the education of children, working conditions, social security and taxes, and that in policy decision affecting migrants, their right to live together as a family should be safeguarded." So I love that mention of the gifts and how our gifts are to be used within that vocation of marriage and family, if we have that vocation to marriage and family, it is our...

0:46:58.2 SC: It's part of their apostolate, of the apostolate of married partners. It has always been the duty of Christian married partners, but today it is the greatest part of their apostolate to manifest and prove by their own way of life, the indicate and sacredness of the marriage bond. And then the rest of it, which I don't have time to go any further into because now we are out of time, so I'm gonna put this document at the end of the show notes so that you can read it for yourself, so keep in mind the diversity of vocations and the diversity of your gifts, and I will see you at the conference this weekend, if you haven't signed up, please do it now. See you there.

[music]

0:47:51.1 Speaker 4: Thank you for listening to the Bible Study Evangelista show. Find out more at biblestudyevangelista.com.