

These Things We Believe Study

Mt. Zion Church Bible Study

Taken from

A Remedy for Itching Ears written by

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Lesson 7: Beyond the Articles and Applying Our Spiritual Gifts

Chapters 9 and 12



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We Have a Vision to Be Intentionally Learning!

Introduction: The following lesson provides an opportunity for students to think beyond the framework of the Articles of Faith. The focus and intent is for students to consider the application of the Articles and to consider what could be included in the Articles of Faith. The church universal must always ask how does the church meet the needs of today's members while at the same time remaining true to The Word of God? The balance always centers on how to stay true The Word which was designed to set culture instead of culture defining what of the word is relevant.

Additionally, students will consider how to utilize their spiritual giftedness. The Holy Spirit gifts imbues (great word ☺) each Christian with abilities which help build the kingdom of God. As we utilize our gifts, the Body of Christ (the church) functions more efficiently and impacts people to a greater extent.



- Romans 12: 2
- Ephesians 4: 21-22
- Galatians 5: 13
- 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11

Activity 1: Based on the Articles of Faith that you have learned and based on your own observations, what do you think would be an addition to the Articles of Faith that might be necessary for today's church?

I. Beyond the Articles

Directions: In the space below jot down some of the pressing issues impacting today's church. Then decide if the topic is at the level of doctrine or denominational preference. Doctrine represents a Biblical precept that has an exact answer such as baptism. (The term cannot be debated. It means to immerse fully in water.) Denominational preferences, such as dress or ways to do communion represent differences of worship style.

Topic	Why this might be important for today's Christians



As you consider the implications for a new article of faith remember that if you put it on paper and “set it in stone” you would impact generations of Christian. This means that your choice should be one that makes sense for all generations and not just the present day. What is your scriptural basis for your topic or is your thought simply a preference?

The purpose of this exercise was to help students gain a greater understanding of the importance of our foundational beliefs. The freedom God gives is not a license for us to do everything we desire. Some things we draw the line in the sand and use God’s word as our measuring rod for living. Other things are more preference than anything else. For example, many women will remember a time where to walk in church without stockings on was considered a major mistake. Likewise, for me, the wearing of a white shirt and tie in the pulpit (especially in African American Baptist churches) was mandatory. These are preferences not Biblical requirements and as such would not qualify for an article to be written.

Whatever is chosen, we should remember that everything we do leads to edifying the Body of Christ. Further, whatever we leave out implies freedom to do, but does not mean do what one desires. We should consider how we use our freedom in Christ as a way to live in the world. Paul writes to resist the temptation

to use our freedom in Christ as an opportunity to “indulge the flesh [live as we desire].” Rather, we should serve one another in love (Galatians 5: 13).

II. Spiritual Gifts (Chapter 12)

In chapter 12, students find the importance of utilizing their spiritual gifts. The name “spiritual gifts” refers to gifts given by the Holy Spirit

Spiritual Gift (not an all-encompassing list)	Which one (s) is/ are yours or might be yours?
Wisdom	
Knowledge	
Faith	
Gifts of healings	
Workings of miracles	
Prophecy	
Discerning of spirits	
Diverse kinds of tongues	
Interpretation of tongues	
Serving	
Teaching	
Encouragement	
Giving	
Leading	
Administration	

In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul discusses the variety of spiritual gifts (not an encompassing list) with a focus on unity. Students must remember that the Body of

*All Spiritual Gifts
are the most important
gift!*

Christ (the church) is a group of differently empowered and gifted people. Each gift, when utilized as Christ expects, affects the world for God’s purpose. Regardless of the visibility of the gift (preaching is more visible than administration), a believer should use their gift to the best of their ability. It is sinful to

“sit on” one’s gift. Remember, all gifts come from the Holy Spirit and are beneficial to the work of ministry. Therefore, if you and I do not use our gifts, we are hindering the work of ministry.

You may be aware of many of your gifts. Quite possibly you have displayed them in your work at church or in your career. While gifts and talents are not the same, they do relate to one another. For instance, a person who has the spiritual gift of teaching may also have the talent for art. This person may be working in areas of ministry that utilize their gifts to illustrate God’s message in an artistic manner as they teach Sunday School or Bible Study.



Identifying your Spiritual Gifts: In your free time you may want to begin to identify your Spiritual Gifts. If you are unaware of what it entails or how to identify the gift first begin with prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you the gift He has given to you. Using their talents, many Christians have created technological tools to help begin the process of revealing our gifts. The following website has a short series of questions to help identify your giftedness. The 66 questions should take you about 10 minutes to answer. <https://giftstest.com/test>

REMEMBER, God can always add on and adjust you for His purposes. Do not feel that everything He has given to you is already revealed!

Question to consider: How can the gifts you have be used incorrectly and become a burden rather than a blessing? (Think in terms of Paul’s writing on unity)

- How will you utilize what you have learned to be a more effective Christian?

Closing prayer: Dear Lord, help me to continue to grow in my understanding of what you desire of me. Also, give me greater insight into how you have blessed me with gifts and abilities for your work. Thank you and Amen!