



SISTERHOOD LOUNGE ROOM

From our lounge room to yours




LIVING BY THE SPIRIT

Part one: Gifts of The Spirit

We are so excited that you are joining us for this month's Sisterhood Lounge Room. In this episode we hear Nicola, Emma, Kemi, and Grace discuss the gifts of the Spirit and their personal experience of discovering and growing them.

We have highlighted the key scriptures and thoughts from this episode as well as a few questions you can use in discussion with your group, or as a personal devotional ... enjoy.



"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work."

1 Corinthians 12: 4-6

Nicola began by saying that God graces different people with different gifts for his purposes. Kemi spoke on the abundance of God's love and how vast the array of different gifts given to people reflect on how creative God is.

Kemi used the analogy of our God given gifts working together in community being like musical instruments being tuned in unity together to produce a wonderful sound. She said that a sense of freedom is seen in our lives when we operate in our gifting as we express ourselves, glorify God, and serve others when we know and freely work within our gifting.

"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free."

Galatians 5:1

Q- There is no such thing as an ungifted Christian. Have you discovered the gift/s of God in your life?



Q- How can you cultivate your gift and see it mature?

Q- Think of someone you know, how are they gifted? Why not take time to encourage them in it!


Grace shared how she desired and prayed for her gifts to grow. She actively pursued wisdom and created space for hospitality to bless others. Nicola reflected on how beautiful the body of Christ is with such variety of gifting expressed uniquely, and how we can learn from one another in how they are displayed.

Emma shared how one of her gifts - *teaching*, has blossomed through people inviting her to speak and through her





increasing revelation of scripture regarding the gifts and their purpose. So, Grace prayed specifically for a gift to grow and practiced it, Emma discovered hers through others encouragement and personal revelation. God works uniquely with each one of us




Q- Is there a gift that you particularly desire like Grace did? Why do you desire it?

Q- What have you or can you learn from others operating in their giftings?

Q- How could you be someone who notices and calls out the giftings in others?


“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

Galatians 6:9



Nicola asked Kemi how she has cultivated her gifts over time. Kemi shared that once she began to lead worship, she became intentional in operating in her gift, and learned through practice to rely on her conviction and leading on from the Holy Spirit and distinguish them from her own feelings. She described it as a process of growth that God delights to take us on. She determined to be consistent and diligent with the gift of discernment. She asked God to speak to her and listened throughout the day for what He may wish to say amid every situation. Her desire was for her heart to be transformed and

her faith to grow, so she practiced faithfulness in the small promptings she felt in her spirit every day.




Nicola shared how we all need to be intentional when growing in our gifts and make the conscious decision to step out and choose the narrow path that may make us feel vulnerable, but ultimately free to express who we have been created to be.

She shared how the more we operate in our giftings, the more it becomes a reflex to how we behave in every situation.

Q- How can you become more aware of God's voice and prompting in your life?

Q- Do you second guess yourself when it comes to your giftings? What do you need to do to grow in confidence and step out more?

Q- Is your gift operating as a natural reflex? What needs to start, stop, or change for that to become your reality? (And be an enormous blessing to others!)



Emma also spoke about the uncomfortable space of operating in gifts. She described it as the gap between what we're being asked to do and what we feel capable of doing, and how the Holy Spirit sits in this gap, equipping us to steward and utilise our gifting. We are empowered by the Holy Spirit but stepping out is an act of faith. Emma expressed that growing in our gifts may feel messy, especially in the early stages. However, God is gracious



and faithful to use us powerfully if we obediently follow his direction. She suggested that asking those who are trusted and close to us to identify our giftings is helpful. Often people see what is emerging within us even before we do.

Emma shared three practical ways that will help in process of growing-

1. Take note of what comes naturally.
2. Be prepared to learn how to use it.
3. Seek out those who are mature in their gifts to mentor and journey alongside you.

Q- Who can you have a conversation with about identifying your gifts?

Q- Have you experienced that gap between what you are being prompted to do and your capacity and feelings? What can you learn from that experience?

Q- Reflecting on the three practical ways that will help in the process of growing, what are your next steps?

"Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many."

-1 Corinthians 12 v14

Nicola ended this episode by sharing the gifts that are listed in the bible and encouraging us to go on the journey of discovery and growth so that they may become our reflex in our everyday. We can then better represent Jesus to one another, and powerfully being the bride of Christ to the world.

PRAYER

God, I thank you that I am made perfectly and uniquely. You have graced me with gifts and purpose. Help me to mature and grow in them so that I can bring glory to your name and play my part within the body of Christ that you have always intended for me. I commit to not letting fear hold me back from stepping into all you have for me. Help me to live each day empowered and equipped by the Spirit. Amen.