

Love Replaces The Spiritual & Ministry Gifts with Chris Blackeby

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Bob_Q8E8Ho

This teaching by *Chris Blackeby* explores a transition in the church from a focus on spiritual gifts and ministry systems toward a state of spiritual maturity defined by direct union with God through love. He suggests that while gifts were intended to equip the body, they have often become ends in themselves, limiting believers from reaching their full identity as sons of God.

Detailed Outline & Summary

1. The Role of Gifts and Religious Culture (0:00 - 6:45)

- **Religious Culture:** *Blackeby* argues that religious communities often form a "shape" or "clamping" culture around believers, limiting their expansive identity as sons of God.
- **Purpose of Gifts:** Spiritual and five-fold ministry gifts exist to bring believers from their current state to a direct connection with God. Once a believer knows God for themselves, they should need the external gift less (1:35 - 1:52).
- **Church Restoration:** The speaker traces the last several decades of church movements—healing (1950s), the authority of the *Bible* (1960s), the *Holy Spirit* (1960s/70s), the prophetic (1980s), the apostolic (1990s), and grace (2000s)—viewing them as restorative processes meant to lead to the fullness of the stature of *Christ*.

2. Bringing Future Realities into the Present (6:45 - 12:00)

- **The Power of Character:** By calling upon the character of God, believers can pull future spiritual realities into the present. He cites *David*, *Mary*, and the *Syrophoenician woman* as biblical figures who accessed future grace or breakthrough by invoking who God is (7:40 - 8:41).
- **2,000-Year Eras:** He posits that the relationship between heaven and earth shifts every 2,000 years (Adam to Abraham, Abraham to Jesus, and now into a new era).

3. Maturity, Unity, and the Shift to Love (12:00 - 27:15)

- **The Five-Fold Goal:** The purpose of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers (*Ephesians 4:11-13*) is to build the saints into the "fullness of the stature of Christ."
- **From Gifts to Love:** He illustrates a model of maturity: **Gifts → Unity of the Faith → Love**. The ultimate goal is *1 Corinthians 13* maturity, where gifts cease because the person has become love itself.
- **The "High Priest" Analogy:** He compares the transition from the old temple system to the new kingdom reality as a shift in "currency." Those who define themselves by their ministry "jacket" struggle, while those who want *Jesus* are delighted to embrace the new.

4. Testimony and "Stepping In" (27:15 - 1:05:05)

- **Personal Testimony:** *Blackeby* shares a 2016 experience in *Alabama* where he physically laid down his teaching gift to God, choosing to simply be a son rather than a minister defined by performance.
- **The "Stepping In" Prayer:** The video concludes with a guided meditative exercise. The participants:
 - Step through the veil into the courts of heaven.
 - Symbolically exchange the "cloak" of previous ministry titles for their true identity as sons.
 - Celebrate communion as a united body.
 - Ask for the restoration of heart desires and the grace to enter a new era of direct relationship with the *Father*.

Key Scripture References

- **Ephesians 4:** Regarding the five-fold ministry as a means to equip the saints for unity and maturity (24:48 - 28:00).
- **1 Corinthians 12-13:** Regarding the place of gifts and the supremacy of love (29:17 - 30:12).
- **Psalms 51:** *David's* appeal to God's character for cleansing (7:46 - 8:10).
- **Matthew 14:** *Peter* stepping out on a word from *Jesus* (18:49 - 19:22).