1 Timothy 4:14

Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.

It's close to the end of the year and less than two months before Christmas. So why not do a devotional on gifts to help get us ready. Now this devotional is not about the gifts you receive at Christmas, but rather the gifts given to you by the Holy Spirit.

✞ **1 Cor 12:11** ***But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.***

Maybe you don't know what your gift is, or even that you have a gift from the Holy Spirit. If that's the case, then I would encourage you to go through the Holy Spirit study here at UseTheSword.com, which explains the gifts and how they are used. Or I would highly recommend the book "Living Water" by Chuck Smith, which is the book I read that helped me to discover that I have the gift of teaching. You can also talk to your pastor or an elder in your church, or someone that you know is spiritually sound in doctrine. Through any of these you may learn what your gift(s) of the Holy Spirit is.

But if you do know what your gift(s) is and have not been using it, I would encourage you to start using it/them or start using them again. Why? You may ask. The gifts you will receive during Christmas are in most cases meant for you and you alone. But the gifts of the Holy Spirit are not meant for you, but rather to be used for the benefit of others, "***for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."*** **Eph 4:12**

It would be like receiving a teaching on CPR, and someone choking next to you, with you having the knowledge to help them out. Didn't you learn CPR to be able to help others out? So it is with the gift(s) that the Holy Spirit has given you. There are people hurting and even dying with you having the knowledge of how to help or even save them. Would you let someone die if you knew CPR and could help him or her? Are you willing to let someone go to hell because you refuse to use spiritual CPR on someone? If you think about it, it's the same thing. Everyday people are dying spiritually. People around you at work, or at school or even in your own home, with you having the training and knowledge to save them.

I would encourage you to start using your gift(s) again and help those in need around you. It's a gift(s) we should always be opening and using before Christmas!

✞ **Acts 20:35 (NLT2)** ***And I have been a constant example of how you can help those in need by working hard. You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'***