

Spiritual Gifts

by Victoria Harr

Subtitled, *A Grandmother's Legacy to Her Grandchildren*, this short (less than 100 pages) but powerful book from Vision Publishing of Ramona immediately evoked memories of my own maternal grandmother, who was, indeed, the spiritual matriarch of our large (Grandma had nine children and so did Mom) Irish Catholic family.

As small children, we would sit on the floor as she would rock slowly back and forth in her huge, overstuffed blue rocker which seemed to swallow her tiny body to the point that her sensible shoes encasing unbelievably tiny feet were always suspended at least a foot off the floor.

She would mesmerize us for hours after school and Sunday after church, reading to us from the Bible and then telling us stories about Bible characters like Noah, David and Moses and, of course, Jesus. She always told us we could go to Jesus with any problem — big or small — no matter what it was.

Grandma went to her reward just as I was graduating from grad school, but I still think of her every now and again with fond remembrances. She lived to be over 90 and was a real saint. I miss her, but I thank the Lord for the time He gave us to be with her.

Harr was prompted to write this book when, after years of observing, she realized that even many non-Pentecostal and non-charismatic churches were either paying little attention to the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, or they were ignoring them all together. She points out, however, and every page in this wonderful little book goes on to prove that this book is one written in and about LOVE. Page after page I kept wishing that my grandchildren were sitting at my feet so I could share the stories about the spiritual gifts contained in the Bible and detailed in this book. The prospect gave me goosebumps.

Structurally, this book is just fascinating. The author begins with an overview of all the spiritual gifts then moves to the three basic categories they fill: manifestational, motivational and ministry. There's even a survey you can take to help you determine which gifts you may have, and for every page, there's complete scriptural support.

All in all, Grandmother Harr has written a book that's easy to read and understand and it's packed from cover to cover with things every Christian needs to know about the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Then you can pass on that knowledge to those precious grandchildren, no matter what their age.

On many occasions, after I've reviewed a book, I either send it back, or with permission, I keep it to share with others. Well, I can't do it this time. I've already sent it to my son, so he can share its special contents with my two darling (and very precocious granddaughters).

Paul McShane of Carlsbad is an author, businessman and journalist. Local authors are encouraged to send books to the newspaper for us to consider reviewing in future editions. The address is Good News, Etc., P.O. Box 2660, Vista CA 92085. For more information, contact the newspaper office at (760) 724-3075. <http://www.goodnewsetc.com>