

# Spiritual Gifts

Heritage Christian Fellowship 2023

Here we embark on a study of **spiritual gifts** in the Bible. In this study we will examine the New Testament texts concerning spiritual gifts. We will address questions such as:

- **What are spiritual gifts and what are they for?**
- **Are there different categories of gifts?**
- **How can I know how God has gifted me with spiritual gifts?**
- **Do miraculous or sign gifts continue today?**
- **What about Charismania?**

## What are spiritual gifts and what are they for?

Spiritual gifts are **abilities given by the Spirit of God to His people** in the Church for **building up others in their faith** and serving others to **meet their needs** for the **glory of God**.

**1 Corinthians 12:4-7** - 4 Now there are **varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit**. 5 And there are **varieties of ministries**, and the same Lord. 6 And there are **varieties of effects**, but the same God who **works all things in all persons**. 7 **But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good**. NASB

It is common in Scripture when the gifts are mentioned that there is a **Trinitarian emphasis**, as in these verses, **Spirit(v-4), Lord(v-5), God(v-6)**. This shows the interest and function of **each member** of the **Godhead** as active in the ministry of spiritual gifts among the church. Nevertheless, they are referred to as **“7 the manifestation of the Spirit.”**

**Gifts are distributed by the Holy Spirit**. God is sovereign in the dispensing of spiritual gifts. He gives **different gifts to various people** in the church **“as he wills.”** He therefore provides for the needs of His people according to **His own plan and wisdom**.

**1 Corinthians 12:7** - 7 But **to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good**. NASB

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

**Romans 12:4-6** - 4 For just as **we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function,** 5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, **and individually members one of another.** 6 And since **we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us,** let **each exercise them accordingly:**

So we see that “**4 all the members do not have the same function,**” and “**6 we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us.**” See here that God, according to **His own wisdom and plan,** has gifted all the members with gifts that differ, yet he has called each person to “**6 exercise them accordingly.**”

**They are for every member.** The Spirit gives **unique and special abilities to each member** of the Body of Christ to enhance and build up the **spiritual life and faith** of the whole body (Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-31; 1 Peter 4:10-11).

**1 Peter 4:10** - 10 As **each one has received a special gift, employ it** in serving one another, as **good stewards of the manifold grace of God.** NASB  
**Romans 12:3,6** - 3 For through the grace given to me I say to every man among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, **as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.....** 6 And since **we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us,** let **each exercise them accordingly** NASB

Clearly God has **allotted to each Christian** a measure of grace and faith in their gifting and each time this is mentioned it comes with an **imperative** to use it to **serve others** in the body. This Peter says, is a **stewardship** we have received from God and therefore a **duty and responsibility (Mark 13:33-37,** . This is a **privilege** as well as a responsibility. The **Spirit** has **gifted each member** with gifts to **edify the body** and called us to be **stewards** of this **grace** He has given us.

**The gifts are for the common good.** The gifts are **for serving others** and have their source in the grace of God. God has **graciously gifted us to serve others.**

**1 Peter 4:10** - 10 As each one has received a special gift, **employ it in serving one another,** as good stewards of the manifold **grace of God.** NASB

Notice how Paul explains there is a great **variety of gifts, ministries, and effects,** yet states that they are for the **purpose** of serving the **common good** of the **one body.**

**1 Corinthians 12:4-7** - 4 Now there are **varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.** 5 And there are **varieties of ministries,** and the same Lord. 6 And there are **varieties of effects,** but the same God who **works all things in all**

**persons. 7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.** NASB

Here we see the **loving nature** of **spiritual gifts**. Each one must make the **personal sacrifice** of using their **own gifts** in the **service** of **others**, and for **their good**. The gifts are not for **selfish use**, or **self-aggrandizement**, but focused on the **good** of **others**.

**Philippians 2:1-4** - 1 If therefore there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, 2 make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. 3 **Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; 4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.** NASB

This was the essential lesson Paul was teaching the Corinthians. This is why the **love chapter** (13) exists in the **middle** of a discussion about **spiritual gifts** (chapters 12-14).

**1 Corinthians 13:1-3** - 1 If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, **but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong** or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, **but do not have love, I am nothing**. 3 And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing. NASB

Paul could be **gifted** with tongues, prophecy, and service, but **without love**, he was **nothing!** Let us understand the **selfless nature** of our **gifts** and use them for the common good of others.

**They are empowered by God.** These gifts are given by the Spirit, to **show Christ in us** and among us, for the **glory of God**.

**Boyd Hunt** offers a useful working definition. ***“Spiritual gifts are God empowering his people through the Holy Spirit for kingdom life and service, enabling them an attitude and action to live and minister in a manner which clarifies Christ.”***

Thus, **God empowers** the **gifts** for the purpose or end of His own glory!

**1 Peter 4:10-11** - 10 As **each one has received a special gift**, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11 Whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves, **let him do so as by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ**, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. NASB

Let us see here that when we **use our gifts** for the **spiritual life** and **faith** of the whole body, it is **God working in us** and through us to manifest the grace of salvation among us, **putting His virtue** and **character** on **display** through forgiven sinners and displaying His triumph over sin and death.

**1 Corinthians 12:6** - 6 And there are varieties of effects, but **the same God who works all things in all persons.** NASB

Let us acknowledge and **worship God** for the **beauty** of **His divine plan** and work among us recognizing that the **gifts are empowered by God** and He is indeed at work among us.

### **There are different categories of gifts.**

Some gifts appear to be closely related to **natural talents** and or Christian character such as the gift of helps and generosity. Others seem to be **out of the ordinary** such as speaking in tongues or miracles. Still others may involve a native ability to speak, together with the involvement of the supernatural such as prophecy. For our purposes here, we can think about them as either **Miraculous and Non-miraculous**, two obvious categories. But also **Speaking gifts or serving gifts** can be another way to categorize them.

Wayne Grudem speaks to these **categories** when he defines spiritual gifts.

**Grudem** - A. Questions Regarding Spiritual Gifts in General

***A spiritual gift is any ability that is empowered by the Holy Spirit and used in any ministry of the church.*** This broad definition includes both gifts that are related to **natural abilities** (such as teaching, showing mercy, or administration) and gifts that seem to be **more "miraculous"** and less related to natural abilities (such as prophecy, healing, or distinguishing between spirits). The reason for this is that when Paul lists spiritual gifts (in Rom 12:6-8; 1 Cor 7:7; 12:8-10,28; and Eph 4:11) he **includes both kinds of gifts**. Yet not every natural ability that people have is included here, because Paul is clear that all spiritual gifts must be **empowered "by one and the same Spirit"** (1 Cor 12:11), that they are given "for the **common good**" (1 Cor 12:7), and that they are all to be used for "**edification**"

(1 Cor 14:26), or for building up the church. (from Systematic Theology, Copyright © 1994 by Wayne Grudem. All rights reserved.)

We see then that **spiritual gifts** take **different forms**, yet are one obvious means of grace that the Lord uses to **build up** and strengthen the Church. They are **abilities given by God** to His people for **building them up in Christ!**

Since these gifts are spoken of together and given **little individual treatment**, we understand that the **main issues** that God seeks for us to understand are **NOT** so much about the gifts themselves, but **how they operate together** among us, **strengthen** and **unify the Church**, and **glorify** Him.

With this basic understanding of the gifts, let us **examine the texts** in the **New Testament** that mention them. Later we will discuss the **Miraculous Gifts** and their place in the **Apostolic age** and with us **today**.

## NOTES

## List of Spiritual Gifts

### **Rom 12:6-8**

- (2) prophecy
- 16. serving
- (3) teaching
- 17. encouraging
- 18. contributing
- 19. leadership
- 20. mercy

**Romans 12:3-8** - 3 For through the grace given to me I say to every man among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. 4 For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. 6 And since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let each exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; 7 if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; 8 or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. NASB

### **1 Corinthians 12:28**

- 1. apostle
- 2. prophet
- 3. teacher
- 4. miracles
- 5. kinds of healings
- 6. helps
- 7. administration'
- 8. tongues

**1 Corinthians 12:27-31** - 27 Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it. 28 And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues. 29 All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not workers of miracles, are they? 30 All do not have gifts of healings, do they? All do not speak with tongues, do they? All do not interpret, do they? 31 But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And I show you a still more excellent way. NASB

### **1 Corinthians 12:8-10**

- 9. word of wisdom
- 10. word of knowledge
- 11. faith
- (5) gifts of healing
- (4) miracles
- (2) prophecy
- 12. distinguishing between spirits
- (8) tongues

13. interpretation of tongues

**1 Corinthians 12:4-11** - 4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. 6 And there are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. 7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 8 For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 10 and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills. NASB

**1 Peter 4:11**

whoever speaks (covering several gifts)

whoever renders service (covering several gifts)

**1 Peter 4:10-11** - 10 As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11 Whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves, let him do so as by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. NASB

**Ephesians 4:11**

(1) apostle

(2) prophet

14. evangelist

15. pastor-teacher

**Ephesians 4:11-14** - 11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fulness of Christ. NASB

**1 Corinthians 7:7**

21. marriage

22. celibacy

**1 Corinthians 7:1-7** - 1 Now concerning the things about which you wrote, it is good for a man not to touch a woman. 2 But because of immoralities, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. 3 Let the husband fulfill his duty to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband. 4 The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does; and likewise also the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. 5 Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again lest Satan tempt you because of your lack of self-control. 6 But this I say by way of concession, not of command. 7 Yet I wish that all men were even as I myself am. However, each man has his own gift from God, one in this manner, and another in that. NASB