

GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- Gifts are not the ultimate objective of spirituality. They are only the tool [or equipment] given to fulfill the work assigned while we are on earth.
- Gifts are task oriented, not glory oriented. **Spiritual gifts do not validate spirituality.**
- There are three classes of gifts, each designed to serve different purposes. This seems evident in 1 Corinthians 12:4-6, 8-10; Ephesians 4:11; Romans 12:6-8.

1. SPECIAL ABILITY GIFTS - least spoken of, yet most fundamental and necessary

- Greek word "*Charisma*" (NIV "gifts") 1 Corinthians 12:4; Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:28; 1 Peter 4:9-11; Exodus 31:3; 1 Chronicles 15:16
- They are given at rebirth to every believer, though possibly not recognized.
- They are different from "natural" talents evidenced by the attitude in which they are accomplished. If it's a spiritual gift, it will be a form of praise and joy.

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- **Prophecy/Counseling** - This may be a repeat of gifts mentioned elsewhere, but more probably a gift of unusual ability to give God's special word in counseling others. It could also refer to speaking the anointed word in group gatherings.
 - **Ministering/Shepherding** - It literally means "service". It corresponds closely with the Greek word for deacon which means "slave". It is used of the first seven deacons of the early church in Acts 6. It could also refer to those who enjoy spiritually "shepherding" those of the body, especially of the widows and fatherless, but not limited to that.
 - **Teaching** - This is different from the office of the teacher, and is also different from the natural profession of teaching. It is a gift of God to make most simple the truths of God.
 - **Exhortation/Encouraging** - This gift is generally that of being able to encourage others to move along in their Christian walk. It could take the form of comforting, evangelism, motivating, challenging or stimulating the faith of others.
 - **Giving** - Though all Christians are called upon to give their tithes and offerings for the support of the local church, this is the special ability to make or receive money as well as give money (beyond normal) for the work of God.
 - **Ruling/Leadership** - This refers to those who are gifted leaders, not organizers, but "movers of the people". They know where they are going and are usually capable of moving the people with them. Just because a man is in a leadership position does not mean he is a leader. A leader will lead regardless of his official position; although they should be placed in leadership positions for better efficiency.
 - **Mercy** - This is the ability to work joyfully with those whom the majority ignores, such as ... the physically disabled, aged, sick, mentally ill, etc. Those people have an unusually merciful heart.
 - **Helps** - This is the ability to give assistance or aid in any way that brings strength or encouragement to the person and ultimately the "body". All Christians are to extend themselves to help others, but this is beyond normal. The attitude in which it's done proves its spiritual origin.
 - **Governments/Administration** - This is the ability to organize and administrate. They know how to put things together and make them work smoothly. This is different from the ruler (leader), though they are often also called upon to lead because of their administrative ability.
 - **Hospitality** - This is that special ability that God gives to certain members to provide an open house and a warm welcome for those in need of food, lodging or fellowship.
 - **Intercession** - The special ability to pray for extended periods of time on a regular basis and see frequent and specific answers to their prayers to a degree much greater than that which is expected of the average Christian.
 - **Craftsmanship** - The divine enablement to facilitate/enhance ministry through creative arts or technical skills.

- **Musicianship/Creative Communication** - This is the ability to make music unto the Lord for the edification of the “body of believers”. This is not just the ability to perform, but to perform in such a way that it incites worship and praise to God. Some musicians are songwriters, vocalists and instrumentalists.
 - **Evangelism** - This is the ability to communicate the gospel with clarity and power so that unbelievers come to faith in Jesus Christ.
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2. OFFICE (or administrative/ministering) GIFTS

- Greek word “*Diakonia*” (NIV "service") 1 Corinthians 12:5; Ephesians 4:11
- According to **Ephesians 4:11-12** these are given to the church with the task to “*equip the saints*” to... “*Do the work of the ministry*”... for the “*building up*” of the body.

TEST: If a person advertises or feels a need to tell you they are an apostle or prophet, it is highly doubtful they are one.

Apostle

- Literally means in the Greek – “**sent one**”
- Bible apostles are modeled to be “called”, then sent by God and the local church to start new churches.
- Latin equivalent to “missionary”; home and foreign missionaries do this same work.

Prophet

- In the New Testament, Antioch and Jerusalem had their own prophets (Acts 13:1; 15:32).
- Essentially they are the ones who, when anointed, “pointed the way” for the church.

Evangelist

- The God-given ability and desire to share the gospel with unbelievers in such a way that they become followers of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Literally... “*Messenger of Good*” or one who preaches good news.

Pastor/Teacher

- Called hyphenated gift —pastor/teacher.
- Literal – “**Shepherd**”; responsible for “overseeing” his God-assigned flock.
- As **Ephesians 4:12, 13** points out; feeding, coaching, caring for and equipping the believers.

Teacher

- Must have great sensitivity to the Holy Spirit and a broad understanding of God and His Word in order to be able to make truths simple so all the hungry can assimilate God’s truth and life.

None of these office positions are “jobs” or chosen professions. God must call and anoint you for any of them.

3. SPECIAL **ENERGIZING** (or Power) GIFTS

- Greek “*Energeia*” ... (NIV "working")
- 1 Corinthians 12:6, 8-10 the most astonishing energizing gifts given to common humans so we can bring honor to God.
- Non-resident or temporary special empowerment for unique occasions or needs.
- The purpose of these gifts is generally for evangelization and/or the edification of the “body” of believers.

GIFTS OF REVELATION:

Word of Wisdom

- The Spirit giving our spirit (intuition) a portion of His own perfect wisdom on how to do/respond with the knowledge you have. (1 Corinthians 2:10; Luke 10:21)

Two types of wisdom ...

1. True wisdom is from **above**
2. False wisdom is earthly or from **below**
 - You know the difference “by their fruits”

James 3.14-18 ¹⁴*But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth.* ¹⁵*Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil.* ¹⁶*For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.* ¹⁷*But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.* ¹⁸*Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.*

Word of Knowledge

- The Spirit giving our spirit (intuition) a portion of His own perfect knowledge (insight or facts) about a given situation otherwise unknown to the individual. It's often confused with “discernment”, which isn't a “gift”.

Example:

- In Acts 5:1-10, the Spirit gave Peter a word of knowledge about Ananias and Sapphira's conspiracy to get the church's applause and money. He also gave him a word of wisdom on what to do with it.
- Keep in mind -- it is not resident. It happens only when the Holy Spirit sees need for it. It's again only a “word of knowledge”.

Discerning of Spirits

- The Spirit revealing to our spirit (intuition) which spirit is involved in a situation (Holy Spirit, satanic, or human).
- This is very different from soul-based, psychological insights that read motives or a critical spirit of those who say...”I discern he's wrong ...” Please don't confuse these terms! **Example:** Acts 16:16-18 – Paul and fortune teller

GIFTS OF POWER:

Faith

- It is a supernatural gift of divine faith, a **“conviction of heart”** that God will do whatever He has said. It is **NOT** soulish, positive confession! Ephesians 2:8-9 – *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.”*
- Various types of faith.
 - *“Saving faith”* also called a *“measure of faith”* – **Romans 12:3; Acts 16:31**
 - *“Just shall live (exist by) this faith”* – **Romans. 1:17**
 - *“Fruit of Spirit”* ... of God's presence
 - *“Gift of faith”* - The drop of *“faith of God”* in our hearts for a specific issue that results in *“moving mountains”* – **Mark 11:22-24** (Greek)

Example: Daniel in the lions' den – Daniel 6:16-23

IMPORTANT: Please understand, faith itself doesn't do the work. It only puts God to work for you. Never put faith in faith.

Working of Miracles

- When God uses His power to supersede the laws of nature (water into wine, no rain, etc.) in contrast to healing which is about restoring a “broken” part.

Acts 5:18-25 - Delivered from prison; led to salvation.

John 9:1-3 “As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?’ ‘Neither this man nor his parents sinned,’ said Jesus, ‘but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life.”

Gifts of Healing

- When God uses His power to heal sickness in either a faster or an abnormal way. Not at the discretion of man.
- The Holy Spirit selects according to His purpose (not man or his need) as when only one among many were healed in John 5:1-9

Acts 3:12, 16 - 12b “Men of Israel, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? ... 16 By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus’ name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see.

John 5:30 NASB “I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.”

GIFTS OF **UTTERANCE** (verbal):

Prophecy

- The supernatural speaking for God.
- Its purpose is for the church (1 Corinthians 14:3)
 - Edification** (build up): strengthen their faith wherever they are in their journey
 - Exhortation**: to teach
 - Comfort**: in trial or distress
- **There are two phases or types:**
 1. Foretelling future events
 2. Forth-telling the Word of God ... speaks a new revelation or God’s plan for us. This is the most common use of prophecy.
- Only gift we are especially told to covet (desire) 1 Corinthians 14:1, 39
- A prophecy is controllable (what is said, when or how spoken, or even if it is spoken) and therefore is influenced by the speaker.

1 Corinthians 14:32 “the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets”
- We are told to “judge” them in **1 Corinthians 14:29.**

1 Thessalonians 5:19-21 “Prove all things: hold fast that which is good.”

Tongues

- A portion of God's word to the church in an unknown language.
- This gift...different from general one of Acts 2:4 & 38, etc.
- The personal prayer language is “**to God**” and is to build up our spirit. Acts 2:4; 1 Corinthians 14:2
- It may be used for unbelievers. Acts 2:6, 7, 11
- This gift is “**to man**” for “church body”, but only indicates they’re stubborn believers!! 1 Corinthians 12:10; 14:5, 21
- Are tongues for the believer or unbeliever? Read **1 Corinthians 14:22-23**; then **14:21** and then **Isaiah 28:11-12.**

- Paul says to avoid confusion, tongues directed ‘to man’ is not to be used in the general assembly, unless it is followed by an interpretation. 1 Corinthians 14:27, 28, 33
- As with other gifts...it is controllable and no one needs to be rude or interrupt - **1 Corinthians 14:40**... *“Let everything be done decently...”*
- If no interpreter is present or responds, it is forbidden in a corporate setting. - 1 Corinthians 14:13, 28

Interpretation of Tongues

- Simply, a supernatural gift to interpret tongues spoken “to man” in a corporate setting.
- Generally speaking, an “interpretation” is not classified as a “word for word” translation of the message. Rather, the essence of the intended message.
- When this gift is used in conjunction with the gift of tongues, it becomes equivalent to a prophecy in practice, but not in significance. Prophecies are still preferred **1 Corinthians 14:1** *“... eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy.”*
- Why? Due to the fact tongues and interpretations are more of a sign to the unbelieving saints.

1 Corinthians 14 was written to correct abuses in these areas. If you understand the basic principles previously explained, you’ll gain much from the corrective teaching of this chapter.