

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

What Are the Gifts of the Spirit?

1 Peter 4:10-11 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, *let him speak* as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, *let him do it* as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

I. SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE CAPACITIES GIVEN BY GOD TO BELIEVERS.

A. Capacity for service in the Kingdom of God.

1. Not an ability until used or developed (teaching).
2. Not an office or a ministry.
3. Not a talent, although sometimes related.

	TALENTS	SPIRITUAL GIFTS
WHO RECEIVES THEM?	To Everybody	To Christians Only
WHEN ARE THEY RECEIVED?	At Birth	At the New Birth
WHY ARE THEY GIVEN?	For Any Purpose	For God's Purpose
HOW ARE THEY GIVEN?	By Natural Development	Given by the Holy Spirit

B. Given by God

1. He selects them (manifold grace of God above).
2. Given when born again. Name for gift means "birthday present."
3. Every believer has at least one, usually more. "Each has received a gift."

II. SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE FOR MINISTERING TO ONE ANOTHER.

A. They are not given for self edification or building up.

B. They are given so we can minister to each other.

1 Corinthians 12:7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:

III. SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE TO BE USED.

A. God's church is a body with many parts.**B. God gifts the different members of the body so that every work needing to be done has someone enabled to do it.**

Illustration: Story is told that one day the eyes and hands were complaining about the stomach getting all the food. I spot it says the eyes, and I carry it and put it in the mouth. All ole stomach does is sit there and enjoy what we put there. It's not right. So they quit bringing food to the stomach. And the stomach indeed growled and complained and the eyes and hands were glad that the lazy fellow was getting his due. But on the second day of this forced fast, the hands begin to tremble. And on the third day, the eyes began to blur at times. And when they complained to the blood that he was bringing them no nutrition, he said, "There's none to bring, because the stomach is empty."

Sometimes we are tempted to think that what we do in God's work is more important than what anybody else does, but the truth is that God's plan for the body means we are all important.

C. There are at least 19 Gifts of the Spirit.

1. Each one is important.
2. The gifts are listed in three major passages of Scripture.

Romans 12:3-8 ³ For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. ⁴ For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, ⁵ so we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. ⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, *let us use them*: if prophecy, *let us prophesy* in proportion to our faith; ⁷ or ministry, *let us use it* in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; ⁸ he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

1 Corinthians 12:8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit,

1 Corinthians 12:28-30 ²⁸ And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? *Are* all prophets? *Are* all teachers? *Are* all workers of miracles? ³⁰ Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?

Ephesians 4:11 And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

Here is a summary:

1. **Speaking gifts-** apostleship, prophesy, pastor, teacher, evangelist, exhortation, word of wisdom, word of knowledge
2. **Ministering gifts-** helps, hospitality, giving, ruling or administration, mercy, faith, discernment
3. **Sign gifts-** miracles, healing, tongues, interpretation of tongues

CONCLUSION: Bow. Answer the questions silently in your heart:

1. Are you saved?
2. Do you know at least one spiritual gift God has given you?
3. Do you know all the spiritual gifts God has given you?
4. Are you using in the church every spiritual gift God has given you?
5. Are you willing to discover all the gifts God has given you and how to more effectively use them in God's Kingdom and the church?
6. Will you commit yourself to that this winter and spring on Sunday nights?