

The Ark Montebello

SPIRITUAL-GIFT DEFINITIONS

“Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant...

Paul the Apostle

Prophecy -The gift of prophecy is the special ability God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to receive and communicate an immediate message of God to His people through a divinely anointed utterance.

Pastor -The gift of pastor is the special ability God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to provide spiritual care and nourishment of a group of believers or congregation.

Teaching - The gift of teaching is the special ability God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to communicate clearly and apply effectively the truth of God’s Word in such a way that others will learn. (Many desire to teach, without the God’s gift—and they’re boring, incomprehensible, and unimaginative). All church elders should be “apt” to teach, able to teach.

Word of Wisdom -The special ability given by God to certain church members to receive the supernatural revelation, by the Spirit, of Divine Purpose; the supernatural declaration of the Mind and Will of God; the supernatural unfolding of His plans and Purposes concerning things, places, people: individuals, communities, nations.

Word of Knowledge -The special ability given by God to certain members of the body of Christ to receive the supernatural revelation by the Holy Spirit of certain facts in the mind of God. The Word of Knowledge is the revelation to man by His Spirit of some detail of that All-Knowledge pertinent to the growth and well-being of the Church.

Exhortation -The gift of exhortation is the special ability God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to minister words of comfort, edification, encouragement, and counsel to other members of the body in such a way that they feel helped and healed.

Discerning of Spirits [*not* the gift of ‘discerning.’] - The gift of discerning of spirits is the special ability God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to know with assurance whether certain behavior purported to be God is in reality divine, human, or satanic.

Giving - The gift of giving is the special ability God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to give and contribute their financial and material resources to the work of the Lord with liberality and cheerfulness.

Helps -The gift of helps is the special ability God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to invest the talents they have in the life and ministry of other members of the body, thus enabling others to increase the effectiveness of their own spiritual gifts.

Hospitality - The gift of hospitality is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to provide an open house and warm welcome to those in need of food and lodging.

Mercy - The gift of mercy is the special ability God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to feel genuine empathy and compassion for individuals - both Christian and non-Christians who suffer distressing physical, mental or emotional problems and to translate that compassion into cheerfully done deeds which reflect Christ’s love and alleviate the suffering.

Apostle (Missionary) -The apostle (missionary) is the special ability God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to minister whatever other spiritual gifts they have in culture other than their own.

Evangelist -The gift of evangelist is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to share the gospel with unbelievers in such a way that men and women come to saving faith in Christ.

Faith -The gift of faith is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to discern with extraordinary confidence the will and purposes of God for his work; a supernatural endowment by the Spirit whereby that which is uttered or desired by man, or spoken by God, shall eventually come to pass.

Leadership -The gift of leadership is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to set goals in accordance with God's purposes for the future and to communicate these goals to others in such a way that they voluntarily and harmoniously work together to accomplish those goals for the glory of God.

Administration -The gift of administration is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to understand clearly the immediate and long-range goals of a particular unit of the body of Christ and to devise and execute plans for the accomplishment of those goals.

Miracles - The gift of miracles is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to serve human intermediaries through whom it pleases God to perform supernatural acts that are perceived by the observers to have altered the ordinary course of nature.

Healing - The gift of healing is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to serve as human intermediaries through whom it pleases God to cure illness and restore health apart from the use of natural means.

Tongues - The gift of tongues is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to pray, sing, or worship God in a language they have never learned through a divinely anointed utterance. This is the only gift for self-edification.

Which specific gift is the most valuable? Paul's answer to this is clear and emphatic: the one gift all Christians should have, love (1 Cor. 12:31-13:1).

Love is the ultimate spiritual gift. If we have all other gifts and lack love, we have nothing; if we have love and nothing else, we have everything. Paul said that love fulfills the entire law (Rom. 13:10; Love makes possible the fellowship of the church and guarantees that gifts will be used unselfishly. Love is the greatest gift given to us by the God who is love.

"There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all."
Apostle Paul, 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

Spiritual gifts are those gifts given by the Spirit of God for the accomplishment of God's purpose in the world and for the edification of the church, the body of Christ. Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-10, 28-31; Ephesians 4:11,12; 1 Peter 4:10-11. **Every believer has been given spiritual-gifts**

Chuck Smith, The Gift of Living Water, "I do not know of any subject concerning which there is greater ignorance in the church today than the gifts of the Holy Spirit. This ignorance occurs on both sides of the issue. On one side, some people lack the understanding that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are available for the church today. On the other side, some who revel in these gifts display a strong lack of knowledge concerning their proper scriptural exercise." The overarching principle concerning the gifts of the Holy Spirit is this: The true gifts of the Holy Spirit, when manifested in a scriptural and correct way, will always focus people's hearts on Jesus Christ. Jesus said the Spirit would not testify of Himself, but of Christ. The scriptural exercise of the gifts will always give you fresh vision of Jesus Christ and His glory, causing you to fall in love with Him, and to be drawn to Him all over again. Your heart will almost explode with love and appreciation for what Jesus is and what He is able to do."