



DEFINITION

Spiritual Gift: A sovereign, God-given, Holy Spirit-energized ability given for _____ within the ministry and outreach of the local church to build up believers and mature them in conformity to Christ

NEW TESTAMENT WORDS

There are several New Testament words used to denote the gifts of the Spirit. Each may emphasize some _____ of the gift or the Spirit's work, but they all refer to essentially the same thing — the gifts of the Spirit.

1. *Pneumatikon* — Describes the gift as from the Holy Spirit and as something to be exercised in the power of the Holy Spirit for a spiritual purpose (not merely a natural gift)
2. *Charisma* — Looks at such gifting from the standpoint of an unmerited, and gracious gift from God (the ground and nature of the gift is the grace of God)
3. *Diakonia* — Emphasizes the usefulness of the gifts in serving others
4. *Energema* — Emphasizes the power/activity/energy of the Holy Spirit operating in the gifts
5. *Merismos* — Emphasizes the sovereign, divine will in distributing the gifts
6. *Phanerosis* — Emphasizes the visible character of the gifts ("showing" the Spirit)

LISTS OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

There are several spiritual gift lists in the New Testament: Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:7-10, 28-30; Ephesians 4:11; 1 Peter 4:10-11. No two lists are identical, and are most likely _____, and not exhaustive lists. These are *some* of the gifts listed:

1. **Teaching** (sometimes called "word of wisdom" or "word of knowledge") — _____, expounding, and unpacking the Word of God, imparting instruction based on truth already revealed (required for elders)
2. **Serving/Helping** — Practical service/_____ to others, often behind the scenes
3. **Leading/Administrating** — Providing guidance and leadership to accomplish the ministry
4. **Exhorting/Encouraging** — Urging others to follow God's truth and live _____, including showing care to those afflicted and walking through trials
5. **Giving** — Increased _____ in volunteering one's resources for God's glory and the good of others, often in remarkable or unusual ways
6. **Mercy** — A special capacity to minister to those who are _____
7. **Evangelism** — An exceptional ability to proclaim/share the _____ with unbelievers
8. **Faith** — A strong, unshakeable confidence in God, His Word, and His promises

TEN TRUTHS ABOUT SPIRITUAL GIFTS

1. Spiritual gifts are to be exercised under the Lordship of Christ. Our gifts are intended to glorify _____ in His strength. A person may claim to have staggering gifts, but if they aren't living in submission to Jesus, they are failing in the most important area (1 Peter 4:10-11).
2. Christians should not overestimate their own godliness or effectiveness. A realistic assessment of our lives and our talents and gifts brings great _____ about our place in life if we rest in God (Romans 12:3).
3. God distributes the variety of gifts to believers according to His sovereign will. It was never God's intention that a person possess or exercise _____ the gifts. The diversity of gifts in the body of Christ is to be celebrated as God's will (1 Corinthians 12:27-31).
4. Having a different spiritual gift doesn't make a Christian inferior or superior. What you contribute to your church is _____, and that is true of every member. The gifts don't reflect your spiritual strength, but are given to strengthen the body (1 Corinthians 12:15-20).
5. Our gifts are not to be ascribed to our own spirituality, but to the sovereignty of the Spirit. Your gift doesn't reflect what *you* have accomplished. It signifies what God has for His own _____ purposes given to you for the sake of the church (1 Corinthians 12:7-11).
6. God has given spiritual gifts to build up the body (Ephesians 4:12-16) and to bring unity to the church (1 Corinthians 12:25-26). God gives gifts so that we would equip and strengthen other believers to look like Jesus, and thus the gifts are _____-centered, not self-centered.
7. The gifting of the Spirit most likely occurs at the same time as the baptism of the Spirit and regeneration — at each believer's conversion (so each believer is gifted). Spirit baptism reminds us that we belong to a _____ that we should care for and serve (1 Corinthians 12:3).
8. Edification comes through teaching. Ecstatic experiences without any cognitive content don't build up the church, for people are edified when they comprehend (1 Corinthians 14).
9. Christians should concentrate on using the gifts they have, but not to the exclusion of obeying God's commands to _____ believers (Romans 12:6-8).
10. Gifts exercised without _____ are useless. Spiritual experiences aren't the measure of our godliness. The true test of maturity in our lives is whether we live in love (1 Corinthians 13).

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

Every Christian has at least _____ spiritual gift, but they do not come in a fully developed, ready-made manner to be exercised immediately. Training, development, and nurture are needed.

Christians discover their gifts when they pour themselves into serving in the body of Christ. God will bring gifts to the surface, and other spiritually-minded believers will recognize and _____ them. More opportunities to exercise gifts will come as one matures in experience.