

Why did the Lord give us spiritual gifts?

(Aka: What does the Lord want us to do with them?)

#1 – We are to use them FOR THE PROFIT OF ALL!

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

#2 – We are to use them to EDIFY [build up] & EQUIP [complete/perfect] the Body of Christ!

1 Corinthians 14:12 says, “Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel.”

Ephesians 4:12 says the gifts are, “for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,”

#3 – So, are we using our gifts since the Lord gave them to us for the profit of all to equip and to edify people around us?

Romans 12:6a says, “6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them...”

1 Peter 4:10 says, “As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

Question: Are we using our gifts to minister to each other or are we simply not using our gifts and hoarding them?

Spiritual Gifts in the Bible

		Verses in the following chapters					
Spiritual Gifts	Ministry / Activity (1)	I Cor 12	I Cor 14	Rom 12	Eph 4	Greek Word	Word meaning
Wisdom (word of)		8				sophia	wisdom, skill to apply knowledge
Knowledge (word of)		8				gnoskos	knowledge (thru experience), understanding
Faith		9, 28				pistis	faith, trust, assurance, belief
Gifts of Healings		9, 28, 30				iama	healing, remedy, cure, medicine
Working of Miracles	Activity	10, 28, 29				dunamis	miracle, power, might, strength
Prophecy	Ministry	10, 28, 29	1, 3, 22, 29	6	11	propheteia	speak divine truth, foretell
Discerning (of spirits)		10				diakrisis	discern, dispute, separate, distinguish, judge
Tongues (2)		10, 28, 30	2, 22, 27 & more			glossa	tongue, language, speech
Interpretation		10, 28, 30	13, 27			hermeneia	interpret, translate, explain
Teachers	Ministry	28, 29		7	11	didaskalos	teacher, master, instructor
Apostles	Ministry	28, 29			11	apostolos	messenger, sent one, delegate
Helps		28				antilepsis	help, support, relief
Administration		28				kubernesis	administration, navigation, general, government
Ministry	*			7		diakonia	ministry, service
Exhortation				8		parakaleo	urge, implore, exhort, encourage, comfort
Giving				8		metadidomi	share, give, impart
Leader				8		proistemi	lead, rule over, manage, superintend
Mercy				8		eleao	show mercy, have pity or compassion
Evangelists	Ministry				11	euaggelistes	evangelist, to bring good news
Pastors	Ministry				11	poimen	shepherd, pastor

(1) - Ministry gifts are ones that are aimed at particular ministry (*) callings. See this discussion in 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 & Ephesians 4:11-12.

(2) - Note that the word for tongues is the greek word "glossa" and is used throughout 1 Corinthians 12 & 14 and is used in Acts 2:3,4,11,26.

But, the word for tongues in Acts 2:8 is the greek word "dialektos", meaning discourse or dialect. This word applied to the people hearing.

Spiritual Gifts of Prophecy & Tongues (1 Cor 14 & Acts 2)

Description	Gift		Comments
	Prophecy	Tongues	
Direction of gift or words	To men (1 Cor 14:3)	To God (1 Cor 14:2)	This direction given by God is extremely important to understand the gift when used.
Description of words	Edification, Exhortation & Comfort to men (1 Cor 14:3)	<u>Mysteries</u> - Unless interpreted (1 Cor 14:2), <u>Blessing by speaking well</u> of God & the <u>giving of thanks</u> to God (1 Cor 14:16), <u>Wonderful works</u> of God (Acts 2:11)	The message given is extremely important to understanding when the gift is used.
Who does this gift edify?	The church body	The person with the gift <u>if</u> it is used alone (1 Cor 14:4a)	Tongues edifies the person who uses it alone. But when used in a public setting it is only to be used if it is interpreted so ALL are edified.
		The church body <u>if</u> the gift is used in a gathering and interpreted (1 Cor 14:4b)	
Who is this gift a "sign" for?	For believers (1 Cor 14:22b)	For unbelievers (1 Cor 14:22a)	The Lord knows whose attention He wants to get when the gifts are used.
How much is it to be used in a church gathering?	2 or at the most 3 (1 Cor 14:29) and one at a time, which means each in turn (1 Cor 14:31)	2 or at the most 3, each in turn, or one at a time (1 Cor 14:27)	Both gifts are to be used in moderation, with a limit, in a public gathering.
		It must be interpreted to be used when we gather (1 Cor 14:28).	
Self-control	The user has control of the gift (1 Cor 14:32)	I assume the same of all gifts since self-control is a fruit of the Spirit	Self-control is a facet of love and fruit of the Holy Spirit.

Note: The gift of tongues as described in Acts 2 and 1 Corinthians 14 are not in conflict unless we read into one of them.