

HOLY SPIRIT

GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

This morning we're going to do a quick overview of the gifts of the Spirit that the Scriptures mention.

The NT has several passages that mention spiritual gifts.

- Romans 12 - The Motivational Gifts
 - Gifts that explain the motivation of the people in the Body to minister to one another.
- 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 - Spiritual Gifts (charismata)
 - The grace gifts - They are grace gifts of God.
- Ephesians 4:11-13, 1 Corinthians 12:27 - Ministry Gifts
 - Gifts that apply to an office in the church.

****I Believe**** that these different lists of gifts are not exhaustive (meaning they are the ONLY gifts of the Spirit), but rather examples of the gifts. Many of the lists and gifts overlap. I believe the Spirit knows how to give the body exactly what it needs at any given point. The scriptures mentioned put an emphasis on the variety.

The Motivational Gifts

Romans 12:6-8

⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if **prophecy**, in proportion to our faith; ⁷ if **service**, in our serving; the one who **teaches**, in his teaching; ⁸ the one who **exhorts**, in his exhortation; the one who **contributes**, in generosity; the one who **leads**, with zeal; the one who does **acts of mercy**, with cheerfulness.

Prophecy

- **In the OT, prophets were often called seers (ones who saw).**
 - The prophets always saw the world and people through God's eyes.
 - Prophecy always arises out of a true seeing the current conditions. It says, if these things continue _____... this is where it is going to lead you.
- **Prophecy is (can be) two-fold**
 - **Forth-Telling**: declaring the Word of God now to our hearts
 - **Foretelling**: declaring the future

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- **1 Corinthians 14:3** - But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their *strengthening, encouraging and comfort*.
- **1 Corinthians 14:24-25** - ²⁴ But if an unbeliever or an inquirer comes in while everyone is prophesying, *they are convicted of sin* and are brought under judgment by all, ²⁵ as the secrets of their hearts are laid bare. So they will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, "God is really among you!"
 - It convicts and brings a person to the point of making a decision to follow Christ.
- **The gift of prophecy is to be earnestly sought by all**
 - 14:1 - Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy.
 - 14:39 - Therefore, my brothers, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues.
 - Moses said in Numbers "Would that all the Lord's people were prophets."

Service

- **Involves practical ministry to needs**
 - Jesus washing the disciples feet
 - Acts 6:3 - Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them.
- **Prophecy is not greater than service!**
 - The body of Christ needs people who speak the Word of God and also people who serve with the Spirit and the heart of Jesus.

Teaching

- While prophets speak to the moment, teachers are systematic and strive for accuracy.
- Teachers build up the body of Christ.
 - When good teachers are absent or the teaching is inaccurate, the body of Christ suffers.
- Teachers are learners (teachable)

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Encouragement (Exhortation)

- “One called *alongside* to *help*”
 - Gift of wrapping your arms around individuals or the church corporately to encourage and inspire.
 - Barnabas is an example of this gift.
 - Look at what he did for Paul.

Giving

- Beyond the dimension universal to all believers.
- It is a unique gift of *seeing* and *responding* to needs.
- If you have the gift of giving, you need the resources to give (time, finances, skills).
- The giver gives willingly - God has given them a special delight in sharing for the benefit of the Body.

Leadership

- Leadership is the ability given by the Spirit to help set a course of direction and unify people for the accomplishment of the work of the Lord.
 - Helps the body of Christ strive toward common ideals and builds the community of the people of God into that which would delight the Spirit of the Lord.
 - Servant leadership perhaps best describes the leadership that the Spirit places in the Body.

Acts of Mercy

- George Wood: “Paul concludes in Romans 12 with the gift of mercy. There are often critical needs when teaching or words of any kind cannot help. So we need the gift of mercy. When a person is terminally ill, it isn’t the prophet or teacher or even exhorter who has the impact. It’s the person who can show mercy, inspired by Christ’s example.”

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Spiritual Gifts - the Charismata (grace gifts)

1 Corinthians 12:7-11

⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

Message of Wisdom

- An utterance of wisdom
 - Jesus exemplified this in John 8 when his enemies confronted him with the woman caught in adultery.
 - They asked him to judge her. He responded with a word of wisdom - he who is without sin cast the first stone.

Message of Knowledge

- An utterance of divine knowledge
 - Knowing God's Word in a deep way
 - Knowing something of immediate circumstances that would've been unknowable without the Spirit.
- Examples:
 - Jesus & Nathaniel
 - Prophet Nathan and David (Bathsheba/Uriah)

Faith

- A special operation of the gift of faith that is a supernatural endowment by the Holy Spirit enabling a person to believe for an extra demonstration of the power of God.

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➤ Examples:

- Faith that causes faith to arise in others
- A person who grasps the vision of what God wants to bring to pass and confidently lives and works to see it take place.
- Faith helps believers to continue in trial
- Adoniram Judson went as a missionary apostle to Burma (Myanmar) in the early 1800s. It was seven years before someone came to the Lord. When he died, he left behind seven thousand believers and had established 63 churches.

Gifts of Healings

- Note: Both the gifts and the healings are in the **plural** in the Greek.
 - Different ways of administering healing:
 - Laying on of hands
 - Through speaking an authoritative word
 - Anointing with oil
 - Varieties of gifts and healings:
 - Physical healings
 - Emotional healings
 - Spiritual healings
 - Gradual healings
 - Instant healings
 - Every healing is a **gift** to the **individual** who **receives** the healing.
 - No one "**possesses**" the gift of healing - it's not theirs to give at will or to control. Some due to the faith given to them, might be used more frequently as the vessel God uses to administer the healing.

Miracles

- Are distinguished from healings in that miracles include a demonstration of God's power in an unusual measure. They especially relate to miracles in the realm of nature, such as Jesus' feeding the four/five thousand.
 - A miracle may provide for someone in need
 - A miracle may deliver someone from danger or enemies
 - A miracle may protect someone

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Discerning of Spirits

- This gift allows people to distinguish whether or not a person brings a spiritual (truthful) message from God.
 - Discerns of the wolves and false teachers
 - Discerns between the Holy Spirit, the flesh, and the demonic

Tongues

- Message in a language unknown to the speaker
- Prayer directed at God

Interpretation of Tongues

- Interpretation is not (necessarily) a *literal translation*
 - Together with tongues, functions much like a word of *prophecy*.

Ministry Gifts:

Ephesians 4:11-13

¹¹ And he gave the **apostles**, the **prophets**, the **evangelists**, the **shepherds** and **teachers**, ¹² *to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ*, ¹³ *until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,*

1 Corinthians 12:28

And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues.

Apostles

- NT technical sense: one who was an eyewitness of Jesus who had been commissioned by him to lay the foundation of the church.
 - o This included the 11 disciples, plus Matthias who was appointed to replace Judas... and eventually Paul who was commissioned by Jesus in a supernatural encounter on the road to Damascus.

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- There doesn't seem to be an expiration on this gift, but those original apostles carried a special grace and authority, in that God used them to order and write scripture... no one today can do that.
- There is an ongoing sense that is relevant and applicable today.
 - o Generic sense - apostle means sent one.
 - o They establish God's church in areas that typically have no gospel witness.
 - o They usually are seen to plant multiple churches and oversee those churches along with their pastors.
 - o Consider these elements in Paul's ministry.

Prophets

- Those whom God consistently uses in the gift of prophecy
- Are recognized by the church for their consistency and accuracy
- Paul wanted all in Corinth to prophesy, but some would seem to carry a recognized gifting.

Evangelists

- Those who carry a special gift or anointing in proclaiming the gospel and leading others to faith in Christ.
- All are called to evangelize, but some have a special gift.

Pastors (shepherds)

- The pastor assumes the responsibility of the spiritual welfare of God's people. The word for pastor literally means shepherd, one who looks out for a flock.
 - o Feeding, watering, protecting, leading... herding

Teachers

- Beyond the generic anyone can teach... they are gifted and recognized by the church for their gift.

Miracles

Gifts of Healing

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Helps

- Helps is a special ability to invest talents in the life and ministry of others in the body, thus enabling that person to increase their effectiveness and their own spiritual gifts.

Administrations

- Would differ from leadership in that the gift of administration involves efficiency; it involves setting out a task and mapping how to accomplish the task. It involves pulling in all the loose ends and taking care of all the details, and making sure the ship is running on course.
- Not all administrators are leaders and not all leaders are administrators – though some may be.
- The leader needs the administrator and the admin needs the leader.

Different kinds of Tongues

10 TRUTHS OF THE GIFTS

1. The gifts are for **Christians**
2. The gifts are for the **benefit** of the Body and for Christ **work** in the world.
3. The gifts should never be **divorced** from **love**.
4. The gifts should not be **confused** with **spirituality**.
5. The gifts are often **matched** with natural **inclinations** and **abilities**.
6. The gifts tend to be **developmental** in nature.
7. The gifts are typically not **proprietary** (possessive/residential).
8. The use of each gift will be confirmed by **the body of Christ**.
9. Individual exercise of a gift emerges from a combination of **desire**, **prayer**, and **need**.
10. Only a few of them are designed to work regularly in **a church service**. Many go outside of the corporate worship service, into the life of the church for its edification and ministry.

Bonus 11th – They are given (and used) in proportion to the faith we have, which He gives.

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4 Principles in Use of the Gifts (IF TIME)

1. Order is better than Chaos

- a. God is not a god of confusion
- b. He gives instructions for orderly worship in 1 Corinthians (and the OT Law)

2. Contributor is better than Consumer

- a. If our methodology only suits certain types of personalities, we are excluding people from being used by the Lord.
- b. Our exercise/use/release of the gifts should enable everyone to participate.

3. Other's Good is better than My Gift

- a. How can we best release/use the gift in a way that others will receive best?

4. Clarity is better than Spontaneity