

Spiritual gifts are special abilities and talents that the Holy Spirit gives to Christians to help build up and edify the church and glorify God/Christ. They enable believers to minister to each other, strengthen their faith, and share the gospel effectively. Gifts should be exercised with love as the guiding motivation.

They are not to be confused with natural talents, though natural talents can be used as a vehicle to express spiritual gifts. The Holy Spirit distributes these gifts as He wills for the common good of believers.

#### **Biblical Basis:**

- **1 Corinthians 12:** Lists gifts like wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, tongues, and interpretation of tongues.
- **Ephesians 4:11-13:** Mentions gifts of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers for equipping believers for service.
- **Romans 12:3-8:** Describes gifts like prophecy, service, teaching, exhortation, giving, leadership, and mercy.
- **1 Peter 4:10-11:** Emphasizes using gifts to serve one another as good stewards of God's grace.

#### **Types of Spiritual Gifts:**

The gifts can be broadly categorized as:

- **Speaking Gifts:** Prophecy, teaching, exhortation, word of wisdom, word of knowledge, tongues, interpretation of tongues.
- **Serving Gifts:** Service, giving, acts of mercy, helping.
- **Power Gifts:** Faith, gifts of healing, working of miracles, distinguishing between spirits.
- **People Gifts:** Apostle, prophet, evangelist, shepherd and teacher, teacher, deacon.

#### **Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts:**

You can discover your spiritual gifts by:

- **Prayer:** Ask God to reveal your gifts.
- **Study the Bible:** Read scriptures about spiritual gifts and their examples.
- **Serving:** Actively participate in church ministries and see where you find joy and effectiveness.
- **Seek confirmation from others:** Ask trusted Christian friends or leaders what gifts they observe in you.
- **Spiritual gift assessments:** These can be a starting point for exploration, but should not be the sole determinant.
- **Perform those tasks or engage in service that brings you joy.**

Here is a list of Spiritual Gifts given in the Bible and the books and verses that relate to them:

1. Prophecy – Romans 12:6 and 1 Corinthians 12:28
  2. Miracles – 1 Corinthians 12:10
  3. Evangelism – Eph 4:11
  4. Tongues (1 Cor 12:28) & Interpretation of tongues – 1 Cor 12:10
  5. Healing – body and soul – 1 Cor 12:9
  6. Pastoring – Eph 4:11
  7. Teaching – can overlap with pastoring – 1 Cor 12:28
  8. Leading – Romans 12:8
  9. Service – Romans 12:7
  10. Helps – 1 Cor 12:28
  11. Faith – 1 Cor 12:9
  12. Discerning Spirits – 1 Cor 12:10
  13. Mercy – compassion Romans 12:8
  14. Exhortation (come along side to help) – Romans 12:8
  15. Giving – Romans 12:8
  16. Administration – 1 Corinthians 12:28
  17. Word of Knowledge (discernment) – 1 Corinthians 12:8
  18. Word of Wisdom – 1 Corinthians 12:8
19. Hospitality and Encouragement are not specifically mentioned as gifts, but implied through out

**Important Note:** There are different perspectives within Christianity on whether all spiritual gifts listed in the Bible are still actively given today. However, most agree on the ongoing importance of using whatever gifts God has given to edify the church and bring honor and glory to God through Christ

**A Resource:** Lifeway Christian Resources : [www.lifeway.com](http://www.lifeway.com)

From the Lifeway website: For more than 130 years, Lifeway Christian Resources has served as the world’s leading nonprofit provider of ministry resources for the local church. Today, Lifeway’s resources are used in more than 160 countries on six continents.

- **Spiritual Gifts Survey:** <https://youngadults.lifeway.com/2010/06/spiritual-gifts-survey/>
- **Spiritual Gifts – Bible Study Book: What They Are and How to Use Them, by Daniel Darling**
  - Lifeway and Amazon Paperback - \$14.99
  - Amazon Kindle - \$11.99
- **Spiritual Gifts, by Thomas R. Schreiner**
  - Amazon - \$11.02
  - Amazon Kindle - \$9.99

This falls under the umbrella of Discipleship and the leadership at Live Oaks is committed to making this a priority ministry – More to follow.