

Spiritual Gifts

Leadership and Proclamation Gifts

October 18, 2026

HDBC

Spiritual gifts are ***supernatural endowments from God that enable us to carry out our God-given assignments.***

Spiritual gifts are **intended to be used in and through the local church.**

All believers have spiritual gifts and are expected to use them.

There are twenty gifts mentioned in the New Testament. Four categories. Two this morning: Leadership and Proclamation.

1. Leadership Gifts *(Some at HDBC have these gifts. Do you?)*

Leadership, Apostleship, Administration, Pastor-teacher.

1) Leadership (Rom. 12:8)

To stand before, or to preside. To be out-front, to carry responsibility.

So, the person with the gift of leadership is an out-front person.

Likely characteristics:

- a. Ability to visualize a goal and cast vision to others.
- b. Ability to delegate and motivate.
- c. Ability to endure criticism without quitting.
- d. Joy at seeing a task accomplished or goal reached.

Gifted leaders neither manipulate nor coerce. They get a sense of where to go, then provide confidence in others to take the steps with them to get there. **Examples:**

Moses (OT) – Led during times of great stress. Led hard people.

James (NT) - Counsel in Acts 15. Doctrine of salvation.

When James spoke the people listen and the conflict was resolved.

2) Apostleship (1 Cor. 12:28-29, Eph. 4:11)

One sent on a mission.

Select group of men chosen as 1st century church founders.

The 12 and others. They were foundational leaders for the church.

Instrumental in planting the first churches, writing the Scriptures and in given direction to early believers. Thus establishing the body of truth called “the faith.” **Used more of an office or assignment.**

Many believe **the office** was limited to the NT era. But there is no reason to think that the gift is no longer given and used. The gift would be tied to the meaning of the word; *one sent on a mission* and who have **characteristics and callings similar to NT apostles.**

Likely characteristics:

- 1) Driven by call of God to reach the unreached.
- 2) Sense of urgency about missions.
- 3) Freedom to move, change, adapt.
- 4) Heart for sharing Jesus and planting churches.

Example: **Paul – Heart-beat unreached people and areas.**

Church planter. Trail-blazers. Strong sense of calling.

3) Administration (1 Corinthians 12:28)

To steer, pilot, direct. Noun referred to the pilot of a ship. **Pilot receives instructions from the ship's owner about the destination. He then is expected to get the ship there, making day to day decision necessary.**

Some leaders are great administrators. Others have administrators serve alongside them and they work in partnership.

Likely Characteristics:

- 1) Careful with details, facts, formulas, charts, etc.
- 2) Likes order, uncomfortable with chaos.
- 3) Task-oriented.

Example: Nehemiah – Leader, but also administrator.

4. Pastor-Teacher (Eph. 4:11)

The Greek construction indicates that this is to be treated as one gift rather than two. Teacher is listed as separate gift, indicated one can have gift of teaching without pastoring, but not the opposite..

Pastor - *To shepherd or care for*. Idea of feeding, leading, protecting and loving the flock. Ability to care of others. Protect, defend, lead to maturity a group of believers.

Likely Characteristics:

- 1) Heart to care for others.
- 2) Strong empathy for those hurting or in trouble.
- 3) Feels burden for the spiritual growth of others.

The pastor-teacher is one who wants to spend time with a particular group of believers. He wants to pour his life into them. Mentoring, teaching, protecting, ministering, loving.

1 Peter 5:1-4 Illustrates the ideal pastor. *Shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.*

Example: John - Tenderness about John. *Little children*. Love.

If you have a leadership gift, use it well. I like this description found in the book, ***Leading the Way***. **The world needs leaders...**

who cannot be bought;

whose word is their promise;

who put character above wealth;

who will be honest in small things as well as in great things;

who will make no compromise with wrong;

who are not afraid to stand for the truth when it is unpopular,

who can say no, although the rest of the world says yes.

2. Proclamation Gifts

I've placed three of the spiritual gifts in this category. My thoughts. Evangelism, Teaching, Prophecy.

1) Evangelism (Eph. 4:11)

The act of speaking or proclaiming good news.

The ability to proclaim the gospel with exceptional clarity, with the result that many people are saved. The one with this gift is primarily a messenger. It is one of the few gifts which is specifically directed toward lost persons.

Likely characteristics:

- a. Strong desire to personally share the Gospel with others.
- b. Positive results normally follow this person's efforts.
- c. Often misunderstand those who do not have this gift.

Examples:

- a. **Phillip** was called an evangelist - Samaria, Road to Gaza, etc.
- b. **Paul** - *I have become all things to all men that I might...*
- c. **Billy Graham** - Ability to keep it simple. Kept ministry rightly focused. First came onto the scene, critic said he would set the church back 200 years. His reply, ***My goal is to set it back 2,000 years. My mom and dad were saved through his ministry!***

If you have this gift, use it. But be careful not to become judgmental of others who do not have the gift. They should be evangelizing, but may not have the same natural zeal for it that you have.

2) Teaching (Rom. 12:7, 1 Cor. 12:28-29)

The word refers to one who engages in discourse with another for the purpose of instructing them.

Ability to clearly communicate and effectively apply the truth of God's word.

Two things to note about this gift.

- a. This gift is high on the list in importance for the church. 1 Cor.
- b. All believers are not teachers. James warned – accountability.

Likely characteristics:

- a. Joy in sharing information with others.
- b. Alertness to details, enjoy finding the unusual. Love information.
- c. Excitement over new information discovered.

Examples: **Priscilla and Aquila** who taught Apollos.

John MacArthur, J. Vernon McGee, Charles Stanley

3) Prophecy (Rom. 12:7, 1 Cor. 12:10, 28-29, Eph. 4:11)

To speak forth, or to speak for another.

It does not refer exclusively to foretelling the future. Simply put, in the Bible it means *to speak for God or to reveal God's message or words.*

Ability to proclaim a message from the Lord to others.

Very important gift for the church **as opposed to tongues** which was of lesser importance in the early church.

What happens when this gift is in operation in the church?

- a. Edification (1Cor 14:3) - Building Up.
- b. Exhortation (1Cor 14:3) - Encouragement.
- c. Consolation (1Cor 14:3) - Cheer up or give incentive.
- d. Confirmation (1Cor 14:22) - Sign to believers.
- e. Conviction (1Cor 14:24) – Convict of sins.

Likely characteristics:

- a. Compulsion to speak out on the issues.
- b. More emphasis on holiness than on grace.
- c. Willingness to suffer for doing what is right.
- d. Ability to speak with boldness and confidence.
- e. Tendency to see all things as right or wrong. No gray area.

Why this much time on this study? Five reasons.

- 1) God put it in His word, so it is important, helpful and needed.
If it is in the Bible it is there for a reason.
- 2) Knowing your spiritual gifts helps you serve the church.
Helps you know your role, where you are needed.
- 3) Learning about spiritual gifts challenges you to act.
It's not about learning well but living well.
- 4) Using your spiritual gifts grows your faith and makes disciples.
Deepens your discipleship and leads you to bring others with you.
- 5) Your gifts are not checked in and out at the door of the church.
In the family, job, activities, community.

I believe God is preparing HDBC now for what He will do over the next five to ten years. And I'm convinced it is going to be one of the greatest seasons in the life of this church.

**The most important key is the powerful working of God in our lives.
Surrender to His will, embracing His plan, for His glory.**

Will you join me in praying for such a powerful working our lives, for His glory?