

Three general principles re the work of the Holy Spirit:

1. He works in a great variety of ways (hard to put Him in a box!)
2. The Spirit equips us for the work that the Lord wants/requires us to do.
3. The presence and work of the Holy Spirit in the life of a person provides visible evidence that God dwells and acts in and through His people.

“Understanding what our ‘motivational’ gift is helps us understand what God’s ministry is for us”

General Observations

The word for “gift(s)” (‘charisma’) is closely related to the word for “grace” (‘charis’) in NT & is not just used of the gifts of the Spirit but of other gifts that the Lord gives us e.g. eternal life – Romans 6:23 – “For the wages of sin is death, but the **gift** of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

With regard to the Gifts of the Spirit, there are three lists of gifts in NT-

Rom 12:6-8; 1 Cor. 12:8-10; 28-30; Eph. 4:11.

- The lists are “samples not complete catalogue”
- No consistent order
- Range from spectacular/supernatural to the mundane (1 Cor. 12:28)
- They are allocated as God decides. (1 Cor. 12:11)
- Their goal is for the good of all – 1 Cor. 12:7; 1 Peter 4:10
- We are inter-dependant – hence the imagery of the human body – 1 Cor. 12:14-21,27; Romans 12:4,5

How to identify spiritual gift(s)?

- Submit ALL of life – Romans 12:1
- Sober self-assessment – Romans 12:3

Keller’s formula

- i. Ability
- ii. Affinity
- iii. Opportunity - avail of opportunity/need in church – but exercise caution on this one!

Pay attention to endorsement of other members of the body (esp. the leaders). Ask folks (who will be honest with you)!

Encourage others in the use of their gift(s)

Practical Questions

1. What have I done or been involved with so far as a Christian?
2. What have I done best?
3. What do I like to do?
4. What do I feel I ought to do when I pray?

Development of Gift

(May change according to age, stage or circumstances!)

- Accept your gift
- Use your gift!
- Be aware of “areas” of gifting
- Exercise your gift(s) with love and for the well-being of the body.

"Sign" Gifts

When we speak of the sign gifts, we are referring to gifts like speaking in tongues, interpretations of such, prophecy, visions, gifts of knowledge, healing, etc.

There is no question among believers whether or not they existed, for the Bible plainly describes them.

Where disagreement arises among believers is their purpose, as well as the question of whether we should experience them today.

4 basic views:

- i. These gifts terminated at the end of the apostolic period. They were necessary "credentials"/gave credibility to the apostles.
- ii. These gifts ceased at the completion of the canon of Scripture.
- iii. These gifts, whilst present when a church is at a primitive/embryo stage tend to "fade out" as church matures and becomes stable.
- iv. These gifts have never ceased.

Our position as a church

- The gifts of prophesy, tongues and knowledge are still available
- Tongues, if they are to be exercised in public, must be done so with interpretation. This according to Scripture is to prevent confusion.
- In public, there should only be one person speaking in tongues at a time and with interpretation.
- Tongues may be used in private for personal edification without interpretation.
- Prophecy is primarily forth telling, a specific word for a specific occasion. It can also include insights into the future.

Conclusion:

Ephesians 2:10 – "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

- a) Each of us has a unique blend of gifts and opportunities
- b) God is at work in us and through us
- c) He has work just for you
- d) Graciously He allows us and equips us to work *with* and *for* Him to His eternal glory and our eternal blessing