

Recap of Spiritual Gifts

- What are spiritual gifts – a gift of grace, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to build up and grow the church ... **Storms, p12, Beginner's Guide to Spiritual Gifts**
- Talents vs Gifts – Though God blesses people with natural talents, they function differently than spiritual gifts
 - Both should glorify God ... Talents can be used in unglorifying ways; Gifts will always glorify God
 - Talents can be done without the aid of God's intervention; Spiritual gifts must have God's empowerment
 - A natural talent does not always transfer over to being a spiritual gift – EX: teacher vs non-teacher
- When one becomes a Christian, the Holy Spirit imparts to you a spiritual gift of His determination ... However, it is the Spirit's will that you desire and seek after additional gifts that He wants to impart to you ... No Christian will ever possess every gift ... Gifts should cause us to depend on one another ... Every gift is important and needed
- Spiritual gifts are not limited to Christians leaders – pastors, elders, staff ... All Christians are qualified (**1Pet4:10**) ... Every person will use their gift differently: according to how God has wired them, and according to how they allow God to work through them ... While we should all learn to grow in using our gift and understanding our gift, we should never be in competition with others over spiritual gifts
- Spiritual gifts are to be rooted in Love – the fruit of the Spirit ... As Paul says in **Rom12:3** ... According to what you have learned of Christ and received from God, be of the right mindset about yourself ... Pride and selfishness and greed and arrogance have no place within the function of spiritual gifts ... Any gift in you has been given to you in order for you to steward wisely and to serve others – mainly, the local church ... Your gift belongs to the Holy Spirit, He alone instructs and empowers you to use His gift, according to His purpose
 - Paul's words here mimic what he wrote in **1Cor12** ... About Christians being the Body of Christ – we are united to Christ, and we are united to one another ... Just as we cannot detach ourselves from Christ, so we are not to detach ourselves from each other ... Whether we like it or not, we are attached – as a body

Romans 12:3-8

- The gifts that Paul list here include ones different than found in **1Cor12** and **Eph4:11** ... No list is exhaustive; there are most likely other gifts (EX: celibacy – **1Cor7:7**; deliverance; intercession) ... The ones listed here may sound mundane, but they are no less Spiritual and supernatural than a prophetic word, tongues, and working of miracles
- Some gifts have been left undefined for us ... Possible examples of these undefined gifts can be seen in Scripture ... However, it seems that a gift in one list could be taken as the same gift in another list ... Or at least connected

SERVING

- **Serve according to the need before you** ... Spirit empowers you to work on His behalf to meet the need of a person or a situation ... While all Christians are called to serve, not all have the spiritual gift of service ... One serves in this manner because they are compelled to do so by the Holy Spirit – a great burden wells up within to help (not from guilt, but from compassion and joy) ... Time, energy and resources are devoted to the task in order to bring resolution ... The word and position of Deacon derive from **service** ... Not all who have this gift are called deacons, but all who are called deacons should have this gift
 - **Example of:** Jesus ministering to people – all night, deep compassion
 - **Connected to:** Gifts of Mercy and Giving; possibly the same as Gift of Helping (**1Cor12:28**)
 - **Ways to Use:** Visitation, Preparing Meals, Hospitality, Ministry to Low-Income, Behind Scenes, Caregiver

TEACHING

- The ability to explain Scripture to others in such a way that they understand and are able to grow in faith ... One with this gift loves to study the Bible, and loves to help people understand and apply the Bible ... They are able to defend the truth of God's word against false teaching; able to recognize false teaching ... This gift is not reserved for pastors or elders only; nor is it reserved only for men
 - **Example of:** Pricilla and Aquilla with Apollos – [Acts 18:26](#); Philip and the Ethiopian – [Acts 8:29-35](#)
 - **Connected to:** Gifts of Exhortation, Pastoring, Prophecy, Apostle
 - **Ways to Use:** Sunday School, Growth Groups, Grace Kids & Grace Youth, Discipleship, Sunday Morning

EXHORTATION

- The ability to encourage and comfort others in living out their faith, especially during a difficult period ... The word here derives from the word **Advocate**, name for the Holy Spirit ... I think Paul has in mind a time of when the Lord impresses on you to send a message or to give a word of encouragement or comfort to a friend ... Or it may even be a person you don't know very well, but the Lord puts them on your mind or before you ... Though this gift can remain constant with someone, I also think that the Lord can bestow this gift on a person who normally does not function in this manner (this can actually be true of many of the gifts listed here and elsewhere)
 - **Example of:** Barnabas – [Acts 11:22-25](#)
 - **Connected to:** Gifts of Teaching, Pastoring, Service, Mercy, Leading, Prophetic
 - **Ways to Use:** Visitation, Caregiver, Worship Team, Welcome Team, Grace Kids and Grace Youth

GIVING

- Some have been blessed richly with finances, and God has done this in order to work through you to provide what others need ... At times, God does this with those who don't have a lot of finances, yet the burden to help others is great and they do this joyfully ... This giving is void of "strings attached" and any recognition
 - **Example of:** Macedonia churches – [2 Corinthians 8:1-5](#)
 - **Connected to:** Gifts of Service and Mercy
 - **Ways to Use:** Missions, Benevolent needs, Overall church function and needs

LEADING

- I think what Paul has in mind here is not so much leading by administration ([1Cor12:28](#)), but leading by guidance and deep concern for others ([1The5:12](#)) ... Leaders in the church should have this gift, especially pastors and elders ... But this gift is not limited to leaders ... One can lead another, in this manner, in different forms
 - **Example of:** Paul and Apostles
 - **Connected to:** Gifts of Pastoring, Exhortation, Prophetic, Service
 - **Ways to Use:** Growth Groups, Grace Kids & Grace Youth, Discipleship, Hospitality