

Spiritual Gifts

by
William D. Barrick, Th.D.
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The Importance of Spiritual Gifts

- 1 Corinthians 12:1 – “Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, **I do not want you to be ignorant.**”
- 1 Corinthians 12:3 – They are associated with the **Lordship of Christ.**
- 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 – The **Trinity is involved** in spiritual gifts.
- 1 Corinthians 12:7 – “But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one **for the profit of all.**”
- 1 Corinthians 12:18 – “But now **God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.**”

In addition, spiritual gifts are related to **edification** (1 Corinthians 14:12), **maturity** (14:20), **peace** (14:33), **spirituality** (14:37), and **order** (14:40).

The Identification of One's Spiritual Gift

- 1 Peter 4:10 – “As **each one has received a gift**, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”
- Ephesians 4:7 – “But **to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.**”

- (1) Prayerfully read and study the biblical teaching concerning spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12:1).
- (2) Identify the spiritual gifts which you do **not** have (1 Corinthians 12:17, 18, 29, 30; Romans 12:6-8).
- (3) What spiritual gift do you desire to have? (1 Corinthians 12:31; 14:1; Philippians 2:13)
- (4) Identify the needs of the local church of which you are a member/part (1 Corinthians 12:7, 12, 19-25, 31; Ephesians 4:11-16; Acts 6:1-2).
- (5) Prayerfully and enthusiastically take part in ministry opportunities for which you have natural or learned abilities as well as a desire to serve.

- (6) Over the passage of time, prayerfully evaluate the effectiveness of your participation in the ministries in which you have been involved. Include the wise counsel of the elders of your church in your self-evaluation.
- (7) Do not be concerned if you cannot identify your spiritual gift. If you are serving with a right attitude and by biblical standards, you are assured of having served in accordance with God's will. Having a spiritual gift does not limit an individual to service directly related to that gift.

Remember: Learning your gift will take time.
Using your gift will take the rest of your life.

The Scriptural Lists of Spiritual Gifts

Romans 12:6-8

Prophecy = The reception and proclamation of direct divine revelation.
 Ministry = Ministering to the physical needs of saints and the church.
 Teaching = Teaching and proclamation of the written revelation (Scripture).
 Exhortation = Encouraging and comforting the saints in their life and service.
 Giving = Giving above and beyond normal ability due to divinely enabled sacrificial giving out of a divinely given abundance.
 Leading = Gifted oversight of the affairs of the church.
 Showing mercy = Showing mercy or kindness to saints in need and hurting.

1 Corinthians 12:8-10

Word of wisdom = Divinely granted wisdom for the resolution of a problem not having written revelation to guide its solution.

Word of **knowledge** cf. 1 Corinthians 13:2, 8, 9
 = Divinely granted knowledge of oral revelation previously given to provide teaching not covered by written revelation.

Faith cf. 1 Corinthians 13:2
 = God-given faith sufficient for the occurrence of miraculous response from God.

Healing = God-given power to heal another individual miraculously without medical aid.

Miracles = Supernatural intervention in the natural laws of the created world by one's command or prayer.

Prophecy cf. 1 Corinthians 13:2, 8, 9

Discerning spirits = God-given ability to distinguish between the work of a demonic spirit and the work of the Holy Spirit.

Tongues cf. 1 Corinthians 13:1, 8, 11

= God-given ability to speak in a foreign language not previously known or learned.

Interpretation of tongues = God-given ability to interpret (without prior knowledge or experience in a particular foreign language) the pronouncements of the one exercising the gift of tongues.

1 Corinthians 12:28-30

Apostle = An office held by those who had been eyewitnesses to the resurrected Christ.

Prophet

Teacher

Miracles

Healing

Helps = God-given ability to help to accomplish a task involved in the ministry of the church or in the lives of its members.

Administration = God-given ability to administer the affairs of the local church and the ministries of the church, whether those ministries are local or on a mission field.

Tongues

Interpretation of tongues

Ephesians 4:11 — Possibly offices rather than gifts.

Apostle

Prophet

Evangelist = The God-given ability to proclaim the gospel of Christ clearly and compassionately with unusual results—including the planting of new churches.

Pastor/Teacher = The God-appointed office of the ruling/teaching elder of the local church.

Multiple Levels of Spiritual Exercise

Spiritual Gift	Teaching Romans 12:7 1 Corinthians 12:28	Giving Romans 12:8	Evangelist Ephesians 4:11
Selective Service	Teaching Acts 18:26 Titus 2:3 cf. 1 Timothy 2:12	Giving Philippians 4:15 1 Timothy 6:17-18	Evangelist 2 Timothy 4:5
Universal Responsibility	Teaching Colossians 3:16	Giving 2 Corinthians 8—9	Evangelist Ephesians 6:15