

THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

- Intro and recap

- “Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant: There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the **manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one** for the **profit of all**: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, **distributing to each one individually as He wills. (1 Cor 12:1,4–11 NKJV)**

- Prayer.

1. What are the gifts of the Spirit?

- The gifts of the Spirit are special abilities provided by the Holy Spirit to Christians for the purpose of building up the body of Christ.

2. Are the gifts of the Spirit (including the miraculous ones) for today, or did they cease with the Apostles?

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- YES!
- God is the same yesterday today and forever
- God’s purpose for the Church has not changed since the early church.
- 1 Cor 4:20: “The Kingdom of God does not consist of word, but of POWER.”
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- If only the apostles were intended to have the miraculous gifts, then Paul would not have written a letter TO THE ENTIRE CHURCH in Corinth to instruct them on how to use these gifts.

- Paul does not make a distinction between the “miraculous” gifts, and the “other” gifts.
- This kind of teaching is divisive, combative, judgmental, and has, at best, a weak Biblical underpinning.

3. For what purpose are the gifts of the Spirit given?

Gifts of the Spirit are given...

- Purpose #1: To Strengthen others in their faith.
 - “I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to **strengthen you**, that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith, both yours and mine.” **(Romans 1:11-12 ESV)**
 - The gifts of the Spirit are how God intended to provide what each member of the body needs.
- Purpose #2: For the distribution of God’s grace.
 - “As each has a received a gift, employ it for one another (lit. serve it up to one another) **as good stewards of God’s varied grace**: whoever speaks, as one who utters the oracles of God; whoever renders service, as one who renders it by the strength which God supplies; in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.” ***1 Peter 4:10-11 ESV)**
 - We receive God’s grace, and it is our responsibility to disburse this grace to others, and the vehicle by which we make these disbursements is our spiritual gifts.
- Purpose #3: For the glory of God. (1 Peter 4:11b)
 - The manifestation and utilization of the gifts of the Spirit are tools in the hands of God to demonstrate His power and authority to those who would otherwise never see or know it.

4. Who are the gifts of the Spirit for?

- For every believer. (1 Peter 4:10)

- **"As each one has received a gift... use it, therefore, to serve one another.**
- Every member has a vital purpose in the body, and God have given each one a gift to fulfill that purpose. (1 Cor 12:17-18, 27)
- The Holy Spirit gives to each one as He sees fit. (1 Cor. 12:11).
- It is the Spirit who gives the gifts as He sees fit, and it is by His power that these gifts are activated and made effective.

5. How Do I get a gift of the Spirit?

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- By the Spirit giving you one when He wants, how He wants. (1 Cor. 12:11, Rom 12:3-8)
- Any Holy Spirit ability that distinctly sets you apart from others is BECAUSE OF GRACE. (Rom. 12:6)
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- **"Beware lest you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.' You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth." (Duet. 8:17)**
- The gifts of the Spirit ARE GIFTS. Our job is to humbly receive and walk in them.
- While they are given as a gift, we should desire and ask God to give us gifts of the Spirit as He sees fit, for His glory and purpose. (1 Cor. 14:1)

6. How do I know what gifts of the Spirit I have, and does it matter?

- As you begin to serve and love those around you, the gifts of the Spirit will begin to manifest themselves, as you have need of them.
- We are often so self consumed that we rarely get outside of ourself long enough to want to bring out faith and joy in other people, and so many of us rarely, if ever, see the gifts of Spirit manifest in our lives.

7. What are some hinderances to receiving gifts of the Spirit?

- Hindrance #1: No Humility (1 Peter 5:5)
 - Humility is required in order to receive.
- Hindrance #2: No Surrender. (Gal. 2:20, Matt 16:24)
 - Many of us are not experiencing the power of God in our lives because we're simply not willing to FULLY give up control and let God do WHATEVER He wants to.
 - Jesus is not a co-pilot that we rely on when we need a little help or guidance.
 - The way to the abundant life is surrender.
 - We can't keep our lives or keep control of our lives AND follow Jesus.
 - Some people who carry their big Bibles to impress others, will never be filled with the Holy Spirit until they drop their sleek, smooth exterior of being "well taught" and earnestly desire God's humble plan for their lives. And after the desire must come a determination to go through with God on His terms. And even then, they will not be filled, owned, and controlled by the Spirit of God until, in desperation, they throw themselves into the arms of God. (A.W. Tozer, "Tragedy in the Church", pg. 37)
- Hindrance #3: "No heart of love and service" (Rom. 1:11-12, 1 Peter 4:10-11)
 - If we choose to live isolated and self consumed lives that are not looking to build up and stir up faith in others, then we have no need for the gifts of the Spirit.

8. Once I receive a gift of the Spirit, will I have it forever?

- Yes.
- Usually.

9. Once I have a gift of the Spirit, is there instructions? (AKA: "Is there a right way to use this thing?")

- By faith through grace. (1 Peter 4:11)
- Preferring one another in love. (Rom. 12:3-13)
- Decently and in order (1 Cor. 14:33,40)

- USE your gifts.
 - “Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, **let us use them**: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. **(Rom. 12:6-8)**