

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

1 Cor. 12:1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.

Definition

Abilities or qualities, given by God to the believers by the operation of the Holy Spirit.

Ability to manifest the presence and power of Holy Spirit.

Varied endowments graciously bestowed by the triune God upon individual Christians, but particularly intended to enhance the community, worship, and service of locally gathered Christians and thereby to enrich the whole Church. (ISBE).

Special gifts bestowed by the Holy Spirit upon Christians for the purpose of building up the church. (Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

"Gifts" – charisma - "a favor which one receives without any merit of one's own." .
Extraordinary powers as special gifts. (Wuest's Word Studies from the Greek New Testament)

Pneumatikos (Spiritual) + Charisma ("a gift of grace, a gift involving grace" (charis) on the part of God as the donor.

Charisma – Singular.

Charismata – Plural.

The main two manifestations of the Holy Spirit in the believer's life are

1. The fruit of the Holy Spirit (*Gal 5:22*).
2. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

In the beginning of the church age, the preaching of the Gospel was always confirmed with signs and wonders following (*Mark 16:20*). Even Jesus used the miraculous manifestations of the Holy Spirit to confirm His teaching and authority (*Hebrews 2:4*). The Lord never intended His Gospel to be spoken in word only (*Acts 4:30; 1 Corinthians 4:20*).

1 Cor. 12:7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

The Greek word that was translated "manifestation" in this verse is "PHANEROSIS," and it means "exhibition, i.e. (figuratively) expression, (by extension) a bestowment" (Strong's Concordance). The meaning of "manifestation" is "an indication of the existence, reality, or presence of something."

One of the main functions of the Holy Spirit is to demonstrate the reality of an unseen God to a lost world. All born-again and baptized-in-the-Holy-Spirit believers have some gift of the Spirit given to us. The gifts are there whether or not we realize it. It's not a matter of asking God to give us gifts but rather discovering what the gifts we already have are. They are given to us to profit others. From this it is well understood that all believers who have been baptized in the Holy Spirit (*Acts 2:4*) have the ability to demonstrate the reality of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit through some gift of the Holy Spirit if they will but believe.

Another way of receiving the gifts is mentioned in "*Romans 1:11 For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established;*"

Another way of receiving the Spiritual gifts can be, imparted or passed from one person to another. This is the whole purpose of the presbytery laying hands on an individual during ordination.

1 Tim. 4:14 Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.

Spiritual gifts help establish or strengthen an individual. As Paul said in *1 Corinthians 14:3-4*, the gifts of the Spirit operating in the church produce edification, exhortation, and comfort.

1 Cor. 12:7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

In this verse “to profit withal,” as “for the common good.” Paul was saying that these manifestations of the Holy Spirit are given to benefit, or help, others. They are not for ministering to ourselves. By using gifts to help others, we are letting God work through us.

Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit in the operation of the Gifts

All of the gifts come from the Holy Spirit (*1 Cor 12:4*).

There are different ways of administering, or managing, those gifts, which are under the direction of Jesus (*1 Cor 12:5*).

There are different ways to operate in those gifts, which are under the direction of God the Father (*1 Cor 12:6*).

The Gifts

In *1 Corinthians 12:28-29*, Paul mentioned apostles, prophets, and teachers in combination with some of the nine gifts he dealt with in *1 Corinthians 12:8-10*. This would imply that these ministry gifts are spiritual gifts also.

1 Cor 12:8-10.

*For to one is given by the Spirit the **word of wisdom**; to another the **word of knowledge** by the same Spirit; [9] To another **faith** by the same Spirit; to another the **gifts of healing** by the same Spirit; [10] To another the **working of miracles**; to another **prophecy**; to another **discerning of spirits**; to another **divers kinds of tongues**; to another **the interpretation of tongues**:*

Revelation Gifts

The word of wisdom. Wisdom involves understanding and the application of good judgment. Therefore, the word of wisdom is a supernatural imparting of God’s understanding and direction for a given individual or circumstance. This gift of the Spirit is supernatural; that is, not based on human knowledge of the person or circumstances.

Jesus operated in this gift in *Mark 1:44* and *John 5:14*.

Acts 27:21-25. [22] And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship. [23] For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, [24] Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee. [25] Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.

(1 Kings 3:16-28; Matthew 2:20; Luke 22:10-12; John 2:22-24; John 4:16-19; Acts 26:16; 1 Cor. 5).

The word of knowledge. A supernatural revelation from God of any fact or event. It is a supernatural imparting of knowledge about an individual or about circumstances that the person operating in the gift did not discern naturally.

Acts 9:11-12 And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth, [12] And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight.

(Genesis 1:1-2:25; 1 Samuel 3:7-15; 2 Kings 6:8-12; Acts 9:11-12; Matthew 16:16; John 1:1-3; Acts 5:3-4; Acts 21:11; Ephes. 3, Luke 19:5; John 4:16-18; John 1:48; Mark 14:13).

Discerning of spirits. A supernatural revelation from God of the presence or activities of spirits and their plans. *Acts 16:16-18.*

16. And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying:

Some people believe this gift is the supernatural ability to distinguish different kinds of spiritual beings (i.e., angels or demons), while others interpret “spirits” as being attitudes or emotions. Indeed the word “spirit” can be used to refer to things in the spiritual realm or to attitudes, such as “school spirit, football spirit, money spirit etc ”

(Matthew 9:4; Luke 13:16; John 2:25; Acts 13:9-10; 1 Tim. 4:1-4; 1 John 4:1-6).

The word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, and the gift of prophecy often work hand in hand. That is to say that when one of these gifts operates, the other ones will usually operate also to minister to the individual. For instance, the word of knowledge may reveal a problem, the word of wisdom may apply God’s wisdom to the situation, and the gift of prophecy will give the results of obedience. They complement each other.

Power Gifts

The gift of faith. The supernatural ability to believe God without doubt or reasoning.

1 Cor. 13:2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

All believers have faith. That’s how they were saved (*Ephesians 2:8*). They actually have the same faith as Jesus (*Romans 12:3*), but their souls have to be matured through the renewing of the mind to operate in that faith. That’s the reason the Scriptures speak of great faith (*Matthew 8:10*) and little faith (*Matthew 8:26*). We can use different amounts of faith.

However, the faith that is mentioned here as a gift of the Holy Spirit is different from the faith received at salvation. This gift of the Spirit is a supernatural imparting of faith that doesn’t come through the normal process of renewing the mind (*Romans 12:2*). It is a gift for the purpose of helping those who are struggling in faith to believe.

Many things that we need come directly “according to our faith” (*Matthew 9:29*). If our faith is weak, we need to strengthen it and/or seek out a person with the gift of faith to help us.

(Rom 4:17; James 1:5-8; Matthew 17:20; 21:22; Mark 9:23; 11:22-24; Heb 11:6; 12:1-3).

Gifts of healing. Supernatural ability to heal sickness without human aid or medication

Mark 16:18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

This says “gifts” (plural) of healing.

The gifts of healing are supernatural powers released through an individual for the purpose of bringing healing to others

All believers can lay hands on the sick and see them recover (*Mark 16:17-18 and John 14:12*), but there are some people who are called to a ministry of healing the sick

These people are endued with the gifts of healing, and this characterizes their ministry.

Sometimes it’s hard to tell the difference between a miracle and a healing. It appears that a healing is when a demon or sickness is removed, and the body naturally heals over a period of time. A miracle is when something happens supernaturally, not naturally, and is usually instantaneous. An example of a miracle would be the healing of the leper (*Matthew 8:3*). An example of a healing could be when Jesus rebuked the fever in Peter’s mother-in-law and she just recovered. Although, the speed with which she recovered could have been miraculous so that this was the combination of a miracle and a healing (*Matthew 8:15*).

Working of miracles. Supernatural intervention that produces miracles contrary to natural laws.

Hebrews 2:3-4 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; [4] God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

A miracle is a supernatural intervention of God's power over natural law. Healings occur within the boundaries of natural law, while miracles are not limited to natural law. A person with a high fever who receives prayer and then begins to recover is experiencing a healing. The Lord intervened, but in natural ways. The virus, infection, or whatever was rebuked (Luke 4:39), and then the natural healing process that the Lord built into all of us takes over. But when something totally supernatural happens, that's a miracle. When Jesus reattached the servant's ear so that it was instantly whole after Peter had cut it off (*Luke 22:51*), that was a miracle. It was a healing too, but it was a miraculous healing. Feeding the 5,000 (*Matthew 14:19-20*), walking on the water (*Matthew 14:25*), translating a ship and all aboard to the other side of the sea (*John 6:21*) all those are miracles. Miracles are usually instantaneous, whereas healings are sometimes gradual. (*1 Cor. 15:10,27-31; Psalm 107; Exodus 7:10-14:21; 2 Kings 4:1-44; 2 Kings 6:1-7; Matthew 17:20; Mark 9:23; Mark 11:22-24; John 14:12*).

Inspirational or Vocal Gifts

Prophecy. A supernatural utterance, inspired by God, spoken in a known language by the speaker.

1 Cor. 14:3 But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.

This gift of prophecy is different from the ministry gift of a prophet (*Ephesians 4:11*). According to 1 Corinthians 14:3, this gift of prophecy is for edification, exhortation, and comfort

This simple gift of prophecy that operates in the church assembly is limited to general edification, exhortation, and comfort of the body (*1 Corinthians 14:3*). If a person begins to give an individual prophecy of personal direction to someone, that falls into the ministry of a prophet and is different from this simple gift of prophecy.

This simple gift of prophecy that Paul was describing here will never be a lengthy teaching, a rebuke, or a warning. That's the ministry of a prophet. This will just be words of encouragement from the Lord along the lines of "Children, I love you. I've received your praise. I'm present to minister to you," etc.

Different kinds of tongues A supernatural utterance, inspired by God, in an unknown language (i.e., unknown to the person speaking). *Acts 2:4-11*.

There are different kinds of speaking in tongues (*Mark 16:17*). This gift of speaking in tongues is a ministry gift that operates in church and differs from the personal speaking in tongues that every believer who has been baptized in the Holy Spirit can do (*Mark 16:17*). Only some believers are given this gift of tongues that operates in public (*1 Corinthians 12:30*) and equals prophecy when interpreted (*1 Corinthians 14:5*).

The interpretation of tongues. A supernatural utterance, inspired by God, interpreting an unknown tongue. See *1 Cor. 14:13-14*.

1 Cor. 14:13-14 Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret. [14] For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.

The gift of interpreting the gift of tongues is not a translation but an interpretation; it just conveys the thought of what was said into the known language. Therefore, the interpretation may be longer or shorter than the message in tongues and differ in style, yet be the proper interpretation. When the gift of tongues and the gift of interpretation of tongues operate together, that is equal to prophecy (*1 Corinthians 14:5*).

The foundational or Motivational Gifts

Romans 12:6-8

*Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether **prophecy**, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; [7] Or **ministry**, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on **teaching**; [8] Or he that exhorteth, on **exhortation**: he that **giveth**, let him do it with simplicity; he that **ruleth**, with diligence; he that **sheweth mercy**, with cheerfulness.*

All believers can operate in the gifts listed here, but that doesn't mean that is their ministry. For instance, they can and should be able to teach others, but that doesn't make them teachers. Paul said "ye may all prophesy one by one" (*1 Corinthians 14:31*), but he also made it clear that not all are called to be prophets (*1 Corinthians 12:29*). It is definite that believers should all show mercy and be givers, **but some people are given supernatural gifts in these areas. Paul was describing that here.**

Prophecy A supernatural utterance, inspired by God, spoken in a known language by the speaker.

The Greek word that was translated "prophecy" here is "PROPHETEIA," and it "signifies the speaking forth of the mind and counsel of God" (Vine's Expository Dictionary). This originally applied to Old Testament prophets who predicted future events, but it came to be applied to any messengers who were inspired by God as they spoke. This would apply to preachers today if they are speaking under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. This verse is saying essentially the same thing that Peter said in *1 Peter 4:11*. If we are going to prophesy, let's do it according to the ability that God gave us—the measure of faith (*Romans 12:3*).

Ministry Serving others, practical service. See 2 Tim. 4:11.

2 Tim. 4:11 Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.

This is referring to those who have been given a ministry of serving others, as Paul described the house of Stephanas (*1 Corinthians 16:15*).

Teaching To explain, expound, to impart instruction.

Acts 13:1 Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

The basic difference between a teacher and a preacher is that a preacher proclaims and a teacher explains.

Exhortation. To urge, advise, encourage, beseech, admonish, comfort, or warn.

Acts 13:15 And after the reading of the law and the prophets the rulers of the synagogue sent unto them, saying, Ye men and brethren, if ye have any word of exhortation for the people, say on. (2 Tim 4:2).

Giving Sharing generously gifts offered to God and others.

Proverbs 22:9 He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed; for he giveth of his bread to the poor.

Paul was saying that those who have a ministry of giving should be generous in their giving.

Ruling Leading or leadership. "administration".

Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

Mercy Compassion shown to an offender or victim.

Matthew 5:7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Gift Ministries

*Ephes. 4:11-13 And he gave some, **apostles**; and some, **prophets**; and some, **evangelists**; and some, **pastors and teachers**; [12] For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: [13] Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:*

The gifts Jesus gave to man were the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. God gifted individuals with these callings and then gave these people to the body of Christ as gifts.

Apostles Greek: apostolos a delegate, one sent with full power of attorney to act in the place of another, the sender remaining behind to back up the one sent. In the case of Christians it means God sends them to do what He, Himself would do if He went.

Ex; The 12 Apostles (*Math 10*), Andronicus, Junia (*Romans 16:7*), Silas (*1 Thes. 2:6*), Paul (*Galatians 1:1*)

Prophets were those who spoke for God (*Hebrews 1:1; Acts 3:21*). They were primarily preachers of righteousness (*Acts 15:32; 1 Cor. 14:3*), but sometimes foretold the future (*Acts 11:28; Acts 21:10; Luke 24:44*). Prophecy was one of the gifts of the Spirit (*1 Cor. 12:4-11,28*) and those who had and exercised this gift were prophets (*Ephes. 4:11; Acts 11:27; Acts 13:1*). Directions for the exercise of this gift are found in *1 Cor. 14*.

Evangelist. An evangelist is someone who has a supernatural gift to bring people to the Lord. All believers should share their faith with others, drawing on the power of the Holy Spirit. But an evangelist ministers under a special anointing and does this as a vocation.

Pastors and teachers. The word “pastor” was not commonly used in the first-century church. It is probable that the words “bishop” (used four times [*1 Timothy 3:1-2, Titus 1:7, and 1 Peter 2:25*]) and “bishops” (used once [*Philippians 1:1*]) were the common way of referring to the overseer of the local church. Therefore, the qualifications of a bishop listed in *1 Timothy 3* would be the qualifications of what we would call a pastor.

The use of the word “some” and the punctuation in this verse are interesting. After the first three gifts listed in this verse, there is a semicolon. However, between the words “pastors” and “teachers,” there is no semicolon. The word “some” precedes apostles, prophets, evangelists, and pastors. But “teachers” seems to be grouped with “pastors.” This means that “pastor and teacher” is one gift.

Working of the Spiritual Gifts in Acts

1. Tongues (*Acts 2:4; Acts 10:44-48; Acts 19:1-7*)
2. Healings (*Acts 2:43; Acts 3:6; Acts 5:12-16*)
3. Miracles (*Acts 2:43; Acts 4:22; Acts 5:12-16; Acts 6:8*)
4. Prophecy (*Acts 2:17-21; Acts 3:19-21; Acts 13:1*)
5. Knowledge (*Acts 2:15-40; Acts 5:3-11; Acts 8:19-25*)
6. Wisdom (*Acts 3:12-26; Acts 4:5-22; Acts 6:10*)
7. Faith (*Acts 2:43; Acts 3:6,16; Acts 5:12-16*)
8. Discernment (*Acts 2:15; Acts 3:4-6; Acts 5:3-11*)

Facts and questions about the gifts

1. By whom imparted? The Holy Spirit (*1 Cor. 12:4,8-11*)
2. Who operates them? God (*1 Cor. 12:4-6,11*)

3. Purpose: to confirm the Word of God (*Mark 16:17-20; John 14:12; Acts 1:1-8; Romans 12:3-8; 15:18-19,29; 1 Cor. 1:7; 1 Cor. 12:11,28-31; 14:1-40; Hebrews 2:3-4*)
4. Who may have them? Every believer (*1 Cor. 12:8-11; 1:7; Romans 1:11; 12:3-8; John 7:37-39; 14:12; Mark 16:17-20*)
5. Can one have all of them? Yes (*Matthew 17:20; 21:22; Mark 9:23; 11:22-24; John 14:12; John 15:7,16; Ephes. 3:19; James 1:5-8*)
6. Has one ever received all of them? Yes (*John 3:34; Romans 15:29; Acts 5:12; 14:9*)
7. Were they manifest in Old Testament days? Yes (*Acts 1:5; 2:4. 1 Kings 3:12; 1 Kings 17:1-2 Kings 13:25; Acts 3:21; Hebrews 11*)
8. Can gifts be misused? Yes (*Eccles. 2:9; Numbers 20:7-13 with Deut. 32:48-52; 1 Cor. 13:1-3; 1 Cor. 14:1-40*)
9. Can gifts be exercised in a backslidden condition? Yes (*Eccles. 2:9; 1 Cor. 13:1-3*)
10. Should one be afraid of getting an evil spirit manifestation? No true child of God should (*Luke 11:11-13*)
11. Are gifts permanent or temporary? Permanent if received as a personal gift (*Romans 11:29*)
12. Are gifts exercised at will? Yes (*1 Cor. 14:15,23-32; 1 Tim. 4:14; 2 Tim. 1:6*)
13. Can gifts be neglected in use? Yes (*1 Tim. 4:14; 2 Tim. 1:6*)
14. When should gifts be used? When needed (*1 Cor. 12:7; 14:3-6,12,17,26; Romans 12:3-8*)
15. Where should gifts be used? Where needed (*1 Cor. 12:7,12-31; 14:1-40*)
16. How can they be received? By faith and prayer (*1 Cor. 12:31; 14:1; Matthew 7:7-11*)
17. Do we need gifts today? Yes, for the same reason others of old needed them (*Mark 16:15-20; John 10:10; Acts 1:8; Acts 10:38; Romans 1:11; 1 Cor. 1:7; 12:1-31*)
18. Can we choose which gifts we need today? Yes (*1 Cor. 12:31; 14:1,12*)
19. How can we know when we have received them? When the Spirit operates them through us to accomplish their intended purpose (*1 Cor. 12:4-11,28-31; 14:1-40*)
20. Are gifts to continue throughout this age? Yes (*Matthew 3:11; 28:20; Mark 9:23;11:22-24; Mark 16:15-20; John 7:37-39; 14:12-17,26; 15:26; 16:13-15; Acts 1:4-8; 2:38-39; 5:32; 1 Cor. 1:7; etc.*)

1 Cor. 12:31 But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.

1 Cor. 12:31 But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.
 The definition of “covet” is “1. To desire. 2. To wish for longingly (American Heritage Dictionary). There is no mistaking that Paul was instructing these Corinthians to get all the spiritual gifts they could. This seems somewhat opposed to the Spirit giving to every person as He chooses (*1 Corinthians 12:11*), but of course, there is no contradiction. The Holy Spirit chooses to give His gifts to those who are hungry for them (*Matthew 5:6*).

Amen. Be blessed.

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If you need any clarifications, if you have any doubts kindly contact me at deeveekumar@yahoo.com Ph: 968 25572195, 99663557.

Resources; Strong's Concordance, The Bible Exposition commentary - New Testament, Dakes bible commentary, Andrew Wommack Bible commentary, Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, Don krow's Discipleship Evangelism Lessons, Wuest's word studies from the Greek New Testament. International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary. All Bible quotes are from King James Version.
