



Lesson10 – Spiritual Gifts

Key Verse: 1 Corinthians 12:7

“But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”

Overview

Every believer, at the moment of their salvation, is given a spiritual gift. God gives these gifts to believers so that they might use them to minister within the church. The English term “spiritual gift” comes from two Greek words, *charismata* and *pneumatika*. The root of *charismata* is *charis*, which means “grace” and speaks of something undeserved or unearned, such as a gift. The second word, *pneumatika*, means “spirituals,” or things given by the Spirit of God. All spiritual gifts are given by God to the believer.

The Nature of Spiritual Gifts

1. Who is the source of spiritual giftedness?
 - 1 Corinthians 12:11: _____
 - 1 Corinthians 12:28: _____
2. 1 Peter 4:10. Who possesses spiritual giftedness? _____
3. What is the purpose of spiritual gifts?
 - 1 Corinthians 12:4–7: _____
 - 1 Corinthians 14:12: _____
 - 1 Peter 4:10–11: _____

The Provision of Spiritual Gifts

1. Romans 12:6–8. List the spiritual gifts given in these verses.

2. 1 Corinthians 12:8–10. List the spiritual gifts given in these verses.

3. 1 Corinthians 12:28b (second half of verse)

Understanding the Temporary Gifts

The Holy Spirit gave temporary gifts to confirm the testimony of the apostles and prophets. These gifts were prevalent in the early church but ceased to be evident as the church became established.

1. **Miracles** – This gift was the ability to do “wonders” and “signs.” Christ performed many miracles, as recorded in Scripture. Paul used this gift to affirm his apostleship, as described in 2 Corinthians 12:12.
2. **Healing** – Peter has this gift (Acts 3:6–8; 5:15–16), which affirmed his message and helped to establish the foundation for the church.
3. **Tongues and interpretation of tongues** – This gift is manifested by the speaking of a language unknown to the speaker (Acts 2:1–11). This gift had to be accompanied by the gift of interpretation (1 Corinthians 14:27–28).

Understanding the Permanent Gifts

The Holy spirit gave gifts for the building up of the church. These were prevalent in the early church and still are in the church today.

1. **Prophecy** – To prophecy is to preach or to tell forth or declare the Scripture. Prophecy does not necessarily mean to foretell the future.
2. **Teaching** – This gift is the ability to teach the Word of God and help the hearer to understand the Scriptures as the Author intended.
3. **Faith** – This gift is a consistent, enabling faith that truly believes God in the face of overwhelming obstacles and human impossibilities, and for great things. John MacArthur calls this the “gift of prayer” because the gift is primarily expressed toward God through prayer.
4. **Wisdom** – This is the ability to apply wisdom, gained from spiritual insight, to believers; knowing what is right and what is wrong, applied knowledge.
5. **Knowledge** – This is an understanding of the facts of Scripture. From the human perspective, it is scholarship or the ability to know the truths of Scripture both broadly and deeply.
6. **Discernment** – Discernment is the ability to tell which things are from the Spirit and which are not, distinguishing truth from error. This gift serves as protection for the church.
7. **Mercy** – This is the ability to show deep compassion to those who have spiritual, physical, or emotional needs.

8. **Exhortation** – Exhortation is the ability to encourage and motivate. A person with this gift can come alongside another to comfort him with love, to encourage him to a deeper spiritual commitment and growth, or to exhort him to action. This is the gift that qualifies people to exercise a counseling ministry in the body.
9. **Giving** – This gift is a direct reference to the material ministry of giving food, clothes, money, houses, etc. in response to the needs of the church.
10. **Administration/Leadership** – This gift is the ability to oversee the flock. This gift should be exhibited by pastors and elders, as well as leaders of missionary societies, youth ministries, evangelistic associations, etc.
11. **Helps** – This is the ability to aid in a time of need or bear one another’s burdens as the situation arises.
12. **Service** – The gift of service is working for the body of Christ in area of physical ministry, such as serving food or performing maintenance.

The Exercise of Spiritual Gifts

1. 1 Corinthians 13:1–3. How can your gifts be abused and without benefit? _____

2. 1 Corinthians 12:25. What should our attitude be in the use of spiritual giftedness? _____

3. Ephesians 4:14–16. What causes the growth of the body of Christ? _____

Application

Each member of the body is commanded to minister in many of the gifted areas, whether he possesses that particular gift or not. For example, all Christians are to function in the following areas:

- Faith – 2 Corinthians 5:7
- Wisdom – James 1:5
- Knowledge – 2 Timothy 2:15
- Exhortation – Hebrews 10:25
- Giving – 2 Corinthians 9:7
- Care for one another (helps) – 1 Corinthians 12:25

How do you know what your spiritual gift is?

The Bible does not explicitly explain how to determine one's spiritual giftedness. However, you can begin by being obedient in the areas mentioned above. Look for open doors and pray for opportunities to serve. Seek the counsel of other believers; they may be more aware of your gifts than you are.

Another way to discover these is to ask the question, "In what ways do I desire to serve the church?"

In what areas would you be willing to serve? Write them down and pray about them.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____