

Gifts For The Church, part 1

Spiritual Gifts: Definition

A spiritual gift is a Spirit-empowered function entrusted to believers as stewards for serving the body of Christ.

Rom 12, 1 Cor 12, Eph 4 and 1 Pet 4

“We teach that there were two kinds of gifts given the early church: miraculous gifts of divine revelation and healing, given temporarily in the apostolic era for the purpose of confirming the authenticity of the Apostles’ message...and ministering gifts, given to equip believers for edifying one another.”

GBC Doctrinal Statement

Spiritual Gifts

Temporary

- Foundational gifts
- Revelatory gifts
- Sign gifts

Ongoing

- Equipping gifts
- Service gifts

Temporary: Foundational Gifts

- **Apostle** (1 Cor 12:28; Eph 4:11)
- **Prophet** (1 Cor 12:10; 28; Rom 12:6; Eph 4:11)

Temporary: Revelatory Gifts

- **Prophecy**
- **Distinguishing of spirits (1 Cor 12:10)**
- **Kinds of tongues (1 Cor 12:10; 28)**
- **Interpretation of tongues (1 Cor 12:10)**
- **Word of wisdom (1 Cor 12:8)**
- **Word of knowledge (1 Cor 12:8)**

Temporary: Sign Gifts

- **Prophecy**
- **Distinguishing of spirits (1 Cor 12:10)**
- **Kinds of tongues (1 Cor 12:10; 28)**
- **Interpretation of tongues (1 Cor 12:10)**
- **Gifts of healing (1 Cor 12:9; 28)**
- **Effecting of miracles (1 Cor 12:10; 28)**
- **Faith (1 Cor 12:9)**

Ongoing: Equipping Gifts

- **Evangelism** (Eph 4:11)
- **Pastor / Shepherding** (Eph 4:11)
- **Teaching** (1 Cor 12:28; Eph 4:11; Rom 12:7)

Ongoing: Serving Gifts

- **Helps/Serving (1 Cor 12:28; Rom 12:7; 1 Pet 4:11)**
- **Administration / Leading (1 Cor 12:28; Rom 12:8)**
- **Exhortation / Encouragement (Rom 12:8)**
- **Giving (Rom 12:8)**
- **Mercy (Rom 12:8)**
- **Hospitality? (1 Pet 4:9; Rom 12:13)**

Purposes: Temporary Gifts

Apostles and prophets

- Laid the church's foundation (planting, leaders, government, roles, establish worship)
- Wrote or authorized NT Scriptures
- (Eph 2:20; 2 Pet 1:21)

Purposes: Temporary Gifts

Sign Gifts

- Authenticated God's spokesmen until we had the NT Scriptures (Jesus, apostles, prophets)
- Authenticated preaching and teaching (1 Cor 14:22)

Purposes: Temporary Gifts

Revelatory Gifts

- Provided divine wisdom and guidance to local churches until the NT Scriptures were completed (1 Pet 4:11)

Equipping Gifts

- To **equip believers** to do the work of the ministry (Eph 4:11-12)

Purposes:
Ongoing
Gifts

Serving Gifts

- To build up the church toward:
 - ✓ **Unity** (Eph 4:1-16; 1 Cor 12:4-6; 12:12-13; 12:25, 27)
 - ✓ **Maturity** (1 Cor 14:12, 26; Eph 4:13-16)
 - ✓ **Christ-likeness** (Eph 4:13-16)

Purposes:
Ongoing
Gifts

Serving Gifts

- To **care for the needs** of members (1 Cor 12:25-26)
- To **glorify God** (1 Pet 4:11)

Exercise your gifts “so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever” (1 Pet 4:11).

Purposes:
Ongoing
Gifts

- **Source is the Trinity** (1 Cor 12; Rom 12:3; Eph 4:7). They are given sovereignly (1 Cor 12:11; 12:28ff).
- **Power is the Holy Spirit**
 - Effects are designed and produced by God (1 Cor 12:6; 1 Cor 12:11).
 - A “*manifestation of the Spirit*” (1 Cor 12:7).
 - The Holy Spirit reveals that He is working through a believer.
 - He energizes the gifts and accomplishes His will through it.

**Spiritual gifts originate from
God and operate by His power**

- Spiritual gifts are given to each believer (1 Cor 12:7; Eph 4:7; Rom 12:3; 1 Pet 4:10)
- No gift is given to all believers (1 Cor 12:29-30; Rom 12:4). Diversity of gifts is God's plan (1 Cor 12:14-30; Eph 4:7-16; Rom 12:6)
- Gifts are confirmed by the church while in use (1 Cor 12:7)
- Spiritual gifts are not natural talents or personality types
- We receive a package of one or more gifts, unique to each person to meet the needs of their local church (Eph 4:7; 1 Pet 4:10)

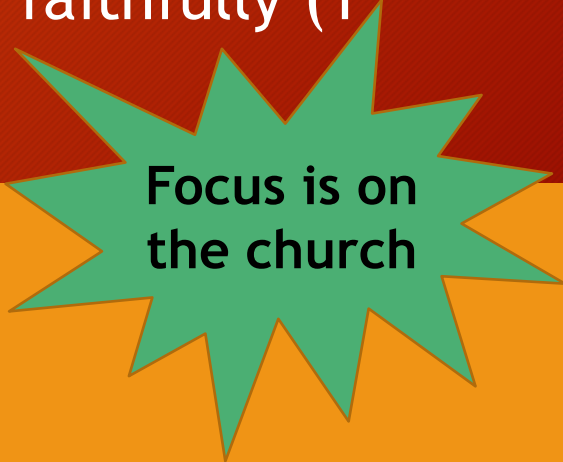
**Spiritual gifts are given to
believers**

“Each believer’s spiritual giftedness is unique, as if each were a spiritual snowflake or fingerprint. It is as if God dips His paint brush into different colors, or categories of gifts, on His spiritual palette and paints each Christian a unique blend of colors.”

**Each
believer’s
giftedness
is uniquely
beautiful**

- Given for the church's good (1 Cor 12:7; 1 Cor 12:25; 12:26; Rom 12:4; 1 Pet 4:10)
- Spiritual gifts are designed primarily for the building up of a local church
- Gifts operate under a local church's authority
- You, member of GBC, have been given by God as a gift to this church (the emphasis of Eph 4:11-12)
- Gifts are a stewardship from God to be used responsibly and faithfully (1 Pet 4:10)

Gifted believers are given to their church to meet its needs



Focus is on the church