

## **SPIRITUAL GIFTS MENTIONED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT**

### **From Romans 12:**

1. Prophecy (inspired utterance of a word from God).
2. Service.
3. Teaching
4. Exhortation (encouraging, stimulating faith).
5. Generosity (quickness to give or share).
6. Leadership.
7. Mercy (compassion, sympathy, kindness).

### **From 1 Corinthians 12 (in addition to the above):**

8. Wisdom (particularly insight or understanding).
9. Knowledge (ability to learn or study)
10. Faith (to do great or unusual things).
11. Healing.
12. Miracles.
13. Discerning of spirits (insight to know when God is speaking or at work, and when not).
14. Tongues (utterance in language unlearned)
15. Interpretation of tongues.
16. Apostles.
17. Helpers.
18. Administration (practical organising/doing).

### **From Ephesians 4 (in addition to the above):**

19. Evangelist.
20. Pastor (caring for God's people).

### **From other New Testament passages:**

21. Celibacy (1 Cor.7:7)
22. Voluntary poverty (1 Cor.13:3)
23. Martyrdom (1 Cor.13:3)
24. Hospitality (1 Peter 4:9-11)
25. Missionary (Eph.3:1-9)

The New Testament lists are not meant to be complete lists. God gives spiritual gifts as He wills for the fulfilment of His purpose and the building up and ministry of His Church. Many other gifts will be added as He directs.

# Spiritual Gifts



## SPIRITUAL GIFTS

If we believe that God has gathered us together to be the Body of Christ, then we must also believe that His holy Spirit has given (or will give) us the people and the gifts for all that he wants done.

Spiritual gifts are for the building up of the Body of Christ in love and maturity and for the active service and witness that Jesus wants to do through His Body.

Howard Snyder says in his book *New Wineskins*, *“The urgent need today is that spiritual gifts be seen and understood in the context of the nature of the Church. When spiritual gifts are misunderstood - through being individualised, denied, divorced from community or otherwise distorted - it is the Church that suffers. The Church truly becomes the Church only when the Biblical meaning of spiritual gifts is recovered.”*

### WHAT IS A SPIRITUAL GIFT?

An ability or talent which is being used significantly or perceptibly by the Holy Spirit to do the will and work of Jesus in and through his Body, the fellowship of believers.

### WHO HAS SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

Every believer has a gift or gifts (1 Cor.12:7,11&27). If we read on past our passage St Paul writes, *“You are the body of Christ and each of you is a member of it.”* Jesus lives in his body - in living fellowship with his people and makes himself known, and does his works, through his Body. Every believer has a share in the life and work of the Body according to the gift or gifts given to him or her by God.

### HOW DO SPIRITUAL GIFTS DIFFER FROM NATURAL TALENTS?

Both natural talents and spiritual gifts are gifts from God and often overlap. For example, a person may have been given a natural talent for singing and people may praise them for their voice. When the Holy Spirit uses that voice for his service and people begin to praise God because of it, then the natural talent has become a spiritual gift. However, the Spirit also gives spiritual gifts not related to natural talents.

### ARE THEY THE SAME AS THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT?

No. Fruits of the Spirit are seen in every Christian (Gal.5:22-23) as they grow and develop but no Christian has all the spiritual gifts. (<sup>22</sup> *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,* <sup>23</sup> *gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.* <sup>25</sup> *Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.* <sup>26</sup> *Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.*) The Spirit gives to each as he wills (1 Cor. 12:11).

### CAN WE HAVE MORE THAN ONE GIFT?

Yes. Philip had, for instance (Acts 6 and 8). A combination of gifts in one believer can give a clear direction to the service God wants carried out.

### DO WE ALWAYS KEEP THE SAME SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

Sometimes, sometimes not. They differ with the situations and needs as God wills.

### DO GIFTS INDICATE SPIRITUAL MATURITY?

No. Not at all. God gives gifts according to the needs of his church, they are not a reward for being a Christian for a long time.

### DO GIFTS AFFECT THE CHURCH STRUCTURE?

Yes. Structures must alter and be built around life and gifts, not the other way around. We must avoid pushing people into structural vacancies before discovering their gifts.

### WHAT ABUSES ARE WE TO AVOID?

Using gifts for personal glory. Not accepting and affirming within the family those whose gifts are very different from ours. Using gifts privately and not as part of the whole Body of Christ, his church. ABOVE ALL, LACK OF LOVE (1 Cor. 13).

### DOES IT MATTER?

Paul says it does (1 Cor. 12:1). We are not possessors, but stewards of our gifts (1 Peter 4:11) and one day we will be called to give an account of our use of them (Matt. 25:14-30). We have all been given gifts, gifts that build up the church and ourselves, gifts given to us by God through the Holy Spirit for the common good.

When each one of us recognises the gift or gifts God has granted to us and uses that gift to build up his church, our churches will shine with the joy of God's presence; you will shine with the joy of God's presence.