



The Spirit And His Gifts: A Summary

Spiritual Gift

“A God-given, and therefore gracious, Spirit-empowered capacity or ability to serve the body of Christ. It is a divinely and spiritually energized potential to minister to the body of Christ.”

Gifts in Romans 12:6-8

- Prophecy
- Service
- Teaching
- Exhortation
- Generosity
- Leading
- Mercy

Gifts in 1 Corinthians 12:8-11

- Utterance/Word of Wisdom
- Utterance/Word of Knowledge
- Faith
- Healings
- Working of Miracles
- Prophecy
- Ability to Distinguish between Spirits
- Tongues
- Interpretation of Tongues

Gifts in 1 Corinthians 12:28

- Apostles
- Prophets
- Teachers
- Miracles
- Healings
- Helping
- Administrating
- Tongues

Gifts in Ephesians 4:11

- Apostles
- Prophets
- Evangelists
- Shepherd-Teachers

Revelatory gifts

- The Holy Spirit *reveals* something which could not have been known otherwise; exercised by speaking

Gifts of Knowledge & Wisdom

- Communicating a supernatural revelation regarding the 'what' of a person's life (KNOWLEDGE) and/or the 'what to do' for a person's life (WISDOM).

Gift of Prophecy

- Communicating a (usually spontaneous) supernatural revelation to someone for a variety of purposes (encourage, instruct, correct, exhort, etc.)

The gift of *distinguishing between spirits*

- The Spirit-empowered ability to recognize the work of the Holy Spirit, verses the work of another (demonic) spirit, or even the work of the human spirit

Characteristics of the Gift of Tongues

- Manifests as different kinds/‘species’: human, angelic(?), divine
 - Paul’s context (for the local church): supernaturally inspired divine language meant for praise and thanksgiving and worship
- Benefits the church corporately only if there is an interpretation
 - ...otherwise, benefit is retained individually. Speaker urged to remain quiet.

Purpose/Outcome of the Gift of Tongues

- Prayer/communication with God that He understands, and not necessarily the speaker. (1 Cor. 14:2,14-15)
- A *praise language*, enabling the speaker to engage in unique worship of God (1 Cor. 14:15)
- An expression of *thanksgiving* to God (1 Cor. 14:17)

Characteristics of the Gift of Interpretation of Tongues

- Can be possessed by anyone as the Spirit wills
- Not the same as interpreting dreams/visions
- Not simply translating of a foreign (known) language
- Spirit-empowered ability to understand and communicate an unintelligible public utterance of tongues, for the benefit of the church

Characteristics of the Gift of Interpretation of Tongues

- More than 1 interpreter/interpretation possible
- Subject to judgment (like prophecy)
- God-focused: prayer, praise, gratitude (?)

Characteristics of the Gift of Faith

- Supernaturally-induced assurance/confidence that God will act
- Not being forced to believe the unbelievable
- Not the overturning of doubt
- (Often) associated with answered prayer

Characteristics of the Gifts of Healings

- Believer(s) used by God through whom He supernaturally heals those who suffer
- Related to differing illness/disease, OR each occurrence
- Not a resident gift
- In the Bible, often related to faith

Characteristics of the Gift of Miracles

- Related to faith
- “workings of powers” (1 Cor. 12:10)
 - All gifts *qualify*
 - Implies potential for *limitless* unlisted gifts
- Not a resident gift

'Universal' understanding of miracles

God's direct, supernatural intervention in a circumstance which produces an outcome that defies 'natural' explanation.

Ultimately draws attention to the Lord (awe, glory, wonder, gratitude, belief, etc.)

Characteristics of the Gift of Service

- Any act done in genuine love, for the edification of a believer and/or the body
- Seeing needs, crises, or tasks in the body of Christ and feeling an impulse to act
- Meeting needs with the intention of freeing others

Characteristics of the Gift of Teaching

- The ability to make clear to a diverse group of hearers what God's Word means.
- Being able to study and learn the Scriptures in order to bring understanding and depth to others.
- Explaining the Bible in a way that leads others to desire to learn it further, and to obey it.

Characteristics of the Gift of Exhortation

- Coming alongside in order to urge and encourage
- Passionately, lovingly calling others to live out God's truth
- The ability to minister words of comfort, consolation, and counsel

Characteristics of the Gift of Generosity

- Sharing/giving of one's resources (treasures, time, talent) generously, without condition
- Providing for others, often sacrificially (experiencing abundant joy, 2. Cor. 8:1-5)

Characteristics of the Gift of Leadership

- Attending-to/directing others diligently, sacrificially, for their well being
- Recognizes the ultimate Leader: Jesus, subjecting himself/herself to Him (Rom. 1:1)
- Infers personal care and nourishing of those he/she leads

Characteristics of the Gift of Mercy

- Empathy and compassion for those who suffer, translated into cheerfully done deeds which reflect Christ's love and alleviate suffering
- Senses the emotional, physical, and/or spiritual needs of others
- Never mechanical or obligatory, but always eager to offer support

Characteristics of the Gift of Evangelist

- A heart/burden for the unsaved
- Especially effective ('successful') at sharing the Gospel
- Engaging, personable, thoughtful, loving
- Provoke believers to share the Gospel

Characteristics of the Gift of Shepherd-Teacher

- A role/gift conferred upon men
- Acknowledges Jesus as the Great Shepherd
- One who leads, guides, protects, and teaches the flock of God with authority
- Compels God's people to exercise their gifts and accomplish all aspects of ministry, unified in love

Characteristics of the Office of Apostleship

- Men personally selected by Jesus
- Personal witnesses of Jesus' ministry
- Given authority to lead the church and to write binding doctrine
- Considered the foundation of the church, upon which we continue to build

Characteristics of the Gift of Apostleship

- An eager messenger of the Gospel/biblical truth
- Senses 'static Christianity' or 'lack of desire' for Jesus and pursues a remedy
- Entrepreneurial; starts something new, builds capable leaders, then moves on
- Oftentimes recognized by leadership, then sent

Characteristics of the Gift of Apostleship

- Especially able to embrace trials and walk by faith
- Is especially sensitive to sanctified living: desirous of true 'fruit production'

Practicing the Gifts

- **Examine your heart:** do you desire more of God's power, and a desire to serve Him?
- **Pray:** continually ask the Spirit to reveal, and grant, spiritual gift. Seek His empowerment
- **Step out in faith:** Seize opportunities to serve, to exercise gifts, especially within the church
- **Study and grow:** Observe outcomes; continue to learn and practice
- **Remember:** gifts always point to Christ

Share your testimony

Any *past* or *present* testimonies of God using you, manifesting His gifts to you, and seeing blessed outcomes? Any special experiences of *growth* in your spiritual giftedness? Were you the recipient of a blessing because of another Christian's gift?

Tell us! Send your story to: gifts@calvaryprescott.com