

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 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 might be added.

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.”

WHO HAS SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

Every believer has a gift or gifts (1 Cor.12:7,11&27). Jesus lives in his body - in living fellowship of 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.

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.

HOW DOES IT DIFFER FROM A NATURAL TALENT?

Both natural talents and spiritual gifts are gifts from God and often overlap. 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. The fruit of the Spirit is to grow and to be seen in every Christian (Gal.5:22-23) but no Christian has all the spiritual gifts. 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 performed.

DO WE KEEP THE SAME SPIRITUAL GIFTS ALWAYS?

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

ARE THERE COUNTERFEIT GIFTS?

Yes. See Matt.24:24 and 1 Tim.4:1. John tells us not to believe every spirit but to test to see whether the spirit is of God(1 John 4:1). In the same way ‘prophecies’ are weighed or tested (1 Cor. 14:29).

DO GREAT GIFTS INDICATE SPIRITUAL MATURITY?

No. Not at all necessary. The greater the gifts, the greater the need for spiritual maturity and the more is the gifted one the servant of Christ to others.

DO GIFTS AFFECT THE CHURCH STRUCTURE?

Yes. Structures must alter and be built around life and gifts, not the other way round. Form groups of members with similar gifts to enable them to develop and use them. Aim at one person, one job.

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. Pushing people into structural vacancies before discovering their gifts. Using gifts privately and not as part of the whole Body. 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).