

S

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

H

HEART

A

ABILITIES

P

PERSONALITY

E

EXPERIENCE

Understanding Spiritual Gifts

- Spiritual Gifts

- A God-given specific ability, given to every believer at conversion by the Holy Spirit, to share his love and strengthen the body of Christ.
- God has given gifts to each of you from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Manage them well so that God's generosity can flow through you (1 Peter 4:10, NLT).
- A spiritual gift is given to each of us as a means of helping the entire church (For the common good, 1 Corinthians 12:7).

- Why we need to know them?

- Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant... (1 Corinthians 12:1)
- If you are ignorant, you will miss out on the wonderful gifts God has given you.
- Your gifts are the key to fulfilling the Kingdom purpose he has set aside for you.

Truths About Spiritual Gifts

- Only believers have spiritual gifts
 - But the man who isn't a Christian can't understand and can't accept these thoughts from God, which the Holy Spirit teaches us (1 Corinthians 2:14, TLB).
- You can't earn or work for a spiritual gift
 - He has given each one of us a special gift through the generosity of Christ (Ephesians 4:7).
- The Holy Spirit decides what gifts I get;
 - He distributes them to each one, just as he determines (1 Corinthians 12:11).
- I am to develop the gifts God gives me
 - For God's gifts and his call can never be withdrawn (Romans 11:29).
- It's a sin to waste the gifts God gave me
 - Those who have been given a trust must prove faithful (1 Corinthians 4:1-2).
- Using my gifts honors God and expands me;
 - When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples (John 15:8)

Truths About Spiritual Gifts

- The gifts I'm given are permanent
 - For God's gifts and his call can never be withdrawn (Romans 11:29, NLT).
- I am to develop the gifts God gives me
 - Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you (1 Timothy 4:14).
- It is a sin to waste the gifts God gave me
 - As servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed. Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful (1 Corinthians 4:1-2).
- Using my gifts honors God and expands me
 - This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples (John 15:8).
- The purpose of gifts is for the benefit of others and for maturity and harmony in the church.

Lists of Gifts

Passages	Core Theme	Specific Gifts Mentioned
1 Corinthians 12	Manifestations of the Spirit	Wisdom, Knowledge, Faith, Healing, Miracles, Prophecy , Discernment, Tongues, Interpretation (9 gifts)
Romans 12	Practical Service & Grace	Prophecy , Service, Teaching , Encouragement (Exhortation), Giving, Leadership, Mercy (7 gifts)
Ephesians 4	Equipping the Saints	Apostles, Prophets , Evangelists, Pastors (Shepherds), Teachers (5 gifts)

Unwrapping Spiritual Gifts

- Apostle
 - The ability to start new churches/ventures and oversee their development.
- Discernment
 - The ability to distinguish between the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. The ability to detect inconsistencies in another's life and confront in love.
- Encouragement (Exhortation)
 - The ability to motivate God's people to apply and act on biblical principles, especially when they are discouraged or wavering in their faith. The ability to bring out the best in others and challenge them to develop their potential.
- Evangelism
 - The ability to communicate the Good News of Jesus Christ to unbelievers in a positive, non-threatening way. The ability to sense opportunities to share Christ and lead people to respond with faith.

- Faith

- The ability to trust God for what cannot be seen and to act on God's promise, regardless of what the circumstances indicate. The willingness to risk failure in pursuit of a God-given vision, expecting God to handle the obstacles.

- Giving

- The ability to generously contribute material resources and/or money beyond the 10% tithe so that the body may grow and be strengthened. The ability to manage money so it may be given to support the ministry of others.

- Healing

- The ability to pray, in faith, specifically for people who need physical, emotional, or spiritual healing and see God answer. The ability to sense when God is prompting you to pray this kind of prayer.

- Interpretation

- The God-given ability to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by understanding (at a specific time) God's message when spoken by another using a special language unknown to the others in attendance.

- Knowledge
 - The God-given ability to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by communicating God's truth to others in a way that promote justice, honesty and understanding.
- Leadership
 - The ability to clarify and communicate the purpose and direction (vision) of a ministry in a way that attracts others to get involved. The ability to motivate others, by example, to work together in accomplishing a ministry goal.
- Mercy
 - The ability to manifest practical, compassionate, cheerful love toward suffering members of the Body of Christ.
- Miracles
 - The ability to pray, in faith, specifically for God's supernatural intervention into an impossible situation and see God answer. The ability to sense when God is prompting you to pray this kind of prayer.
- Pastoring (Shepherding)
 - The ability to care for the spiritual needs of a group of believers and equip them for ministry. The ability to nurture a small group in spiritual growth and assume responsibility for their welfare.

- **Prophecy/Prophet**
 - The God-given ability to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by offering messages from God that comfort, encourage, guide, warn, or reveal sin in a way that leads to repentance and spiritual growth.
- **Service**
 - The God-given special ability to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by offering others assistance in reaching goals that glorify God and strengthen the body of Christ.
- **Teaching**
 - The ability to educate God's people by clearly explaining and applying the Bible in a way that causes them to learn. The ability to equip and train other believers for ministry.
- **Tongues**
 - The God-given ability to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by communicating God's message in a special language unknown to the speaker.
- **Wisdom**
 - The ability to understand God's perspective on life situations and share those insights in a simple, understandable way. The ability to explain what to do and how to do it.

How to Discover My Gifts?

- Trial and error
 - Experiment with different areas of service.
- Analyze
 - Use the ‘Unwrapping My Gift’ tool.
- Request input from others
 - Ask others what gifts they see in me.
- Three ways God wants you to use your gifts
 - Through an ongoing ministry.
 - Through short-term projects.
 - Through spontaneous situations.
 - It is easier to discover your gift through ministry than to discover your ministry through your gift.

Common Traps

- Comparison
 - Don't feel my gifts make me superior to others
 - The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" (1 Corinthians 12:21).
- Projection Tendency
 - Expecting others to serve the way you do and have similar results
- Rejection
- Deception
- Using without love
 - If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge...but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship...but do not have love, I gain nothing (1 Corinthians 13:1-3).

Cautions about Spiritual Gifts

- Don't confuse gifts with natural talents
- Don't confuse gifts with the fruit of the Spirit
 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law (Galatians 5:22-23).
 - Fruit shows my maturity
 - Gifts show my ministry
- Don't confuse gifts with Christian roles