

## Doctrine of Spiritual Gifts

1. There are three biblical lists of the “gifts of the Spirit,” also known as spiritual gifts.
  - *Romans 12:6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; 7 Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; 8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.*
  - *1 Corinthians 12:4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. 6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. 7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. 8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; 9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; 10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: 11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.*
  - *1 Corinthians 12:28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.*
2. A brief description of each gift can be noted.

### The Spiritual Gifts of Romans 12:6-8

- **Prophecy.** The Greek word translated “prophesying” or “prophecy” means to “speak forth” or declare the divine will, to interpret the purposes of God, or to make known in any way the truth of God which is designed to influence people.
- **Ministering (Serving).** The Greek word is *diakonian*, from which we get the English “*deacon*,” means service of any kind, the broad application of practical help to those in need.
- **Teaching.** This gift involves the analysis and proclamation of the Word of God, explaining the meaning, context and application to the hearer’s life. The gifted teacher is one who has the unique ability to clearly instruct and communicate knowledge, specifically the doctrines of the Christian faith.
- **Exhorteth.** The gift of encouraging, also called “exhortation, is evident in those who consistently call upon others to heed and follow God’s truth, which may involve correction or building others up by strengthening weak faith, or comforting in trials.

- Giving. Gifted givers are those who joyfully share what they have with others, whether it is financial, material, or the giving of personal time and attention. The giver is concerned for the needs of others and seeks opportunities to share goods, money, and time, with them as needs arise.
- Ruleth. This is the gift of leadership. The gifted leader is one who rules, presides over, or has the management of, other people in the church. The word literally means “guide” and carries with it the idea of one who steers a ship. One with the gift of leadership, rules with wisdom and grace, and exhibits the fruit of the Spirit in his life as he leads by example.
- Mercy. Closely linked with the gift of encouragement, the gift of mercy is obvious in those who are compassionate toward others who are in distress, showing sympathy and sensitivity, coupled with a desire, and the resources, to lessen their suffering in a kind and cheerful manner.

### **The Spiritual Gifts of 1 Corinthians 12:4-11**

- Word of Wisdom. The fact that this gift is described as the “word” of wisdom indicates that it is one of the speaking gifts. This gift describes someone who can understand and speak forth biblical truth in such a way as to skillfully apply it to life situations with all discernment.
- Word of Knowledge. This is another speaking gift that involves understanding truth with an insight that only comes by revelation from God. Those with the gift of knowledge understand the deep things of God and the mysteries of His Word.
- Faith. All believers possess faith in some measure because it is one of the gifts of the Spirit bestowed on all who come to Christ in faith. *Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.* The spiritual gift of faith is exhibited by one with a strong and unshakeable confidence in God, His Word, His promises, and the power of prayer to effect miracles.
- Healing. While there are many phony faith-healers, God still heals today. The sick are commanded to ask for church Elders to come and pray for them. *James 5:14 Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: 15 And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.*
- Working of Miracles. Miraculous powers, also known as the working of miracles, is another temporary sign gift which involved performing supernatural events that could only be attributed to the power of God *Acts 2:22 Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:* This gift was exhibited by Paul, Peter, Stephen, and Phillip, among others.

- ❖ Paul. *Acts 19:11 And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: 12 So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.*
- ❖ Peter. *Acts 3:6 Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.*
- ❖ Stephen. *Acts 6:8 And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.*
- ❖ Phillip. *Acts 8:6 And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. 7 For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed.*
- Prophecy. Prophecy is the ability to not only foretell the future, but also to tell forth the Word of God in a lucid manner.
- Discerning of Spirits (Distinguishing of spirits). Certain individuals possess the unique ability to determine the true message of God from that of the deceiver, Satan, whose methods include purveying deceptive and erroneous doctrine. Jesus said many would come in His name and would deceive many, but the gift of discerning of spirits is given to the Church to protect it from such as these. *Matthew 24:4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. 5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.*
- Divers Kinds of Tongues. The gift of tongues is one of the temporary “sign gifts” foretold by the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 28:11), and given to the early Church to enable the gospel to be preached throughout the world, to all nations, and in all known languages. It involved the divine ability to speak in languages previously unknown to the speaker. This gift authenticated the message of the gospel, and those who preached it as coming from God. The phrase “diversity of tongues” (KJV) or “different kinds of tongues” (NIV), effectively eliminates the idea of a “personal prayer language” as a spiritual gift. On the Day of Pentecost, the many languages represented in Jerusalem were understood. *Acts 2:8 And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?*
- Interpretation of tongues. A person with the gift of interpreting tongues could understand what a tongues-speaker was saying, even though he did not know the language that was being spoken. The tongues interpreter would then communicate the message of the tongues speaker to everyone else, so all could understand.

## The Spiritual Gifts of 1 Corinthians 12:28

- Healings (see above Healing).
  - Helps. Closely related to the gift of mercy is the gift of helps. Those with the gift of helps are those who can aid, or render assistance to others in the church with compassion and grace. This has a broad range of possibilities for application. Most importantly, this is the unique ability to identify those who are struggling with doubt, fears, and other spiritual battles; to move toward those in spiritual need with a kind word, an understanding and compassionate demeanor; and to speak scriptural truth that is both convicting and loving.
  - Governments (see above Ruling)
  - Diversities of Tongues. (see above Divers Kind of Tongues)
3. Every Christian has at least one spiritual gift.
- *1 Peter 4:10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*
4. No one person has every spiritual gift.
- 1 Corinthians 12:28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? 30 Have all the gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?*
5. God the Holy Spirit chooses which spiritual gift a person receives.
- *1 Corinthians 12:7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. 8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; 9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; 10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecies; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: 11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.*
6. Every Christian will give an account for how they have used their spiritual gift(s).
- *1 Peter 4:10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*
7. Spiritual gifts reflect God's call and purpose for the believer.

- *Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. 3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. 4 For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: 5 So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. 6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; 7 Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; 8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.*

8. Every spiritual gift is designed to be used in love.

- *1 Corinthians 13:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.*

9. Spiritual gifts are given, not for selfish usage, but to build up the body of Christ.

- *1 Corinthians 12:27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.*