

Using Spiritual Gifts

Although Spiritual gifts are not primarily thought of as a spiritual discipline, it takes God's Spirit enabling us to be disciplined enough to effectively and consistently use our gift(s). The information below is intended to help you identify and utilize your Spirit-enabled abilities so that the the Body of Christ may grow and mature.

Spiritual Gifts in the New Testament

According to 1 Cor. 12:7, Eph. 4:7 and 1 Pt. 4:10 God's Spirit endows every believer with a gift(s).

Read Eph. 4:16. What does Paul say happens when believers are responsible with their gifts?

The following is a list of gifts found in the New Testament, along with a brief definition for each gift. It should not be assumed that the order of this list, nor the New Testament order, indicates one gift is more important over another. *Each gift has the same value to God (1 Cor. 12:12-26) and should hold the same value to us.*

New Testament Lists of Spiritual Gifts*

1 Cor. 12:8-11	1 Cor. 12:28	Rom. 12:6-8	Eph. 4:11	1 Pt. 4:11
message of wisdom	apostles	prophecy	apostles	speaking
message of knowledge	prophets	service	prophets	service
faith	teachers	teaching	evangelists	
gifts of healings	workers of miracles	encouraging	pastors-teachers	
working of miracles	healing	giving		
prophecy	helps	leadership		
distinguishing of spirits	administration	showing of mercy		
kinds of tongues	kinds of tongues			
interpretation of tongues				

*Taken from *Showing the Spirit*, D.A. Carson.

Defining Spiritual Gifts

1. Prophecy – the reception and subsequent communication of revelation received from God
2. Service – the ability to identify unmet needs and making use of available resources to meet those needs
3. Teaching – communication of God’s truth in such a way that others learn and apply God’s will
4. Encouraging – speaking words of comfort, consolation, encouragement, and counsel to other members of the Body of Christ so as to motivate them to godly thinking and behavior
5. Giving – contributing tangible resources to meet others’ material, physical needs
6. Leadership – setting goals in accordance with God’s purpose and communicating those goals to others in such a way that they harmoniously work together toward reaching those goals
7. Mercy – expressing genuine empathy and compassion for suffering believers and translating that empathy and compassion into Spirit-filled deeds that reflect God’s love
8. Knowledge – gathering, analyzing, and synthesizing biblical concepts and ideas that are in accordance with revealed truth in Scripture
9. Faith – trusting God to bring about certain events or circumstances that bring God glory

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10. Healing – special ability to serve others in curing illness and restoring health apart from the use of natural or medicinal means; always accompanied with presenting the gospel
11. Miracles – altering or suspending the ordinary course of nature with a view to pointing to God’s salvific plan or preserving the well-being of the Church
12. Distinguishing of Spirits – knowing with assurance and reasonable certitude whether certain behavior, attitudes, verbal expressions, or doctrinal positions purported to be of God is in reality divine, human or satanic
13. Kinds of Tongues – verbal expressions (known or unknown languages) that build up the individual(s) for the purpose of mutual edification of the Body
14. Interpretation of Tongues – making known in the vernacular the message of the one who speaks in tongues
15. Apostles – in addition to being one who has witnessed visibly the crucified, resurrected, and ascended Lord of glory, an apostle is one who is uniquely called out by God to proclaim and establish the authoritative teachings and foundations of the salvific plan of God
16. Helps – investing one’s talents and abilities into other members so as to increase the productivity and effectiveness of the person(s) helped
17. Administration – devising, organizing, executing, and monitoring immediate and long-range biblical goals of church leadership to the glory of God
18. Evangelists – the proclamation and defense of the gospel to the unbelieving world in such a way that some become faithful disciples of Jesus Christ
19. Pastor-Teacher – assuming a long-term responsibility of servant-leadership over a group of believers, nurturing them with the Word of God, and encouraging them toward godly lifestyles and the faithful use of their Spirit-enabled gifts
20. Wisdom – communicating and applying God-given knowledge to specific needs and circumstances

Now That You Know These Things . . .

According to 1 Cor. 12:7 and 1 Pt. 4:11, what is God’s purpose in giving spiritual gifts?

What kinds of gifts must you excel in (1 Cor. 14:12)?

Who determines what gift(s) you have (1 Cor. 12:11)?

In 1 Corinthians chapters 12 and 14 Paul instructs us on Spiritual gifts. Why do you suppose that the chapter in between (chapter 13) is the "Love" chapter?

What spiritual gift(s) do you think you may have?

How have you used your gift(s) in building up other believers or bringing others to Christ?