

Spiritual Gifts

1. Believers are not to be ignorant of spiritual gifts (1Cor 12:1).

2. What is a spiritual gift?

A God-given endowment that enables a believer to render spiritual service to glorify God, perfect the saints, build up the church, and minister to others (1Pet 4:10-11; Eph 4:8-12). All the gifts should be exercised with love (1Cor 13:1-3; 14:1). They should also be exercised decently, in order, and with self control (1Cor 14:32,33,40). Spiritual gifts are to be desired and not neglected (1Cor 12:31; 14:1,39; 1Tim 4:14; 2Tim 1:6; Matt 25:14-30). Exercised correctly the gifts promote unity of the body through mutual ministry with maximum impact. Different believers have different gifts (1Cor 12:4, 14-20). Some of the particular gifts which are listed in the scriptures are as follows:

1Cor 12:1-31

Gifts

word of wisdom
word of knowledge
faith
gifts of healings
working of miracles
prophecy
discerning of spirits
different kinds (or diversities) of tongues
interpretation of tongues
helps
governments

Gifted Men

apostles
prophets
teachers

Eph 4:7-12

Gifted Men

apostles
prophets
evangelists
pastors and teachers

Rom 12:4-8

Gifts

prophecy
ministry
teaching
exhortation
giving
ruling
showing mercy

How to be exercised

according to the proportion of faith
wait on (i.e. tend to) it
wait on (i.e. tend to) it
wait on (i.e. tend to) it
do it with simplicity
with diligence
with cheerfulness

1Peter 4:10,11

Gifts

speak
minister

How to be exercised

as the oracles of God
as of the ability which God gives

Spiritual Gifts

3. Who has these gifts? Every believer has at least one spiritual gift, but no believer has all the gifts (1Cor 12:7, 8, 29).

4. Who issues the gifts? God (the Trinity acting in unity)-- The Father (Rom 11:29), the Son (Eph 4:7), and the Holy Spirit (1Cor 12:8).

Speaking gifts--Let him speak as the oracles of God

- prophecy--proclaiming God's revelation for edification, exhortation, and comfort ; to be exercised according to the proportion of faith given
- word of knowledge--clarifying spiritual truth by conveying spiritual facts
- word of wisdom--applying spiritual truth to help others understand God's will
- exhortation--strengthening others by encouraging obedience to God's word
- teaching--enlightening others by interpreting and applying God's word
- different kinds (or diversities) of tongues-- speaking different languages to communicate spiritual truth as a sign to unbelievers
- interpretation of tongues-- translating unknown languages into the native tongues of others to communicate spiritual truth

Ministry gifts--Let him do it as with the ability God gives

- discerning of spirits--judging spirits to discriminate the good and true from the evil and false
- helps or ministry--serving others in a support role
- governments or ruling--leading and supervising the saints, exercising direction and decision-making; to be exercised with diligence
- faith--trusting in God even against all hope, securing God's power
- giving--supplying for the needs of the church and the needy; to be exercised with simplicity
- showing mercy--relieving the suffering; to be exercised with cheerfulness
- gifts of healing--curing the sick
- working of miracles--performing supernatural acts to confirm the word of God

Gifted Men--People given for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

- Apostles--messengers with signs and wonders, sent by God for the founding of the church
- Prophets--spokesmen for God who convey God's revelation for edification, exhortation, and comfort
- Teachers--instructors who enlighten believers toward maturity by interpreting and applying spiritual truth
- Evangelists--preachers of the gospel whose primary mission is to lead unbelievers to Christ
- Pastors--overseers who spiritually feed those under their care; elders are to pastor the churches