

# Spiritual Gifts

Spiritual gifts are not the same as natural gifts, talents or skills.

Spiritual gifts are distributed by the Holy Spirit to believers.

**1 Cor. 12:11**

*But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.*

The purposes of spiritual gifts:

- To edify believers
- To reach unbelievers
- To bring glory to God

**1 Cor. 14:12**

*Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel.*

**1 Cor. 14:24-25**

*But if an unbeliever or someone who does not understand comes in while everybody is prophesying, he will be convinced by all that he is a sinner and will be judged by all, and the secrets of his heart will be laid bare. So he will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, "God is really among you!"*

Every believer has at least one spiritual gift.

**1 Cor. 12:7**

*But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:*

No believer has every spiritual gift.

**1 Cor. 12:20-21**

*But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you";*

There is no spiritual gift that every believer is expected to have.

**1 Cor. 12:29-31**

*Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the best gifts.*

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Though some gifts are more visible, all gifts are important.

**1 Cor. 12:21-22**

*And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary.*

Since spiritual gifts are indeed gifts, there is no reason for pride.

Spiritual gifts that are listed in Scripture:

**1 Cor. 12:7-10**

*7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: 8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.*

- a. Wisdom (1 Cor. 12:8) – Divine enablement to discern God’s best path and His solutions in the midst of potentially confusing situations.
- b. Knowledge (1 Cor. 12:8) – Divine enablement to know things about people or situations via the prompting of the Holy Spirit... things that no one told us about.
- c. Faith (1 Cor. 12:9) – Divine enablement to trust in God... unwavering belief in His promises and in His abilities despite adversity.
- d. Healing (1 Cor. 12:9; 1 Cor. 12:28) – Divine enablement to restore people’s bodies and souls to wholeness.
- e. Miracles (1 Cor. 12:10; 1 Cor. 12:28) – Divine enablement to invite the miraculous power of God into situations.

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- f. Prophecy (1 Cor. 12:10; Rom. 12:6; Eph. 4:11; 1 Cor. 12:28) – Divine enablement to declare truth... can pertain to the past, present, or future... can involve forthtelling or foretelling.
- g. Discernment (1 Cor. 12:10) – Divine enablement to discern whether something is of God or not... can sense the presence of evil or when a person is being deceived.
- h. Tongues (1 Cor. 12:10; 1 Cor. 12:28) – Divine enablement to speak in a language that was not learned via natural means... can be used for evangelism, for edification of believers, or for personal edification.
- i. Interpretation of tongues (1 Cor. 12:10) – Divine enablement to translate from an unknown language into a known language so that the mysteries of God can be understood.

**Rom. 12:6-8**

*6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; 7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; 8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.*

- j. Serving/ministry/helps (Rom. 12:7; 1 Cor. 12:28) – Divine enablement to help where help is needed.
- k. Teaching (Rom. 12:7; Eph. 4:11; 1 Cor. 12:28) – Divine enablement to communicate spiritual truths in a clear way.
- l. Exhortation (Rom. 12:8) – Divine enablement to encourage others to believe God, obey God, and walk with God.

- m. Giving (Rom. 12:8) – Divine enablement to invest in kingdom purposes...  
can involve money, resources, etc.
- n. Leadership (Rom. 12:8) – Divine enablement to lead others into God's  
purposes... involves Godly vision, motivation, and direction.
- o. Mercy (Rom. 12:8) – Divine enablement to empathize with and help those  
who are hurting.

**Eph. 4:11-12**

*11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists,  
and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of  
ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,*

- p. Apostleship (Eph. 4:11, 1 Cor. 12:28) – Divine enablement to pioneer and  
establish new ministry initiatives.
- q. Evangelism (Eph. 4:11) – Divine enablement to communicate the gospel  
to those who are lost.
- r. Shepherding (Eph. 4:11) – Divine enablement to nurture, care for, and  
guide people.

**1 Cor. 12:28**

*And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third  
teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties  
of tongues.*

- s. Administration (1 Cor. 12:28) – Divine enablement to organize people,  
tasks, or events... having the ability to create order out of chaos.

**1 Pet. 4:9-10**

*9 Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. 10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*

- t. Hospitality (1 Pet. 4:9-10) – Divine enablement to provide environments where people feel valued and cared for.

Note: The above list is not necessarily exhaustive. Other possibilities include celibacy (1 Cor 7:7), intercession, music/arts, etc.

There is no reason to believe that spiritual gifts have ceased.

- We are encouraged to seek the gifts that best edify others

**1 Cor. 12:31**

*But earnestly desire the best gifts.*

- The reference to ceasing applies to the time when we are perfected

**1 Cor. 13:8-12**

*8 Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away.*

*9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. 11 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.*

Two caveats:

- Though there are no longer literal apostles... the function of apostleship still exists.
- Genuine prophetic words of today are in submission to Scripture... not equal with it.

Ways we discover our spiritual gifts:

- Through serving and seeing fruit
- Through prayer
- Through the affirmation of others

Let's walk continually open to any spiritual gift at any time.

Sometimes we grow a lot as we serve outside of our defined spiritual gifts.

A spiritual gift in our lives is a call to use it.