

## What Are Spiritual Gifts?

Spiritual gifts can be defined as drives, opportunities, and results given to us by the Godhead to achieve God's supernatural goals.

## What Is the Purpose of Spiritual Gifts?

The gifts are placed in the church as resources to be utilized at the point of need for ministry in the body. This means that not every believer will have the same gifts as every other believer. Rather, the Holy Spirit is the Author and Dispenser of the gifts to bring about integrity in worship and kingdom expression

The full potential of a life, a marriage, a family, or a church will not be experienced until there is a clear, Biblical understanding of spiritual gifts. For this reason, the Apostle Paul writes in I Corinthians 12:1: *"Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant."*

In I Corinthians 12:7-11, the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit are listed. Their purpose is specific - to "profit" the body of the church. The Greek word for profit is sumphero which means "to bring together, to benefit, to be advantageous," which is experienced as the body is strengthened in its life together and expanded through its ministry of evangelism. These nine gifts are specifically available to every believer as the Holy Spirit distributes them (I Corinthians 12:11). They are not to be merely acknowledged in a passive way, but rather are to be actively welcomed and expected (I Corinthians 13:1; 14:1).

## Who Is Given A Spiritual Gift?

Every Christian is given a spiritual gift as soon as he or she becomes born again.

## Three Categories of Spiritual Gifts

Source	Reference	Category
Gifts of the Father	Romans 12:6-8	Motivation
Gifts of the Son	Ephesians 4:11 I Corinthians 12:28	Ministry
Gifts of the Holy Spirit	I Corinthians 12:7-11	Manifestation

### Romans 12:6-8 NIV

6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith;<sup>7</sup> if it is serving, then serve; if it is

teaching, then teach; 8 if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

**The gifts of the Father** are motivational gifts. The Greek word for "gift" is charisma which comes from the word char meaning "joy." Charis is the Greek word for grace, which is God giving us the desire and power to do His will (Philippians 2:13 - for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.). The term motivation is simply defined as the work of God's grace.

### **Ephesians 4:11 NIV**

11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up

### **1 Corinthians 12:28 NIV**

28 And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues.

**The gifts of the Son (Jesus Christ)** are administration or ministry gifts. The term administration comes from the Greek work diakanion from which we get our English word deacon. This word relates to the ministries and outreach of the local church. These gifts (Ephesians 4:11; I Corinthians 12:28) are pivotal in assuring that the motivation and manifestation gifts are being applied in the body of the church. These gifts are confirmed by ordination.

(I Timothy 4:14 Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you.).

### **1 Corinthians 12:7-11 NKJV**

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 [a]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. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

**The gifts of the Holy Spirit** are gifts of manifestation or operation. The term operations comes from the Greek word energeia. Its English equivalent is energy. As God gives power through our motivational gift, the effects produced by it are the operations or manifestations of the Spirit. These nine gifts of manifestation (I Corinthians 12:7-11) are given to profit the body of the church.

God has given His people nine mighty gifts of the Holy Spirit to enable them to mature spiritually, edify others, and do the work of the ministry. Although these gifts of God are perfect, the manifestation of these gifts are sometimes not so perfect because they are manifested through an imperfect channel: men and women.

## Purposes of the Gifts

- **Spiritual maturity**  
You cannot strengthen someone who is weak unless you are mature yourself. Spiritual gifts help you mature so you can edify the Church and strengthen others (I Corinthians 14:12).
- **Edification**  
Spiritual gifts are used for the edification of the Church and are tools that bring us into spiritual maturity: *"Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church."* (I Corinthians 14:12)
- **Credentials**  
A credential is having evidence or testimony concerning your authority. When the gifts are displayed, it publicly confirms that you are a true believer, an ambassador of God: *"And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover ... And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen."* (Mark 16:17-18,20)

We are identified as believers through the gifts of the Spirit: *"God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost..."* (Hebrews 2:4)

To summarize, it is our responsibility to develop our motivational gifts, it the church's responsibility to confirm ministry gifts, and it is the Holy Spirit's function to reward the use of the gifts for the profit of all.