



Spiritual Gifts: Understanding and Identifying – Part I

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I. Introduction: What is a Spiritual Gift?

To understand the nature of spiritual gifts we must first look at the words the writers of Scripture use to describe them. I Corinthians 12 lists them for us. Each word, it seems, views the gifts from another standpoint, showing another aspect of their purpose, function, or source. Viewing these terms together yields a more complete description of the gifts they are describing.

"Spiritual"

In verse 1 the Authorized Version (KJV) mentions "spiritual gifts." The Greek simply reads "spirituals" (*pneumatikon*), meaning, "things characterized or controlled by the Spirit." Spiritual gifts, then, are first of all things controlled or characterized by the Spirit.

"Gifts"

In verse 4 we find the word "gifts" which translates from the Greek word *charisma*; hence, our term "charismatic." The root word (*charis*) means "grace." So now, if *pneumatikon* tells us that spiritual gifts are things characterized by the Holy Spirit, *charisma* teaches us that they are gifts of God's grace.

They are not something we earn or deserve. They are gifts of grace. Regardless of what the term "charismatic" has come to mean and imply today, there really is no such thing as a non-charismatic gift. All gifts are charismatic; that is, all gifts are freely given by a gracious God.

The Purpose of the Study:

- Grow in Understanding our *Usefulness* to God
- Grow in Understanding our God given *Purpose*
- Grow in Understanding God's Kingdom *Work*
- Learn what it means to be a Biblical *Servant* and how to get involved
- Learn how church ministry works and how to get *Involved*

Key Scriptures:

John 12:25-26

Joshua 24:14-15
Mark 12:28-31
Luke 9:23-24

The Calling and Character for Being a Servant – *Matthew 20:20-28*

II. What is Biblical Servanthood?

- In the Bible, the words, “servant” and “ministry” are taken from the Greek word “*diakonos*.” This word means “to serve” and it where we get the English word “deacon”

III. Who Should Serve?

I Peter 4:10-11

- Each Christian Should Serve
- We should use our spiritual Gifts in order to serve
- We either have one of two type of spiritual gifts : Speaking Gifts or Serving Gifts

IV. Why Should we Serve?

- We should serve e because Jesus Commands us to serve *John 13:3-5, 12-17*
- We should serve because we are to follow Jesus Example *Mark10:45, Phil. 2:5-7*
- We should serve out of Gratitude *Romans 12:1*

V. Who Should we Serve?

- We should serve Jesus *John 12:26*
- We should serve one another within the church family *Galatians 5:13, 6:10*
- We should serve others outside the church family. *Matthew 25:37-40, Acts 2:42-47*