



Spiritual Gifts: Understanding and Identifying – Part III

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I. Biblical Summary about Spiritual Gifts

1. Every Christian has at least one Spiritual Gift *1 Peter 4:10*
2. No Christian has all the gifts *1 Corinthians 12:28-30*
3. We cannot choose our gifts; that's what God does *1 Corinthians 12:7-11*
4. There is no gift that every Christian possesses (with the exception of Faith to a varying degree) *1 Corinthians 12:29-30*
5. Believers will account to the Lord for how they use their gifts *1 Peter 4:10*
6. Spiritual Gifts indicate God's call and purpose for a Christian's life *Romans 12:2-8*
7. Gifts used without love do not accomplish God's intended purposes *1 Corinthians 13:1-3*
8. Spiritual Gifts are for the common good to build up the Body *1 Corinthians 12:27*

II. Biblical Guidelines for Using Spiritual Gifts

1. Usage of the gift(s) conforms to Biblical teaching *2 Timothy 3:16 ; Romans 12 ; 1 Corinthians 12-14 ; Ephesians 4 ; 1 Peter 4*
2. There is affirmation and positive feedback within the Body of Christ for the expression of the gift *1 Corinthians 12:7 ; Ephesians 4:16*
3. There is agreement within the Body of Christ that the Holy Spirit is at work *1 John 4:1 ; 1 Thessalonians 5:21*
4. The Holy Spirit provides peace in our spirits as we offer our gift(s) to the Body of Christ *John 15:26; Romans 8:16*

4. There is evidence of godly fruit in the life of the Body *John 15:8; Matthew 7:16-20*
6. Believers offer their gifts for the common good as others have need *Acts 2:44-45; 1 Corinthians 12:7*
7. Unless gifts are offered in love, they have no worth *1 Corinthians 13:1-3*
8. We should strive to live a life worthy of our calling *Ephesians 4:1*

III. How Many Spiritual Gifts Are There?

- There is some disagreement among Christians as to exactly how many Spiritual Gifts there are.
- Some people look at the key Bible passages on Spiritual Gifts and limit the Gifts to the ones listed there:
 - **Romans 12** - Prophecy, Service, Teaching, Encouragement, Giving, Leadership, and Mercy
 - **1 Corinthians 12** - Message of Wisdom, Message of Knowledge, Faith, Healing, Miraculous Powers, Prophecy, Distinguishing between spirits, Speaking in Tongues, and Interpreting Tongues
 - **Ephesians 4** - Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor, and Teacher
- Some say that the Gifts of Administration and Leadership are the same Gift.
- Some say the Gifts of Service and Help are the same Gift.
- Some add the Gifts of Craftsmanship and Music because of the skills that God gave to people to help with the Old Testament Tabernacle.
- Some see Craftsmanship as a vehicle to exercise the Gift of Service.
- Some stick to the gifts listed in the New Testament.
- Some believe that certain Spiritual Gifts were only given to people by the direct laying on of hands of the original Apostles and that these Gifts ceased to exist after the first century.
- Some add the possibility of other gifts:
 - **1 Corinthians 7:1-9** – Celibacy
 - **1 Peter 4:9-10** – Hospitality
 - **1 Corinthians 13:1-3** - Martyrdom
 - **Ephesians 3:6-8** - Missionary
 - **1 Corinthians. 13:1-3** - Voluntary Poverty
 - **Ephesians 6:18** - Intercession / Prayer
 - **Luke 1:1-3** – Writing

Some of these "gifts" are obviously Spiritual Gifts. Others are debatable. However, it is not particularly important whether a certain ability is a Spiritual Gift, a blessing from God, a God given talent, an inherited trait, a natural human ability, or something learned. The key take away is that we discover what Gifts are more pronounced in us and to learn how to use them to serve God.