

Spiritual
Gifts

Definition

- What is a spiritual gift?
- A spiritual gift is a divine empowerment bestowed on each believer by the Holy Spirit to accomplish a ministry within the body of Christ.
- Ephesians 4:16 - "From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."

Purpose of Gifts

- Numerous passages show the purpose of spiritual gifts for the Body of Christ:
- 1 Corinthians 12:7 - “Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.”
- Ephesians 4:12 - “to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.”

Purpose of Gifts

- 1 Peter 4:10 - “Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others.”
- Spiritual gifts are not for personal benefit or selfish gain. They are for the body of Christ.
- When properly exercised, spiritual gifts will contribute to the overall health and growth of the church.

Discovering Gifts

- Perhaps the best way to discern your spiritual gift is to get involved in ministry experiences.
- As you explore different ministry areas, you will soon discover if you are gifted for these ministries.
- We would love to help you discover and use your spiritual gift here at Prestonwood.

Discovering Gifts

- You might want to take a spiritual gifts test:
 - Ministry Tools (www.mintools.com)
 - Church Growth (www.churchgrowth.org)
 - Christian Net (www.christianet.com)
 - Spiritual Gifts Test (www.spiritualgiftstest.com)

Biblical Passages
on
Spiritual Gifts

Romans 12:4-8

“For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them:

Romans 12:4-8

if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.”

Romans 12

- exhortation
- giving
- leadership
- mercy
- prophecy
- service
- teaching

1 Corinthians 12:8-10

“For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.”

1 Corinthians 12

- administration
- apostle
- discernment
- faith
- healing
- helps
- knowlege
- miracles
- prophecy
- teaching
- tongues
- wisdom

Ephesian 4:11-12

“And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.”

Ephesians 4

- apostle
- evangelism
- pastor
- prophecy
- teaching

Characteristics
of Twenty
Spiritual Gifts

Administration

- 1 Corinthians 12:28 - the gift of administration is given to direct the body of Christ.
- When it is used properly it enables believers and the church to accomplish their God-given goals by planning, organizing, and supervising others.
- The Greek work is *kubernesis* and means to steer or guide, a helmsman.

Apostle

- Ephesians 4:11; 1 Corinthians 12:28 - means to be sent forth to new frontiers with the gospel.
- Apostles provided leadership over the church and maintained authority over spiritual matters pertaining to the church.
- The Greek word is *apostolos* - *apo* = from *stello* = send; one sent forth.

Discernment

- 1 Corinthians 12:10 - a person with this spiritual gift is able to clearly distinguish truth from error.
- He/she does this by judging whether the behavior or teaching is from God, Satan, human error, or human power.
- This is a helpful spiritual gift in apologetics and spiritual warfare.

Evangelism

- Ephesians 4:11 - an evangelist is a messenger of the good news of the Gospel.
- The Greek word is *euaggelistes* and means a “preacher of gospel,” *eu* = well, *angelos* = message - messenger of good.
- All of us are to do evangelism, but there are some who are gifted as evangelists.

Exhortation

- Romans 12:8 - exhortation means to come along side of someone with words of encouragement, comfort, consolation, and counsel.
- The goal is to help them be all God wants them to be.
- The Greek word is *paraklesis* - calling to one's side.

Faith

- 1 Corinthians 12:8-10 - a person with the gift of faith will be firmly persuaded of God's power and promises to accomplish His will.
- He/she will express supreme confidence in Him and His Word.
- Circumstances and obstacles do not shake that conviction.

Giving

- Romans 12:8 - a person with this gift will delight in the ability to share what material resources they have with liberality and cheerfulness without thought of return.
- All of us are to give to the church and Christian ministries, but some have the spiritual gift of giving.

Healing

- 1 Corinthians 12:9,28,30 - someone with the spiritual gift of healing can be used as a means through which God heals.
- The healing may be physically, emotionally, mentally, or spiritually.

Helps

- 1 Corinthians 12:28 - someone with the spiritual gift of helps is eager to render support or assistance to others in the body.
- Often they do this to free up others for ministry.
- We are all to help, but some have the spiritual gift of helps.

Hospitality

- 1 Peter 4:9,10 - a person with the gift of hospitality will warmly welcome people, even strangers, into their home or church.
- They will serve those in need of food or lodging.
- Greek word is *philoxenos* - love of strangers; *philos* = love; *xenos* = stranger)

Knowledge

- 1 Corinthians 12:8 - a person with the gift of knowledge attempts to learn as much about the Bible as possible through the gathering of much information and the analyzing of that data.
- All of us should seek to learn from the Bible, but those with the spiritual gift of knowledge are especially empowered to do so.

Leadership

- Romans 12:8 - a person with the spiritual gift of leadership is willing to stand before the people.
- He / she gives direction to the body of Christ motivates others to get involved in the accomplishment of these goals.
- Nearly all of us are called to lead, but those with this gift have special leadership qualities.

Mercy

- Romans 12:8 - people with the spiritual gift of mercy are especially sensitive toward those who are suffering (physically, mentally, or emotionally).
- They express genuine sympathy with their misery, speaking words of compassion and also caring for them with acts of love.

Miracles

- 1 Corinthians 12:10,28 - those with the spiritual gift of miracles were enabled by God to perform mighty deeds.
- These were done in such a way that witnesses acknowledged to be of supernatural origin and means.

Pastor

- Ephesians 4:11 - a pastor is responsible for spiritually caring for, protecting, guiding, and feeding a group of believers entrusted to one's care.
- This is both a spiritual gift as well as an office within the church and the body of Christ.

Prophecy

- Romans 12:6; 1 Corinthians 12:10; Ephesians 4:11
- It means to speak forth the message of God to God's people.
- The Greek word is *prophetes* - the forth-telling of the will of God; *pro* = forth, *phemi* = to speak.

Service

- Romans 12:7 - a person with the gift of service will identify undone tasks in God's work.
- He/she will take them on no matter how menial, and use available resources to get the job done.
- The Greek word is *diakonia* - deacon, attendant
diako = to run errands.

Teaching

- Romans 12:7; 1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11
- A person with the gift of teaching is able to instruct others in the Bible in a logical, systematic way.
- He/she is able to communicate pertinent information for true understanding and growth.

Tongues

- 1 Corinthians 12:10; 14:27-28
- The spiritual gift of tongues allows someone to speak in a language not previously learned.
- This is done so unbelievers can hear God's word in their own language.

Wisdom

- 1 Corinthians 12:8 - someone with the gift of wisdom is able to apply knowledge to life.
- He/she can do it in such a way as to make spiritual truths relevant and practical in proper decision-making and daily life situations.

Spiritual Gifts

Administration, Apostle, Discernment,
Evangelism, Exhortation, Faith, Giving, Healing,
Helps, Hospitality, Knowledge, Leadership,
Mercy, Miracles, Pastor, Prophecy, Service,
Teaching, Tongues, Wisdom

I believe my spiritual gift is _____

