

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT SPIRITUAL GIFTS / GRACE-GIFTS A Condensed Overview

A SPIRITUAL GIFT: *"a special attribute given by the Holy Spirit to every member of the body of Christ according to God's grace for use within the context of the body."* – Peter Wagner, *Your Spiritual Gifts Can Help Your Church Grow*

10 TRUTHS ABOUT SPIRITUAL GIFTS

1. Only _____BELIEVERS_____ have spiritual gifts.

"The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned."
1 Corinthians 2:14 (NIV)

2. Every Christian has at least _____ONE_____ gift.

"I wish that all men were as I am. But each man has his own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that." (1 Corinthians 7:7, NIV)

3. No one receives _____ALL_____ the gifts.

"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?"
(1 Corinthians 12:27-30, NIV)

4. No single gift is given to _____EVERYONE_____.

"Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?" (1 Corinthians 12:29-30, NIV)

5. You can't _____EARN OR WORK FOR_____ a spiritual gift.

"But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it." (Ephesians 4:7, NIV)

6. The _____HOLY SPIRIT_____ decides what gifts I get.

"All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines." (1 Corinthians 12:11, NIV)

7. The gifts I'm given are _____PERMANENT_____.

"for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable." (Romans 11:29, NIV)

8. I am to _____DEVELOP_____ the gifts God gives me.

"Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you." (1 Timothy 4:14, NIV)

9. It's a sin to _____ WASTE _____ the gifts God gave me.
"Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful."
(1 Corinthians 4:2, NIV)

10. Using my gifts _____ GLORIFIES _____ God and
_____ GROWS _____ me.
"This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."
(John 15:8, NIV)

Understanding Spiritual Gifts

The Bible does not lock us into tight restrictions as to the number of spiritual gifts, or even to their definitions. The four major lists of gifts are found in Romans 12:5-8, 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, 27-31, Ephesians 4:11-12, 1 Peter 4:9-11 but there are other passages that mention or illustrate gifts not included in these lists. All gifts are given to help the church fulfill its purposes.

Romans 12:3-8 (NASB)

³ For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. ⁴ For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶ Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, *each of us is to exercise them accordingly*: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; ⁷ if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. |

Ephesians 4:11-13 (NASB)

¹¹ And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

Corinthians 12:1-11, 27-31a (NASB)

¹ Now concerning spiritual *gifts*, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware. ² You know that when you were pagans, *you were* led astray to the mute idols, however you were led. ³ Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus is accursed"; and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit. ⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵ And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. ⁶ There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all *persons*. ⁷ But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another *various* kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills. ²⁷ Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, *various* kinds of tongues. ²⁹ All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not *workers of* miracles, are they? ³⁰ All do not have gifts of healings, do they? All do not speak with tongues, do they? All do not interpret, do they? ³¹ But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And I show you a still more excellent way.

I Peter 4:9-11 (NASB)

¹⁰ As each one has received a *special* gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. ¹¹ Whoever speaks, *is to do so* as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves *is to do so* as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Definition of Spiritual Gifts

Note: all Scripture references below are taken from the NASB translation.

Romans 12:6a – *"Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly:"*

Prophecy – the distinctive ability to boldly declare the truth of God, regardless of the consequences, calling people to righteous living.

Service – the distinctive ability to identify and meet the practical needs of others.

Teaching – the distinctive ability to employ a logical, systematic approach to Biblical study in preparation for clearly communicating practical truth to the body of Christ.

Exhortation / Encouragement – the distinctive ability to appropriately communicate words of encouragement, challenge, or rebuke in the body of Christ.

Giving – the distinctive ability to cheerfully and generously contribute personal resources to God's work.

Leadership – the distinctive ability to influence others according to a the Biblical purposes of the church.

Mercy – the distinctive ability to feel sincere empathy and compassion in a way that results in practical relief for people's hurts, pain and suffering.

Wisdom – the distinctive ability to discern the mind of Christ and apply Scriptural truth to a specific situation in order to make the right choices and help others move in the right direction.

Knowledge – the distinctive ability to seek out, gather, organize, and clarify facts and ideas on a number of diverse subjects.

Faith – the distinctive ability to believe God with confidence for things unseen, spiritual growth, and the will of God.

Healing – the distinctive ability to be used as a human intermediary through whom God's supernatural power is applied to a person's physical or emotional need.

Miracles – the distinctive ability to perform supernatural acts as an instrument or agent of God which alter the expected course of nature.

Discernment / Distinguishing Between Spirits – the distinctive ability to perceive whether a person's actions originate from Godly, satanic or merely human sources.

Tongues / Interpretation of Tongues – the distinctive ability to speak or interpret in a language which you have never learned and communicate a divinely anointed message from God to unbelievers.

Apostle – the distinctive ability to provide clear vision to start new ministries where others may not currently exist.

Administration – the distinctive ability to coordinate and organize people and projects.

Evangelist – the distinctive ability to boldly declare the truth of God, regardless of the consequences, calling people to righteous living.

Pastor-Teacher (Shepherd) – the distinctive ability to assume responsibility for the spiritual growth and Christian community of a group of believers.

Hospitality – the distinctive ability to make people feel at home, welcome and cared for as part of a group.

Intercession – the distinctive ability to pray for significant lengths of time, or a regular basis, and often observe specific answers to those prayers.

Apostle – A person who was originally called by the work and ministry of Jesus Christ in the first century