

Spiritual Gifts Handout

*Helping you to grow
in your Christian walk*



Spiritual gifts can be a very touchy subject in many churches. Yet, scriptures are very clear on spiritual gifts and the understanding of those gifts. One thing I do want you to understand is the completeness of the giving of gifts through the Trinity.

1 Corinthians 12:4	the giver is the Spirit
Romans 12:3	the giver is God
Ephesians 4:7	the giver is Christ

God wants you to understand that your gift is a blessing that is complete and lacks nothing. You have been blessed to serve God, to serve Christ, and to serve the Holy Spirit in the fulfillment of their purpose here on earth. Take a moment right now to thank God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit for your special gift(s).

This handout should give you some background information on spiritual gifts. But just like any other subject you are researching please do not let this be your only source. There are several good books on the subject of spiritual gifts. I encourage you to study and to seek out understanding from your pastor and others. I also encourage you to take two different spiritual gifts tests. This will help you to focus in on your main gift while providing confirmation to you of your gift(s).

Ask God to help you to understand your spiritual gift(s) and how He wants you to serve Him with your gift(s). God's provision for you includes spiritual gifts which, when dedicated to Him, make it possible for us to take important steps toward personal spiritual growth and maturity.

In His Service,
Michael Stubbs
Disciple Making Ministry

Biblical Principles

1. Every believer has at least one spiritual gift. No one is the exception.
“Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.”
1 Corinthians 12:7
2. No believer has every spiritual gift.
“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”
1 Corinthians 12:27
“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
3. Believers have different spiritual gifts from one another. We are all unique.
“...Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with the measure of faith God has given you. Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so on Christ, we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.” Romans 12:3-5
4. The Holy Spirit determines your gifts.
“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
5. You are responsible to use your gift.
“Do not neglect your gift ...” 1 Timothy 4:14
6. Your gift does not make you superior.
“The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ.” 1 Corinthians 12:12
7. Using your gifts glorifies God and grows you.
“This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.” John 15:8

Biblical Listing of Gifts

The following four passages are the main scripture references that are widely held as the foundation for spiritual gifts.

Romans 12:3-8	prophesying, serving, teaching, encouraging, contributing, leadership, mercy
1 Corinthians 12:7-11	wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discernment, speaking in tongues, interpreting tongues
1 Corinthians 12:27-30	apostles, prophets, teachers, miracles, healing, compassion, administration, speaking in tongues
Ephesians 4:11	apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers

The following four passages are additional references that some have come to include with the four main references. These would be new gifts not listed in the passages above.

1 Corinthians 7:7	marriage, celibacy
1 Corinthians 13:1-3	voluntary poverty, martyrdom
1 Corinthians 14:26-33	music
1 Peter 4:9-11	hospitality

Concerning Spiritual Gifts

1. Spiritual gifts differ from spiritual fruit.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”
Galatians 5:22-23

“fruit” shows your maturity
“gifts” show your ministry

2. Be aware of the gift projection fallacy.

What this means is to not assume your gift(s) based on your talents or on what your gifts have been in the past. God can and will change your gifts in order for you to serve His purpose and will. Our desire should be to look for ways that God is opening doors for us to serve Him and not be tied to what has happened in the past or by what others think we should be doing.

3. Using your gifts without love is worthless.

“If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.” 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

God will only be pleased when our heart is right. No matter how much we serve Him with our gift(s), it will not be worth anything unless it is done in a spirit of love. Check your heart to make sure that you are doing what God wants and because you love Him.

Remember that our goal is to hear these words:

“Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness.” Matthew 25:21

Note: All scripture references taken from the:
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