

Spiritual Gift Basics

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The need for the study:

1. The Spirit's work in the believer is crucial to the believer's sanctification.
2. It is impossible for the church to function properly without each believer exercising his/her gifts.

What are spiritual gifts?

A spiritual gift is a God-given ability for service (Ryrie). Natural abilities are also God-given, but they are not to be regarded as spiritual gifts. Natural abilities are a result of being part of the human race; spiritual gifts are a result of being a Christian. Natural abilities are often combined with spiritual gifts; through the natural ability to sing one may exercise his/her spiritual gift of exhortation.

When are spiritual gifts given?

God, by His Spirit, gives the gifts at the time the person believes in Christ. Gifts are one of the blessings that God gives to welcome the person into His family.

How are the gifts to be used?

Gifts are to be used for the edification or benefit of the local church. This includes both numerical and spiritual growth. They are also to be used in love.

Who has the gifts?

Every believer in Christ, without exception, has at least one of the gifts.

How may one study the gifts?

Gifts in the New Testament can be divided into two categories: Temporary and Permanent. Temporary gifts established the church and the New Testament Scriptures. Permanent gifts developed the church (spiritually and numerically) and continue on to the present day. Survey the following chart to gain an understanding of the gifts and their basic divisions:

Temporary Gifts	Permanent Gifts
Revelatory Gifts (the receiving of new revelation): Apostle Prophet Discerning spirits Interpreting Tongues	Speaking Gifts: Evangelist Pastor Teacher Exhorter
Sign Gifts (proofs that the revelation is authentic): Healing Miracles Tongues	Service Gifts: Helper Governor Giver Consoler Believer

How to Determine Your Gift: Get involved with your local church!

Permanent Speaking Gifts

- Evangelist:** Definition: A God-given ability to communicate the Gospel with the result that believers are equipped and motivated to evangelism and unbelievers are brought to faith.
- Pastor:** Definition: A God-given ability to feed, lead, and take heed to the local church.
- Teacher** Definition: A God-given ability to help God's people understand His revelation.
- Exhorter:** Definition: A God-given ability to stir the heart and mind to the end that the believer desires to serve the Lord more fully.

Permanent Service Gifts

- Helper:** Definition: A God-given ability to lend a hand (lit, make the dust fly) wherever a need appears, but to do it in such a way that it strengthens and encourages other believers.
- Governor:** A God-given ability to manage or direct the Lord's people to the end that the Lord's work reflects His orderly nature.
- Giver:** A God-given ability to fund the work of God.
- Consoler:** A God-given ability to lovingly care for others in desperate need.
- Believer:** A God-given ability to see what needs to be done and to believe that God will do even though it seems impossible.