

Experiencing the Spirit's Gifts

Four passages in the New Testament reveal **four imperatives** concerning spiritual gifts.

- **Imperative #1: SINCE GOD HAS GIVEN YOU A GIFT, DON'T BE A SPECTATOR; MANAGE YOUR GIFTS TO SERVE GOD'S PEOPLE AND BRING GOD GLORY.**

God has given gifts to each of you from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Manage them well so that God's generosity can flow through you. ¹¹Are you called to be a speaker? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Are you called to help others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then God will be given glory in everything through Jesus Christ. . . .

1 Peter 4:10, 11 (New Living Translation)

- A spiritual gift = a supernatural ability granted by the Holy Spirit to build up and serve the Church
- Manager = steward = someone who is responsible for another's resources

Three Categories of Spiritual Gifts

- Speaking gifts; serving others by what we say (1 Peter 4:11)
 - Serving gifts; serving others by what we do (1 Peter 4:11)
 - Sign gifts; serving other through healing, miracles and tongues (See Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12-14)
- **Imperative #2: SINCE THE HOLY SPIRIT CHOOSES WHAT GIFTS TO GIVE YOU, ACCEPT THOSE GIFTS AND USE THEM FOR THE "COMMON GOOD."**

Now there are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but it is the same Holy Spirit who is the source of them all . . . ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. 1 Corinthians 12:4 (NLT); 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 (English Standard Version)

"Common good" = When you use whatever gift the Spirit gives you, there will be spiritual profit for the individual person you minister to and for the Church as a whole.

Under his control all the different parts of the body fit together, and the whole body is held together by every joint with which it is provided. So when each separate part works as it should, the whole body grows and builds itself up through love. Ephesians 4:16 (Good News Translation)

How to Know What Task the Spirit is Assigning You

- The Spirit will stir your heart toward fulfilling an area of need.
 - There will be skill in the execution of the task.
 - God will receive glory when the task is performed.
- **Imperative #3: SINCE YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE IMPORTANT AND NEEDED IN THE BODY, COOPERATE – DON'T COMPETE.**
- We have many parts in the one body, and all these parts have different functions. ⁵In the same way, though we are many, we are one body in union with Christ, and we are all joined to each other as different parts of one body. ⁶So we are to use our different gifts in accordance with the grace that God has given us. Romans 12:4-6a (GNT)*

The second definition of grace: God's enabling power

- **Imperative #4: SINCE GOD GIFTS LEADERS TO HELP BELIEVERS USE THEIR SPIRITUAL GIFTS, PARTICIPATE IN WORKS OF SERVICE THAT WILL BUILD THE BODY OF CHRIST.**

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹²to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up . . .
Ephesians 4:11-12 (New International Version)

God's plan is that every Christian is a minister; every Christian has a gift or gifts which are to be used in serving others.

LIST OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Major passages where gifts are listed: 1 Corinthians 12:8-10; 28-30; Romans 12:6-8; Ephesians 4:11; 1 Peter 4:10, 11

This is not an inclusive list. Other gifts may be inferred throughout Scripture.

Prophecy	1 Corinthians 14:3
Evangelism	Ephesians 4:11-12; Acts 8:26-40
Apostle	Ephesians 4:11-12; Romans 15:20
Preaching/Teaching	Ephesians 4:12-13
Encouragement	Romans 12:8; Acts 14:22
Word of wisdom	1 Corinthians 12:8; 2:1,6-16
Discerning of spirits	1 Corinthians 12: 10; I John 4:1-6
Word of knowledge	1 Corinthians 12:8; Daniel 1:17
Service/helps	1 Corinthians 12:28; Acts 6:1-7
Mercy	Romans 12:8; Luke 10:30-37
Giving	Romans 12:8; 2 Corinthians 8:1-7
Healing	1 Corinthians 12:28; James 5:14-16
Miracles	1 Corinthians 12:28; Mark 11:23-24
Tongues	1 Corinthians 14:13-15
Interpretation of tongues	1 Corinthians 14:13-15
Administration	1 Corinthians 14:40
Faith	Romans 4:18-21

Go to the following website for a definition of each of the gifts of the Spirit:
<http://bible.org/article/gifts-spirit>

My thanks to the authors of the following books used as resources in this sermon series:
Surprised by the Power of the Spirit by Jack Deere; *The Promise* by Tony Evans;
God's Empowering Presence by Gordon Fee; *The Holy Spirit* by Billy Graham;
Those Controversial Gifts by George Mallone