

## SPIRITUAL GIFTS

**The Bible informs us so we are not ignorant** -1 Cor 12:1-3 -**Now ABOUT SPIRITUAL GIFTS, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant.** 2 You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. 3 Therefore I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

**An initial purpose of Spiritual gifts is God displaying salvation** - Heb 2:1-4 - We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. 2 For if the message spoken by angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, 3 **how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation?** This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. 4 **God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit DISTRIBUTED ACCORDING TO HIS WILL.**

**Each Christian has a gift (or gifts) from God** - 1 Cor 7:7 - 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.

**Our gifts are meant to be used in concert with other's gifts in the Body** - Eph 4:3-8 - 3 Make every effort to keep THE UNITY of the Spirit through the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit— just as you were called to one hope when you were called— 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. 7 But to each one of us grace has been given as CHRIST APPORTIONED IT.

**Gifts are shown through speaking or action and the glory is to go to God** - 1 Peter 4:10-11-10 Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. 11 If anyone **speaks**, he should do it as one **speaking the very words of God.** If anyone **serves**, he should **do it with the strength God provides, so that in ALL THINGS GOD MAY BE PRAISED through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever.** Amen.

**\*When it comes to Spiritual Gifts, we don't work out in order to do them, we work on being totally used by God.**

**\*\*\* Don't mistake "Spiritual gifts" for "Natural Talents"**

**Different Gifts from One Spirit, performed based on One Lord, all for God to work** - 1 Cor 12:4-7 - 4 There are different kinds of **GIFTS**, but the **same Spirit.** 5 There are different kinds of **SERVICE, but the same Lord.** 6 There are different kinds of **WORKING, but the same God** works all of them in **all men.** 7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

**Common Good** -sumphero (soom-fer'-o); **to bear together** (contribute), i.e. (literally) **to collect**, (be better for, bring together, be expedient (for), be good, (be) profit (-able for).)

**Gifts** (the power given by the Holy Spirit)- charisma (khar'-is-mah) a (divine) gratuity, a spiritual endowment.

**Services** (The actions done with that power of the Holy Spirit following Jesus's lead)- diakonia (dee-ak-on-ee'-ah); attendance (as a servant, etc.); (official) service (especially of the Christian teacher,)

**Working** (How God works through that gift)- energema (en-erg'-ay-mah); an effect

**Christ regulates each Gift**- 1 Cor 12:8-11-8 To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, 10 to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. 11 All these are the work of **one and the same Spirit**, and he gives them to each one, JUST AS HE DETERMINES.

- message of wisdom
- message of knowledge
- faith
- gifts of healing
- miraculous powers
- prophecy
- distinguishing between spirits
- speaking in different kinds of tongues
- interpretation of tongues

**Everyone in the Body's gifts work together so it's important how we use them** - Rom 12:5-8 -5 so in Christ **we who are many form ONE BODY, and each member BELONGS to all the others.** 6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. 7 If it is servicing, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; 8 if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

- Serving
- Teaching
- Encouraging - parakaleo (par-ak-al-eh'-o) to call near, i.e. invite, invoke (by imploration, consolation):
- contributing to the needs of others
- leadership
- showing mercy

**Gifts are given for those necessary to run God's Church** - Eph 4:11-13-11 **IT WAS HE WHO GAVE** some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 to **prepare God's people** for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

- **Apostles** - apostolos (ap-os'-tol-os); a delegate; specially, an ambassador of the Gospel; officially a commissioner of Christ ["apostle"] (with miraculous powers): - apostle, messenger, he that is sent.
- **Prophets** - prophetes (prof-ay'-tace); a foreteller ("prophet"); a divinely inspired speaker.
- **Evangelists** - euaggelistes (yoo-ang-ghel-is-tace'); a preacher of the gospel:
- **Pastors** - poimen (poy-mane'); a shepherd (literally or figuratively): shepherd, pastor
- **Teachers** - idaskalos (did-as'-kal-os); an instructor (genitive case or specially): doctor, master, teacher

**God gives the gifts as he sees fit** - 1 Cor 12:28-31-28 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. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? 30 Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? 31 **But eagerly desire the greater gifts**. And now I will show you the most excellent way.

- **Those that help** - antilepsis (an-til'-ape-sis); relief:
- **Administration** - kubernes (koo-ber'-nay-sis) - to steer pilotage, i.e. (figuratively) directorship (in the church):

**The greater gifts are those gifts that build up the church** - 1 Cor 14:12 So it is with you. Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church.

**The example of choosing the greater gift is like choosing between prophecy and tongues** - 1 Cor 14:1-5 - **Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy**. 2 For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit. 3 But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort. 4 He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. 5 **I would like every one of you to speak in tongues**, but I would **rather have you prophesy**. He who prophesies is greater than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may be edified

**There is a purpose for spiritual gifts** – 1 Cor 14:26-33-26 What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. **ALL OF THESE MUST BE DONE FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF THE CHURCH**. 27 If anyone speaks in a tongue, two — or at the most three — should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret. 28 If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and God. 29 Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said. 30 And if a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, the first speaker should stop. 31 For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged. 32 The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets. 33 For God is not a God of disorder but of peace.

**Paul is an example of how to use our spiritual gifts** - Eph 3:7-9 - 7 I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. 8 Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: **to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ**, 9 and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things.

**Don't allow perception, reaction, or anything else stop you from using your gift for the building up of the Church** - Gal 6:9-10 - 9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

**Spiritual gifts are worthless without LOVE** - 1 Cor 13:1-3 - 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. 2 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. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I GAIN NOTHING.

**How do we know what our gift(s) is/are?** - 2 Peter 1:3-4 - 3 His divine power HAS given us everything we need for life and godliness THROUGH OUR KNOWLEDGE OF HIM who called us by his own glory and goodness. 4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

**Reasons Christians are not aware of their Spiritual gift**

**Simply put, we receive God's grace in vain** - 2 Cor 6:1-2 -As God's fellow workers we urge you NOT TO RECEIVE GOD'S GRACE IN VAIN. 2 For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, **now is the time of God's favor**, now is the day of salvation.

**The Gifts of the Spirit are spiritual so we need to BE Spiritual** - Gal 5:24-25 - 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. 25 Since we **LIVE BY THE SPIRIT**, let us **KEEP IN STEP WITH THE SPIRIT**.

**We miss out on Spiritual Strength because we've grown to rely on human strength** - 2 Cor 12:9 But he said to me, "**MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR YOU**, for my power is made PERFECT IN WEAKNESS." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

#### **Lack of Faith**

**Our walk is defined by our faith** - 2 Thess 1:11 With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith.

**Doubt (anything done outside of God) kills Faith** - Matt 21:21-22 - 21 Jesus replied, "**I tell you the truth, if you have faith and do not doubt**, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and it will be done. 22 If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."

**We are not getting genuine Faith** - Rom 10:17 - Consequently, faith comes from HEARING THE MESSAGE, and the MESSAGE IS HEARD THROUGH THE WORD OF CHRIST.

**We are not living by Faith** - 2 Cor 5:7 We live by faith, not by sight.

**We are not being fed correctly or at all** - Col 1:9-12-9 For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all **spiritual wisdom and understanding**. 10 And **we pray this in order that** you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, 11 being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.

**We have not completely given our lives to Christ** - Rom 12:1-2 - Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of worship. 2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. **Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is** — his good, pleasing and perfect will.

**We are not connecting with the Body** - 1 Cor 12:12-13 - 12 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. 13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body — whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free — and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

#### **Our life purpose is wrong –**

Col 3:17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, **DO IT ALL in the name of the Lord Jesus**, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

1 Cor 10:31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, **DO IT ALL for the glory of God**.

**We continue to live by our flesh not with the power God provides** - 2 Tim 1:7 For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

**We want to be Christians...without being Christians** - 2 Tim 3:5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.

#### **What we must do to access the Spirits power**

**To access the Spirits power, we must trust God** - Rom 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**We must live with a complete reverence for God to remove our worthless strength and display true Spiritual strength** - 1 Cor 2:3-5 - 3 I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. 4 My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, 5 so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.

**We must devalue everything to access true Power** - Phil 3:7-11 - 7 But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ — the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. 10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.