

## That God may be glorified through Jesus Christ

Spiritual gifts are the LORD's secret weapon for preserving the unity of the body of Christ. The spiritual gifts provide spiritual power for serving one another.

We have just about completed the characteristics of spiritual gifts.

Please turn to 1 Peter 4:10. There is one more characteristic that I need to show you. It is the most important of them all because it's the ultimate purpose of them.

### *1 Peter 4:10-11*

*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.*

/ The overarching purpose of spiritual gifts is so that in all things God may be glorified through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Head of the Body.\

*John 17:1-5*

*17 Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You, 2 even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life. 3 "This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. 4 " I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do. 5 "Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.*

/The Lord Jesus Christ glorified the Father by completing the work that the Father gave Him to do.\

*John 12:23-26*

*23 And Jesus answered them, saying, " The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.*

*24 "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. 25 " He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal. 26 "If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.*

/The Lord Jesus Christ glorified the Father by His work on the cross, along with His resurrection, ascension, and session.\

*John 15:7-8*

*7 "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 "My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.*

/We glorify the Father through our Lord Jesus Christ by completing the work the Father has given us to do: by bearing fruit and proving to be Christ' disciples.\

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Here now is a summary of the characteristics of spiritual gifts:

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1. All three members of the Trinity are involved.
2. They are marked by great variety.
3. Their source is the Holy Spirit.
4. They are a gift of God's grace.
5. They are given for the purpose of providing service to the body of Christ.
6. They are energized by God for action in the believer's life. They run on divine power and the love of God.
7. Each believer gets one.
8. They are given to publicly demonstrate God's grace and wisdom - Christ - through His workmanship, the Church.
9. They are designed to be used for the good of the team, especially for unity and growth. [immediate purpose]
10. God gets the glory through our Lord Jesus Christ. [Ultimate purpose]\

OK. With that, it is time to turn our attention to the individual gifts themselves. This will put meat on the bones, so to speak. Or gravy on the turkey, if you prefer!

Let me begin by giving you the framework.

It's a way of cataloging the gifts that appear in the New Testament epistles.

/Categories of Spiritual gifts\

**/There are two major categories of spiritual gifts found in the Bible: temporary and permanent.\**

Temporary and Permanent /slide graphic\

/a. **Temporary** spiritual gifts only functioned during the pre-canon period.\

On the day the Church Age began, there was no New Testament.

**Temporary** spiritual gifts were operational from approximately AD 30, the day of Pentecost, to on or before AD 96, when last book in the New Testament canon of scripture was completed.

The temporary spiritual gifts were designed to function in place of the not-yet completed New Testament, and many of them were spectacular in nature.

There are indications that some or perhaps all of the temporary spiritual gifts ceased being operational at an earlier date.

This is particularly true of the more spectacular temporary gifts such as healings, miracles and tongues. There is a lot of evidence that these sign gifts ceased with the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD (tongues) or even earlier - once the mystery doctrine of the church age had been written (AD 62 or 63).

/b. **Permanent** spiritual gifts function throughout the Church Age, until the Rapture of the Church, whenever that occurs.\

Permanent spiritual gifts function throughout the Church Age, but are emphasized from the time of the completion of the New Testament forward.

/You can further divide the **temporary spiritual gifts** into **three kinds: foundational, sign , and revelatory.**\

**Foundational gifts** laid the foundation for the church: introducing the Gospel to the Jews and the Gentiles, establishing the first congregations, and completing the canon of Scripture.

**Sign gifts** brought attention to, and confirmed the divine source of, the messengers and their new message.

**Revelatory gifts** provided partial revelation to the early church while the canon of the New Testament was still being written.

Let's turn one more time to 1 Peter 4:10-11

*1 Peter 4:10-11*

*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.*

/You can further divide the **permanent spiritual gifts** into **two kinds: speaking and serving.**\

**<diagram with the classification>**

Sign/foundation/revelatory – temporary

Speaking and serving – permanent - active now...TRUTH gifts...GRACE gifts

With that, let's now see how each gift mentioned in the epistles fits into this framework:

**/Foundation:** apostles, prophets\



The foundation only needs to be laid once.

**/Sign** (manifestation, confirmatory, authenticating): healings, miracles, tongues. \

**/Revelatory**: the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, discerning of spirits, faith, interpretation of tongues\

When Paul speaks of the gifts being curtailed or ceasing, he mentions one from each of these three groups:

*1 Cor 13:8 Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy [foundation], they will be done away; if there are tongues [sign], they will cease; if there is knowledge [revelatory] , it will be done away.*

**/Speaking**: pastor-teacher, evangelist, teaching, exhortation\

**/Serving**: helps, service, administration, mercy, giving\

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## **/Point 7. The individual spiritual gifts found in the New Testament\**

It is now time to return to the major passages on spiritual gifts in the New Testament. The purpose this time is to take notice of the individual spiritual gifts that are mentioned there.

This is the order we will proceed in:

First we will go to the book of Romans.

/ Romans is the systematic theology of the church age and explains the Good News, the fundamental TRUTH we are to proclaim as the body of Christ.\

Second, we will go the book of Ephesians.

/Ephesians is the book that explains the mystery of the church. \

Third, we will go to the book of 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians. 1 Corinthians contains the most extensive treatment of the subject of spiritual gifts: 3 chapters. Yet it is in a book that is dedicated to correcting the errors and problems that existed in a very carnal, very immature church.

/Much of the material on spiritual gifts was written in order to fix what was wrong with the church at Corinth when it came to their lack of understanding and abuse of spiritual gifts.\

Finally, we will go the book of 1 Peter.

/This book on handling suffering as a Christian will give us a compact summary of the spiritual gifts that we can use to categorize them neatly and accurately.\

Three things to keep in mind about spiritual gifts as we proceed:

/Their purpose is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, the one who is full of grace and truth.\

/They are given for the common good, to build up and edify other believers.\

/They are to promote unity in the royal family.\

OK, let's get started in our examination of the individual spiritual gifts for the church.

Rom 12:1-13

Rom 12:1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

Rom 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Rom 12:3 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.

Rom 12:4 For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function,

Rom 12:5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

Rom 12:6 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**;

Rom 12:7 if **service**, in his serving; or **he who teaches**, in his teaching;

Rom 12:8 or **he who exhorts**, in his exhortation; **he who gives**, with liberality; **he who leads**, with diligence; **he who shows mercy**, with cheerfulness.

Rom 12:9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good.

Rom 12:10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;

Rom 12:11 not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;

Rom 12:12 rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer,

Rom 12:13 contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.

Seven spiritual gifts are identified in this core passage in the book of Romans.

They include:

Prophecy

Service

Teaching

Exhortation

Giving

Leadership (or Administration)

Mercy

/First of all in Rom 12:6-8, we have the gifts of prophecy, serving or ministering, teaching, exhortation, giving, leading or ruling and mercy.\

ROM 12:6 And since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let each exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith;

ROM 12:7 if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching;

ROM 12:8 or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

/And then of course in the most popular passage that we normally quote EPH 4:11  
And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and  
some as pastors and teachers,\

/In 1Co 12:8-10, we have the gifts of the word of wisdom, the gift of knowledge,  
faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, distinguishing of spirits or discernment, tongues,  
and the interpretation of tongues.\

1CO 12:8 For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another  
the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit;

1CO 12:9 to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the  
one Spirit,



1CO 12:10 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.

/In 1CO 12:28, we have the gifts of apostles, prophets, pastor-teachers, miracles, healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues.\

1CO 12:28 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.

/In 1CO 13:8, there are gifts of prophecy, the gift of tongues, and the word of knowledge.\

1CO 13:8 Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away.

/In 1Pe 4:11, we have the gift serving or ministering and the gift of speaking.\

1PE 4:10 As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

1PE 4:11 Whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves, let him do so as 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.

## **/Point 8. temporary spiritual gifts\**

Rev 22:18-19

I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book; 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.

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[note somewhere that many of the cults have their counterfeit versions of these temporary spiritual gifts: catholic charismatic, Mormon (tongues is part of their deal – see McCrae page 48), Muslims...]

## **/Point 9. Describe the individual gifts that are active in the church today.\**

the Permanent Spiritual Gifts of the Church-age.

The spiritual gifts are given in lists.

No two lists are the same.

And the lists do not include a description of the gifts.

The New testament passages do not describe the spiritual gifts, they just name them.

It's tantalizing at times, but then again that is exactly the way the Holy Spirit wanted to leave it, because if He had wanted to give us more details He would have.

As a result, it is very difficult to be too dogmatic about what any one gift entails, or where one gift leaves off and another starts up.

The theologians have gone all around debating whether administration and leadership is the same gift or separate gifts,.

Ditto with service and helps.

Is prophecy – which is the only gift mentioned in every list by the way - referring to a temporary spiritual gift or is it the general title for communication gifts that reveal God's word to man.

In a way, the lack of detail is wonderful, because it leaves room for the mentorship of God the Holy Spirit with individual churches, pastors, and believer-priests.

### **The spiritual gift of helps.**

Let's return once more to 1 Peter 4:10-11.

#### *1 Peter 4:10-11*

*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.*



<< See Reservoir for additional material >>>