

The signs of a true apostle were performed

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.

Last Sunday, we finished our work on the characteristics of spiritual gifts.

This morning, we pick things up with our next subject: the individual spiritual gifts.

Today we will learn the framework. This allows for 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 – and there were no churches!

**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 operated in the first generation of the church age. \

Think of it! On the day of Pentecost, the apostles, with Peter at the point, found the courage to leave their hiding place and preach the gospel to Jews from every nation who had assembled to celebrate the Jewish feast of Pentecost.

There was no New Testament.

There were no Christian assemblies. They were starting from scratch. Think of all the work that had to be done.

Peter had just finished his great gospel preaching. Let's pick up the story in Acts 2:36

*Acts 2:36-47*

*"Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ — this Jesus whom you crucified."*

*37 Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" 38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 "For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself."*

*40 And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation!" 41 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. 42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*

*43 Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. 44 And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; 45 and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. 46 Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.*

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/There were three kinds of temporary spiritual gifts: **foundational, sign, and revelatory.**\ <pic>

**/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.\

*Eph 2:19-22*

*19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.*

**/Foundation:** apostles, prophets\

/Peter was an apostle. He had supernatural abilities to preach the gospel and perform signs.\

He built the foundation. He was joined in that endeavor by the apostles, particularly the apostle Paul.

/Peter built the foundation for the Jewish church. Paul built the foundation for the Gentile church.\

*1 Cor 3:10-11*

*According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. 11 For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

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/The foundation only needed to be built once.\

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

These were spectacular!

*1 Cor 12:8-11*

*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; 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another **gifts of healing** by the one Spirit, 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**. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.*

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

*2 Cor 12:12*

*12 The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles.*

*/There is a good basis for thinking that the sign gifts ceased operating before the revelatory gifts did.\*

*Heb 2:1-4*

*For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it. 2 For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, 3 how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, 4 God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.*

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

/In fact, in that first generation, the LORD provided many supernatural means for revealing new truths. \

*1 Cor 12:8-11*



*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; 9 to another **faith** by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 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**. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.*

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

<pic>

/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.*

/God provided uniquely gifted men – the apostles and prophets.\

/They were given the ability to perform miraculous signs like healing and miracles. \  
This made an amazing first impression.

/Men were eager to give a hearing to what they had to say.\

And what they had to say was unprecedented.

The temporary spiritual gifts were absolutely necessary in order for the Christian faith to gain a foothold in the first century, in the Roman empire.

/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.

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.*

**/There are two kinds of permanent spiritual gifts: speaking and serving.\<pic>**

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

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

Next week we will tackle the individual permanent speaking and serving spiritual gifts.

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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 >>>