

The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 87

Spiritual Gifts for Believers in the Church Age
Gift of Helps



2015

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

If YOU have never personally believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, you have the opportunity to do so right NOW. Simply tell God the Father that you believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, who loved us so much that He came down from heaven and became a man to take our place and pay for the penalty for all the sins of all mankind. Jesus, the Savior died on the Cross for your sins and the sins of the whole world. Then Jesus was buried but He rose again and He is alive today seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven. When you make the decision to believe in Jesus in simple faith based on His work on the Cross, you are now a believer and will always be a child of God. When you die, you will spend eternity with Him in Heaven. *(Acts 16:31)* "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." *(John 3:16)* "God loved the world so much that He gave is One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."



LESSON

What are the categories of spiritual gifts?

They are:

- SIGN or FOUNDATION gifts – temporary: miracles, healing, prophesy, apostle, tongues, wisdom
- SERVING Gifts – active now: helps, service, administration, mercy, giving, faith
- SPEAKING Gifts – active now: pastor-teacher, evangelist, teaching, exhortation

The first group is listed as sign or foundation gifts, which were temporary and these were active only during the period between Jesus' Ascension into heaven up to approximately 96 AD when the **Bible was completed and in written form**. Today these sign gifts DO NOT apply to Church Age believers. We will not be discussing them in this lesson or any of the following lessons because they do not apply to us.

However, the permanent Spiritual Gifts of the Church Age DO apply to us and are given in lists in the New Testament. No two lists are the same and there is no descriptions for the individual gifts that are active in the church today because the New Testament passages that list them do not describe them... they just name them. It's interesting to see this absence of a description but then again that is exactly the way God the Holy Spirit wanted to leave it because if He had wanted to give us more details He would have, right?

So as a result of lack of a description, it's very difficult to be too strict about what any one gift requires of believers or where one gift leaves off and another starts up. Are you confused yet? Just kidding...God is NOT the author of confusion.



Really this lack of a description is wonderful because it leaves room for God the Holy Spirit to guide and direct the churches, pastors the individual believers in regards to their gift.

The spiritual gift of HELPS

The spiritual gift of helps is mentioned in one place and that is [1 Cor 12:27-28](#). "Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it. (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."

Let's first look at the definition of the word "help". (The meaning comes from the Greek-English Lexicon Based on Semantic Domain. Copyright © 1988 United Bible Societies, New York. It is used by permission.) It means the ability or capacity to assist.

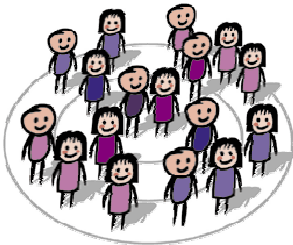
It is mentioned in [1 Cor 12:28](#), as one of the services in the local church by way of giving assistance, especially of "help" given to the weak and needy.

We can also see it in [1 Thess 5:14](#). "And we urge you, brothers, warn the idle, encourage the cowardly, help the weak, be patient with them all." [Acts 20:35](#) says "In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"



The spiritual gift of helps is the supernatural ability to come alongside others for the purpose of greatly increasing the other believer to be effective in their own spiritual gift and walk with the Lord.

The spiritual gift of helps is similar to the gift of service, but there is this important difference. The believer with the gift of helps is focused on people. This gift of helps is what really makes the Royal Family of God stick together. It is a very important gift. It is the gift that is really the stability of the local church assembly. It is believed that the majority of believers in every local church assembly has this gift.



One man in the New Testament who appears to have had this gift was John Mark. [Acts 13:4-5](#) "So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia and from there they sailed to

[Cyprus](#). (5) When they reached Salamis, they began to proclaim the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews; and they also had John (Mark) as their helper." The Greek word here translated "helper" means minister, officer, or servant.



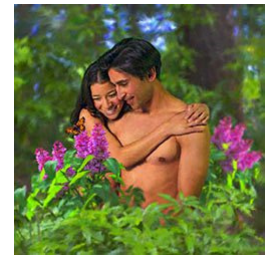
One of the clues that is given in the New Testament that a believer was outstanding in functioning in his or her gift occurs when a believer is praised in writing in the Bible, which will stand for all of eternity. Using that as the guideline, the gift of helps is highlighted for special praise and perhaps more than any other gift.

For instance: In [Rom 16:1-2](#) it says, "I praise you our sister Phoebe, who is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea; (2) that you receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and that you help her in whatever matter she may have need of you; for she herself has also been a helper of many, and of myself as well."

But the gift of helps is highlighted for special praise and perhaps more than any other gift. One reason is probably related to the fact that as one writer put it: "Very few cults (anti-God groups) grow up around people who exercise the gift of helps!"

The ultimate end of the gift of helps is the education of others.

After God created Adam, He decided to make another who was bone of his bone, flesh of his flesh...a helper...or helpmate. God could have given Adam a teacher, or prophet. But what God actually gave Adam to be with him was a helper. [Gen 2:18](#) "Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.'"



When the Lord Jesus Christ was about to die on the cross and then leave the disciples forty days later, He told them that He would not leave them orphans. He kept His promise and sent the Holy Spirit to live inside every believer after Jesus went into heaven. The Bible says that what the orphan needs most is a helper. Those suffering are always in great need of a helper. [Job 29:12](#) "Because I delivered the poor who cried for help, and the orphan who had no

helper." Ps 10:14 "You have seen it, for you have observed mischief and annoyance to take it into your hand. The unfortunate gives himself to you; you have been the helper of the orphan."

And so the Lord said to His disciples in John 14:16-18 "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, to be with you forever; (17) even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He lives with you and will be in you. (18) 'I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.'" The Holy Spirit is given the title of Helper!

The gift of helps works in relationship to helping the sick, the suffering, handicapped and the helpless.

This gift is held by men and women.

In the classical Greek language it is used for going to hospitals, etc. It was used of a bandage to support a wound.

It refers to a gift or ability to accurately recognize needs and then to intelligently provide assistance.

It can involve financial help as in Phi 4:15. "And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only."

It also means physical and spiritual help as in Act 20:35. "In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"



Believers who usually have this gift do not make themselves visible or talk about it but are very important. They are happy to serve faithfully behind the scenes.

It is a gift that relieves the pressures and burdens of the local church by fulfilling a need. This gift is one of the most effective gifts in the local church.

Unfortunately many Christians do not highly value this gift. Too often people say, "Well, I don't know what my gift is so it must be the gift of helps." They view this gift as one of the least but on Paul's list it comes ahead of that which many Christians value today...tongues.

Peter Wagner in his book, **"Your Spiritual Gifts Can Help Your Church Grow"** writes, **"The gift of helps is the special ability that God gives to some members of the body of Christ to invest the talent they have in the life and ministry of other members of the body thus enabling the person helped to increase the effectiveness of his or her spiritual gift."**

Here's just a small list of what the gift of helps does in the local church:

1. Prepares prep or classroom materials.
2. Works in the ministry.
3. Cares for maintaining church property.
4. Works in the tape ministry.
5. Does secretarial work.
6. Arranges and provides transportation.
7. Sets up chairs.
8. Works for the radio ministry, the internet ministry.
9. Provides nursery facilities.

10. Cares for the needy.

11. Works behind the scenes to allow each church department to function properly.

This lesson and the following ones on the individual spiritual gifts will help you with the guidance of God the Holy Spirit to know what your particular gift or gifts are.

In our next lesson we'll see what the Gift of Mercy is...

Close in prayer

Prepared from Pastor John Farley's lesson on 4-11-2012
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