

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

General:

- (I Corinthians 12:1) Don't be ignorant concerning spiritual gifts.
- (I Corinthians 12:4-6) Different gifts but the same Spirit, different administrations but the same Lord [Jesus], different effects but the same God [Father].

Purpose:

- (Ephesians 4:12) For the perfecting of the saints, for the building up of the Body.
- (I Corinthians 12:7,27) Given to everyone for the common good as Christ's Body.

Receiving:

- (I Corinthians 14:1) All must earnestly desire spiritual gifts.
- (I Corinthians 12:11) The Holy Spirit determines which gifts He gives to whom; God gives us natural gifts at birth toward a specific spiritual ministry later.

Instructions for use:

- (John 7:37-39, Hebrews 11:6) Start with thirst and faith for the Holy Spirit.
- (Romans 12:6) Gifts are different according to the grace given to each, so exercise according to the proportion of faith. God gives different people different burdens, which is usually their calling/gift/ministry in the Body – whether it falls into a listed category or not. If you lack faith, hear the Word of Christ (Romans 10:17).
- (Romans 12:10) Be devoted in love and outdo each other in showing honor.
- (I Corinthians 12:28, Ephesians 4:11) The order is for spiritual authority.

Gifts to individuals (Romans 12:6-8, I Corinthians 12:8-10, 28b):

1. Prophecy (I Corinthians 14:1,3,24-25,39; Hebrews 3:13; Acts 2:17)

(All should covet this gift!) Divinely anointed utterance (communicating an immediate message from God) to build up the Body of Christ. Occasionally, supernatural revelation of hidden things.

2. Effecting of miracles or works of power

Powerful acts that alter the natural course of events.

3. Healing

Supernatural curing of illnesses and restoration of health.

4. Helps

Helping other members of the Body to increase their spiritual effectiveness.

5. Administration / Leading

Directing the church in understanding and achieving its specific God-ordained goals.

6. Word of Knowledge / Teaching

Explaining the principles and truths of Scripture.

7. Word of Wisdom

Practical application of Scriptural principles to specific situations.

8. Faith

Extraordinary confidence in God's will and purposes for the sake of the Body.

9. Distinguishing of spirits

Discerning the spirit behind works – as divine, human or demonic.

10. Various kinds of tongues (I Corinthians 14:4)

Speaking in an unknown (earthly or heavenly) language to: (i) edify oneself and/or (ii) communicate a Divine message to the Church.

11. Interpretation of tongues

Interpreting the unknown language spoken, in language understood by the local church.

12. Service

Providing practical help to the church.

13. Encouragement / Exhortation

Ministering words of counsel, comfort, and consolation to members of the Body.

14. Giving

Generously providing materially for the needs of the Body.

15. Showing mercy (Luke 10:36-37)

Doing acts of kindness to others.

Gifts to the Body (Ephesians 4:11-13, I Corinthians 12:28a):

1. Apostles

Those ordained by God to oversee multiple pastors and churches.

2. Prophets (I Corinthians 12:29, 14:29,31; Acts 13:1,15:32,21:9-11)

Those ordained by God who are *consistently* given a word of prophecy for the church. Prophets should speak first and will generally have more to say.

3. Evangelists (II Timothy 4:5)

Those ordained by God who *consistently* lead people to salvation (witness).

4. Pastors (I Timothy 3:1-7; I Peter 5:1-3)

Those ordained by God to be fathers and shepherds in a local church.

5. Teachers (Romans 12:7)

Those ordained by God who are *consistently* given the word of knowledge (teaching).

Conclusion

The three most important things to remember are that we must:

- 1) have a thirst for the continual filling and outpouring of the Holy Spirit through us
- 2) have faith that God will fill us with the Holy Spirit and empower us with spiritual gifts
- 3) must be faithful with the little God gives us at a time, so that He can entrust more to us