

SPIRITUAL GIFTS AND THE BODY OF CHRIST



Let's start by reading the following passages. As we read them, think about which gifts you have and what gifts others in the group have.

Rom 12:3-13

Prophecy
Service/ministry
Teaching
Exhortation (some
translate encourage)
Generosity
Leading
Mercy

1 Cor 12:4-13, 27-31

Word of wisdom
Knowledge
Faith
Healing
Miracles
Prophecy
Distinguishing spirits
Tongues
Translation of tongues
Apostles
Prophets
Teachers
Helps
Administration

Eph 4:11-16

Apostles
Prophets
Evangelists
Pastors (shepherd)
Teachers

1 Pet 4:7-11

Be hospitable
Serve one another with
whatever gift you have

Discussion

How could we group these gifts?

- Evangelism/Apostles
- Leadership/pastors/Prophecy/teaching/knowledge/exhortation (shepherd and sheep – discuss), administration
- Service/helping
- Healing/miracles
- Faith?
- Tongues/distinguishing spirits
- Generosity/mercy
- Are these lists exhaustive or descriptive of categories?
- Are some talents like music used to encourage, for example?
- Since the purpose of gifts is to draw people to Christ and build them up, do some of our talents reveal the gifts that we have?

A FEW EXAMPLES

Ex 35:30-34 - Bezalel and Oholiab – craftsmen filled with the Spirit of God

Gen 1:28 - Man is given dominion over the earth – implies that he has to evaluate and make choices

1 Sam 16:10-12 - David chosen and anointed

1 Tim 4:14, 2 Tim 2:6-7 - Timothy not to neglect the gift and to kindle afresh the gift of God

Matt 28:18-20 - Make disciples and teach them to keep all that Jesus commanded

Personal Application

- “Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.” (Prov. 18:21 LSB)
- “A tongue that brings healing is a tree of life, But perversion in it breaks the spirit.” (Prov. 15:4 LSB)
- “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with gratefulness in your hearts to God.” (Col. 3:16 LSB)
- “Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a *word* as is good for building up what is needed, so that it will give grace to those who hear.” (Eph. 4:29 LSB)

Video Clip

- “As each one has received a gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God—” (1 Pet. 4:10 LSB)
- “Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a love of the brothers without hypocrisy, fervently love one another from the heart,” (1 Pet. 1:22 LSB)

- Apostles – Someone sent by God. Signs, wonders and miracles while proclaiming Christ. (Church planting?)
- Prophets – likely similar to OT. Addressing sin, Words from God to the people, foretelling.
- Evangelists
- Pastors (shepherds) Teachers/ Leading
- Word of wisdom – Godly wisdom contrasted with worldly wisdom (1 Cor 2:6-16)
- Knowledge – Godly knowledge contrasted with worldly knowledge that puffs up (1 Cor 8:1-3)
- Miracles
- Faith – Belief that God will do what He has said He would do while stepping out in faith.
- Healing
- Service/ministry/Helps
- Administration
- Exhortation/ encourage – Both addressing sin and encouraging to walk with God. Just being there for someone while they are struggling.
- Hospitality
- Generosity
- Mercy
- Distinguishing spirits – likely both in terms of correct or false teachers and the spirit behind the teaching. Also, when dealing with demon oppression or possession.
- Tongues
- Translation of tongues
- Remaining single (1 Cor 7:7)

How do we relate?

Throughout our lives we have been hurt many times. We have built up protective walls to prevent being hurt again.

Are we secure enough in Christ to risk being hurt again and reach out?

“By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:35 LSB)



Before we get into looking at what our gifts are, these are some things that cause walls to go up.

- Being slow to listen and quick to speak
 - Correcting your spouse in front of others
 - Tearing each other down
 - Making comments in a humorous way that puts others down
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- “So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and *yet* it boasts of great things. Behold how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire! And the tongue is a fire, the *very* world of unrighteousness; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of *our* existence, and is set on fire by hell.” (James 3:5-6 LSB)

- Go around the circle – each one name one gift that you have – If not sure, you can pass
- Go around the circle again and list a gift of the person to your right - If not sure, you can pass
- If there are gifts that you think that someone has that have not been mentioned, you can mention those now
- Divide into 2 groups and discuss how these gifts can be used to build up one another
 - Start by how we can use our gifts to build up our spouse or closest friends
 - How do we use our gifts to build up our local church body? How much should the pastor do and how much should the rest of us do?
 - How do we use our gifts to minister to our larger community to bring people to Christ to make disciples and teach them?
 - How do we bring new people coming to the church into fellowship?
 - Get to know them in different ways
 - Invite them for a meal
 - What are their interests?
 - Establish new life groups?
 - May require some to leave current groups if they are not able to be in more than one group
- “So also you, since you are zealous for spiritual *gifts*, seek to abound for the edification of the church.” (1 Cor. 14:12 LSB)
- Jesus talking about the talents given. Matt 25:14-30 What are we doing with the gifts He has given us?

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