

The Doctrine of the Church, Part 2, Community and Spiritual Gifts

Spiritual Gift: A spiritual gift is any ability that is empowered by the Holy Spirit and used in any ministry of the church.

I. Spiritual gifts in redemptive history

A. Old Testament Examples, See Exodus 35:30-35, Numbers 11:16-29, Judges 6:34, I Samuel 10:10-11, I Samuel 16:13-14, II Kings 2:15

Judges 6:34 So the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon; and he blew a trumpet, and the Abiezrites were called together to follow him.

I Samuel 10:11 When they came to the hill there, behold, a group of prophets met him; and the Spirit of God came upon him mightily, so that he prophesied among them.

I Samuel 16:13-14 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. And Samuel arose and went to Ramah. Now the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord terrorized him.

II Kings 2:15 Now when the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho opposite him saw him, they said, "The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha."

B. New Testament Examples, See Matthew 1:20, Luke 1:15, Luke 1:41, Luke 2:25-27, Luke 4:1 and 14, Luke 10:21, Luke 12:10-12, Acts 2:1-4, Acts 8:14-17, Acts 10:44-47, Acts 15:7-9, Acts 19:2-7

Acts 10:44-45 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message. All the circumcised believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.

II. The purpose of spiritual gifts in the New Testament age

A. To equip the church to carry out its ministry until Christ comes

1. Christ gave apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastor/teachers first

Ephesians 4:11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

2. All other believers within the church are then equip to use their gifts

Ephesians 4:11-13 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

3. Each believer has a gift or gifts for the building up of the church

Romans 12:3-5 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. For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

4. Not every believer has every gift or even a majority of the gifts

5. Though not every believer has every gift of the Spirit, every believer is to possess every fruit of the Spirit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control

B. Give a foretaste of the age to come

III. How many gifts are there?

A. Five different passages: I Corinthians 12:28, I Corinthians 12:8-10, Ephesians 4:11, Romans 12:6-8, I Peter 4:11

I Corinthians 12:4-7 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

I Corinthians 12:8-10 For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 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.

I Corinthians 12:11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

I Corinthians 12:28-31 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. All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not workers of miracles, are they? All do not have gifts of healings, do they? All do not speak with tongues, do they? All do not interpret, do they?

Romans 12:6-8 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; if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

1 Peter 4:11 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.

B. Various attempts to classify: knowledge, prophetic, evangelistic, service, administrative, faith

C. Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors/teachers, miracles, healings, helps, administration, tongues, interpretation of tongues, wisdom, knowledge, faith, prophecy, distinguishing between spirits, serving, teaching, encouraging, leadership, giving, leadership, mercy, speaking

D. All shared with the church in proportion to our faith, Romans 12:6

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