

## Lesson 4: Spiritual Gifts Talents

A spiritual gift is a manifestation of the Holy Spirit enabling one in a supernatural Way to minister to the needs of others in the body of Christ (1 Corinthians. 12:7-11; 14:3,12,17, 1 Corinthians 6:19,20). When an individual is converted, the Holy Spirit with spiritual gift(s) endows him. One receives spiritual gifts at the time of their conversion from the Holy Spirit. The spiritual gift is one of grace and is not based on individual merit. It is provided as the Holy Spirit determines, not man (Corinthians 12:14). Like each member of the body, no gift is superior or inferior to another, since they each serve God's purpose.

It is important to distinguish a spiritual gift from a special ability or talent that one possesses. As used in the bible, spiritual gifts refer to a particular supernatural ability that the Holy Spirit provides to one that builds on and makes extraordinary one's otherwise natural proclivities. Christians have different gifts and no one gift should be expected by everyone (1 Corinthians. 12:29-30). This special ability may operate at special appointed times. They may be temporary. They can be for short or long periods. The duration depends on the need of the Church as seen by the Holy Spirit.

What happens is that through the anointing of the Holy Spirit one becomes enabled to accomplish certain things very easily which were formerly, and otherwise are, extremely difficult or impossible.

It is very helpful in evaluating and understanding the gifts of the Spirit that one learns also about the fruit of the Spirit. See Galatians 5:22. In tying them all together, one must pay careful attention to Matt. 7: 15-27, (esp. 21-22). Displaying the gifts is no guarantee that one is saved or is doing the perfect will of God. It is by one's fruit that they are known. Read also Ephesians 4:7-16.

While there may be particular gifts that we find appealing, it is the Holy Spirit that determines which gifts are appropriate.

Note that Jesus says that it is not by our gifts that people will know that we are His disciples, but by our love for one another. See John 13:34. Be very careful as you allow the gifts to be exercised in you. If they are not being exercised in love, you have divested the Holy Spirit of control. See 1 Cor. 12,13. They will then become of little use for the purpose for which they were intended - God and His perfect will.

How can we know the gift God has given us? First, read His word. Second, pray often. Third, meditate on God's word frequently. The more we do this, the more we open ourselves to the knowledge of God through the workings of His Holy Spirit in us. See John 14:12,25; 16:7,11,12-15. Take time to know the gifts, 1 Cor. 12; how they are exercised, 1 Cor. 13; and how God uses them in his work, 1 Cor. 14 and Ephesians 4.

Then ask God to show you His gift for you. When opportunities come for you to be used of God, say yes, and God will in the situation show you how he can supernaturally use you. Take time, however, to be sure that the opportunity represents God's call to you. All needy situations are not necessarily God's call for you.

### LISTING OF SOME OF THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Knowledge  
Faith  
Gifts of Healings  
Miraculous Powers  
Prophecy  
Discernment between Spirits  
Speaking in Different Languages  
Being Merciful  
Administration or Government  
Interpretation of Tongues  
Apostles  
Evangelists  
Pastors  
Teachers  
Helpers  
Wisdom  
Leadership  
Service  
Giving  
Encouragement

