



SPIRITUAL GIFTS

THE HOLY SPIRIT WORKING THROUGH YOU

Class by: Dr. David Speicher

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Introduction

THE PURPOSE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

This study is to help the reader understand the purpose behind the three sets of gifts, to understand what the individual gifts are, and to help the reader find and understand their gifts. In this study you will find first an explanation of the three sets of gifts, second, you will see the description of the gifts, and third is four teachings on how to have the right heart in deploying your gifts.

THE THREE SETS OF GIFTS

1 Corinthians 12:4-6 (ESV)

⁴ *Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;*
⁵ *and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord;*
⁶ *and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.*

God identifies here a categorization of gifts, let's look together at them now.

1. The Implementing Gifts (The Father)

1 Corinthians 12:6 (ESV)

and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.

The word activities is translated in Greek as energema, which means "the act of implementing." God (theos) empowered Jesus to use these workings in His earthly ministry and the Holy Spirit inspired Paul to say to all churches that we are to do the same.

Introduction

Ephesians 4:11-13 (ESV)

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ...

These are the Father's gifts to the church through His Son Jesus. These gifts work to equip and place people into the right spots so that the church can grow in maturity. The purpose of these gifts is for the equipping of the saints and the overall move toward maturity in Christ.

- Apostle
- Prophet
- Evangelist
- Pastor
- Teacher

2. The Service Gifts (Jesus Christ)

1 Corinthians 12:5 (ESV)

and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord;

The service (or gifts) mentioned are translated as *diakonia*, which means assignment/service. These gifts are said to be from the Lord which in the Greek is translated as *kyrios*, which means master. Jesus who is our Lord and Master gives these particular gifts.

Introduction

The purpose of these gifts is for the church to continue in effectiveness and longevity.

- Prophecy
- Serving
- Teaching
- Exhorting / Encouragement
- Contributing / Giving
- Leading
- Mercy

3. The Miraculous Gifts (Holy Spirit)

1 Corinthians 12:4 (ESV)

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;

These gifts are translated as charisma, a sign of benevolent favor. Therefore, these are the miraculous gifts given by the Holy Spirit because the word Spirit (Pneuma) is used to signify He who gives these particular gifts.

These gifts are given to everyone and can be manifested in everyone. The purpose of these gifts is for a sign of God's power, these gifts manifest the power of God.

- Wisdom
- Knowledge
- Faith
- Healing
- Miracles
- Prophecy
- Discernment
- Tongues
- Interpretation of Tongues

Introduction

SPIRITUAL GIFTS / SPIRITUAL FRUIT

While the Holy Spirit deposits some of the Spiritual Gifts into the hearts and minds of believers, it's our goal to embody not just some, but every, fruit of the spirit in our lives.

Galatians 5:18-23 ESV

18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

It's always imperative in the life of believers to take inventory and ask ourselves, before any spiritual gift manifests, "am I living a life that displays the fruit of the spirit?" If not, ask God to soften your heart so that you may not just live by the Spirit, but also walk in step with the spirit (Galatians 5:25).

5 BIBLICAL TRUTHS PAUL TEACHES ON SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Throughout 1 Corinthians 12,13,14 the Apostle Paul teaches some truths about spiritual gifts and how every believer should not just experience gifts but be educated on them as well. Let's look together at some of these lessons.

Introduction

1. Getting a Gift vs Using a Gift

1 Corinthians 12:1 (ESV)

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed.

Gifts are not just for your benefit, but for the benefit of others. So, we must understand and investigate who God has created me to be and operate in this season.

Questions to ask when pondering how God has gifted you:

- What comes naturally to me?
- What do other people observe in me?
- What are you passionate about?
- What brings you Joy?

2. God Creates vs Satan Counterfeits

1 Corinthians 12:2-3 (ESV)

You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led. 3 Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus is accursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit. Everything Satan will do comes from a cheap counterfeit approach. In the world, and even in other religions, you may see the miraculous occur. However, it is for just a moment and never lasts. We must see God as the one true God who is the only one that can create lasting miracles.

Introduction

3. Physical Body vs Church Body

1 Corinthians 12:12-14,17-18 (ESV)

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body...For the body does not consist of one member but of many...If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose

In the Church Body, similar to our physical body, we must have the following elements

- Unity
- Diversity
- Interdependence

4. Christian Ministry vs Christian Maturity

1 Corinthians 13:1-8,13 (ESV)

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends...So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Introduction

Returning to our thoughts on the fruit of the spirit, we all have different Gifts of the Spirit, but the same Fruit of the Spirit. It's important to never lose sight of that as we become involved in the ministry of the church, and beyond.

5. Public Vs. Private Ministry

1 Corinthians 14:4,7,12,17,20,40 (ESV)

The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church...

If even lifeless instruments, such as the flute or the harp, do not give distinct notes, how will anyone know what is played?... since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church... For you may be giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not being built up... Brothers, do not be children in your thinking...But all things should be done decently and in order.

Is your spiritual gift meant to be shared with the entire church body? Or is this gift something meant for you to privately share with your family, friends, and loved ones. Both serve great purposes, so it's important to pray for this revelation.

Implementing Gifts (Father Gifts)

APOSTLE, PROPHET, EVANGELIST, PASTOR AND TEACHER

Ephesians 4:11-14 (ESV)

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

The Purpose of Implementation: This set of gifts given by the Father is for the implementation, installation, and development of the five aspects of the ministry of Jesus. The church's maturity depends on the ability to grow up into what Jesus did during His earthly ministry. On earth, Jesus ministered as an...

1. **Apostle:** Hebrews 3:1 Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession. Jesus was sent by the Father to show us what love is.
2. **Prophet:** John 4:19 The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet." Jesus proclaimed the kingdom of God
3. **Evangelist:** Luke 4:18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. Jesus declared the good news of salvation for anyone who believed in Him.

Implementing Gifts (Father Gifts)

4. Pastor: John 10:11-12 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. Jesus came to seek and to save the lost.
5. Teacher: Matthew 22:16 And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. Jesus teaches the way of God truthfully.

This set of gifts given by the Father is for the installation and development of the five aspects of the ministry of Jesus. The church's maturity depends on the ability to grow up into what Jesus did during His earthly ministry. It is super important that we get a picture of an end game. Not necessarily speaking of eschatology, it is different than that. When Paul mentions the phrase "measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ", what does that mean to you?

If you ask each of the five gift personalities what the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ means, they will have differing answers. The apostle will say when the church in unity and effectiveness reaches the entire globe. The prophet would say when the entire earth hears God. The evangelist would say when the whole earth is saved. The pastor says when the whole earth knows the love of the Father. And the teacher would say when the whole earth understands and believe the truth of God's Word.

Implementing Gifts (Father Gifts)

Yes, they are all different answers and correct answers. They are all in line, moving together toward the one singular answer...JESUS!

They are all correct and all necessary to form the movement toward the full measure of the stature of Christ. They are all necessary because each is a dimension of Christ's earthly ministry. We are growing up into what Jesus has revealed, what we have seen, and what the Holy Spirit is leading us to become. How exciting that is!

These five specific gifts are actually designated roles within the church to implement what we saw Jesus do and what we have come to believe through the Word that Jesus is. If you think about a gasoline engine, these gifts are like the fuel to the engine. The engine parts are the people, the spark is the miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit, the practical gifts are the oil that lubricates the people, keeping them efficient and effective. But the fuel is what gives the power.

The Holy Spirit works through these particular gifts to the church to supply power for movement. These strong gifts shape, form, and move the people who are the church, therefore they typically have a governmental position assigned by the church. Often, they are called "office" gifts. Not that they require offices to work from, they are designated as formative and therefore can have a leadership position attached to them.

Implementing Gifts (Father Gifts)

I believe that every single Christian on earth has at least one of these five gifts. Depending on the grace given to you by God for the work assigned during your life, the grace to utilize the gift may be great or small. Let me show you what I mean.

Romans 12:5-6

...so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us...

The gifts of God and the grace to use them are given by God. That means when using your gift, it may not be God's design for you to deploy your gift to the nations. The grace to deploy your gift may be for your church, or your small group or family, only. Are some gifts used in mighty ways to touch millions of people? Certainly. That doesn't mean the gift is greater, the gift is great because God gave the gift to you.

Remember, the gift given to you will be elevated by those around you who see the grace that God has given to you to use the gift. So, word to the wise, start small. Those around you will want you to operate in larger platforms if your character and anointing are pure and you are graced by God to operate in a larger sphere. The Holy Spirit will lead others to make room for you.

This idea of raising people up is precisely what Paul meant when referring to these five gifts. Those in leadership roles using these implementing gifts are always looking around to find those who are up-and-coming gift users. We make room for others, equipping them and releasing them into their grace and gift.

Implementing Gifts (Father Gifts)

Most often when a person doesn't have the platform for their gift that they think they should, it is because the Holy Spirit doesn't want that person using their gift, could be numerous reasons. Trusting the leadership that God has put in place is essential. If they say "no, not right now" – seek the Lord and try to understand why.

I have seen numerous people leave the fellowship because they believe they deserve this or that in the way of a platform for their gifting. And it saddens me greatly. Many who do this flounder in the years ahead because they lack the humility and wisdom to be raised up rather than demanding and walking in entitlement.

Here is a little assessment for you to help you determine which of these five Implementing gifts you might have. Which of these five sentences is most like you? Pick the one that stands above the rest of you.

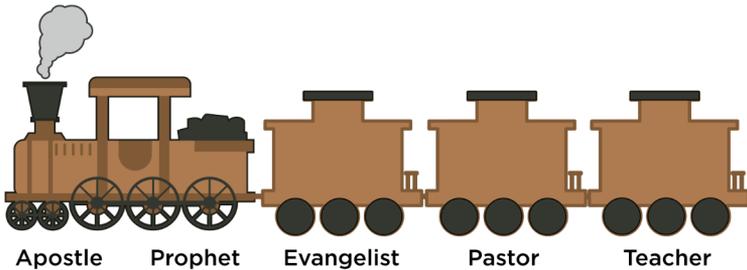
When thinking about the church...

1. I desire to know where all this is going, what we are accomplishing for God. (Apostle)
2. I desire everyone to hear God clearly and to do what He says. (Prophet)
3. I desire that everyone would be saved and be spared the eternal penalty of sin. (Evangelist)

Implementing Gifts (Father Gifts)

4. I desire to see everyone in the church cared for and directed toward wholeness. (Pastor/ Shepherd)
5. I desire for people to have an accurate and meaningful understanding of the Bible. (Teacher)

Visual Examples of Implementing Gifts

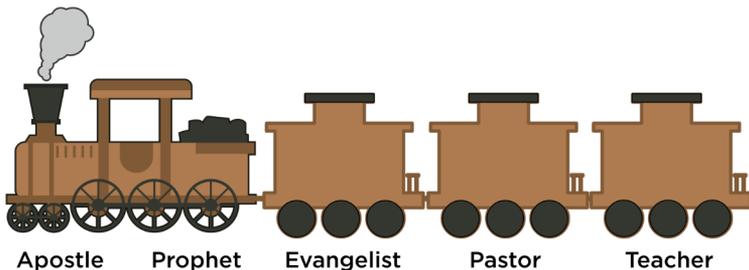


The train illustrates God's design for the five-fold ministry in functionality. The apostle is uniquely designed by God to move the train down the tracks that the Holy Spirit lays in front of the church. The apostle, like the engine of the train, is the power plant. The engine and the apostle have the strength to create momentum. The engine must have fuel though. There is unique and specific wisdom given by God to the apostle for movement. Jesus empowered the twelve Apostles for building His church. Later, the Holy Spirit brought in prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers.

Implementing Gifts (Father Gifts)

The prophet is very much like the coal car, which carries the coal. The fresh insertion of vision and God's word into the apostle fuels the apostle forward. The apostle receives from the prophet as well as direct revelation from the Lord. There is unique and specific sight and timely scriptural guidance given by God to the prophet for torque and horsepower. The evangelist, pastor, and teacher are necessary and follow the foundation (tracks) laid by the Holy Spirit. The apostle and prophet move the church down those tracks.

The five-fold gifts spoken by the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 4:11-13 are specific in their application to building the church. They each have a specific function in putting people into the proper place so that the local church can grow with excellence on its journey toward maturity. These five gifts are based upon the common goal of looking like Jesus did when He walked the earth ministering. We are to have the full spectrum of His ministry as the body of Christ, which is what it means to be mature.



Implementing Gifts (Father Gifts)



The hand is another wonderful way to understand the working of the five-fold implementing gifts. The thumb is the strongest in grabbing and holding onto things. Without the thumb, the other fingers only have a fraction of strength in grasping power. The apostle is a vision caster. That person in the local church keeps the focus on the vision that is laid out in front of the church. The vision will always be toward maturity in Christ. It is never self-focused. The apostle, like the thumb, works in conjunction with the other fingers and typically facilitates their excellence in building toward maturity. The apostle blesses and releases the other gifts in the same way that the thumb touches and empowers the other fingers.

Implementing Gifts (Father Gifts)

The second finger is the pointing finger, which is an excellent picture of the prophet in the local church. The heart of the true prophet does several things very well. First, they point to Jesus, which means that they keep the advancement toward biblical maturity in front of people all the time. Secondly, they point to placement in the sphere that the apostle is building in conjunction with the vision and the other five-fold gifts. The prophet rarely speaks to people for their benefit, it is kingdom-building initiatives that are heavy on the heart of the prophet.

The third finger is the middle finger which represents the evangelist well. Typically, the middle finger is the longest finger on the hand. This digit is the farthest-reaching out into the world. In most cases, touching the world first. The evangelist in the church cries out for soul-winning efforts to remain at the forefront of the church. The evangelist helps build the missional efforts of the church.

The fourth finger on the hand is often called the ring finger. This is the finger that comes into play at weddings. This finger represents the pastor. The individual who is lovingly connected to the people of the house. The pastor is mindful and attentive to the needs of the congregation in body, soul, and spirit. The heart of the pastor is to grow people in their faith toward maturity. Pastors are the most numerous of the five-fold gifts of implementation.

Implementing Gifts (Father Gifts)

The fifth finger is the smallest, often called the pinky. However, if you look at the fingers side-by-side, you see the smallest finger is built on top of the most muscle in the hand. The gift of teaching in the five-fold ministry may not be as charismatic as the other gifts, but it is by far one of the most important. The implementing teacher demands that the house being built is founded upon the word of God. The smallest digit maintains the fine-tuned and well-balanced grasping of the overall vision of the house as it stays consistently in the confines of blessing according to God's word.

These two illustrations give us an introductory understanding of how important these gifts are to the local church today. They are essential for a church to be a church. If one of these gifts is removed or denied, then it won't be a church, because each of these is a specific expression of the ministry of Jesus that He expects to be manifested in maturity in the body of Christ today. Why else would we be called the body of Christ, if he didn't expect that we would do exactly what He did?



Implementing Gifts (Father Gifts)

Descriptions of Implementation Gifts

APOSTLE

- **Category:** Father given gift
- **Definition:** The divine enablement to pioneer ministry and oversee development as a releasing and imparting agent from the Lord. Driven by revelation from the Lord as it pertains to reaching into the future and into the upper realm to bring both into the present.
- **Distinctives:** Releases people and resource into existence for new works and expand existing work for the purpose of reaching maturity.
- **Value to Body:** Helps the body of Christ to reach maturity through impartation from the upper realm.
- **Biblical Reference:** 1 Corinthians 12:27-29; Ephesians 4:7-16; Acts 14:21-23
- **Cautions:** May rest too heavily on knowledge learned rather than being revelation-ally driven.

Implementing Gifts (Father Gifts)

- **Warning:** Be in a context where regular impartation occurs. Be with prophets and other apostles.
- **Encouragement:** be humble, the degree of humility will be directly proportional to the impact and sustainability of personal ministry. Wait for the Lord to open the door.

PROPHET

- **Category:** Father given gift
- **Definition:** The divine enablement to speak a timely word of God that will comfort, encourage, guide, warn, or rebuke the Body of Christ toward the finish.
- **Distinctives:** Prophets are concerned about God's voice and will have a desire to speak strongly against evil in society or in the church. Prophets have a great sense of urgency to their message.
- **Value to the Body:** Comfort, encourage, guide, warn or rebuke the body of Christ.
- **Biblical Reference:** Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:7-11; 12: 27-29; Ephesians 4:7-16

Implementing Gifts (Father Gifts)

- **Cautions:** The message of a prophet must always be tested in line with Scripture and sifted by other prophets according to 1 Co 14:29. Prophets are recognized and appointed by the church leadership; they are authorized by the church leadership. Serve the church and allow the Lord to raise you up.
- **Warnings:** Be sure to prophesy people into the function of the apostolic grace they are a part of. Prophets would be wise to test their message against scripture prior to delivering the message and use scriptural precedent in the delivery of their message. The Bible first and prophetic utterance second. Release Old Testament constructs of prophesying like: (1) Assuming God speaks to you directly therefore you are not under the authority of the local church. (2) You are not required to be active in the local church vision thinking you are separate and above it. (3) You are God's voice of wrath to the nations by self-appointment.

EVANGELIST

- **Category:** Father given gift
- **Definition:** The divine enablement to effectively communicate the message of Christ to unbelievers so they can respond in faith and move toward maturity.

Implementing Gifts (Father Gifts)

- **Distinctives:** A witness will share if given the opportunity. An evangelist will look for and create opportunities to share. We should all be witnesses but are not all evangelists.
- **Value to Body:** Evangelists build the body of Christ by bringing new converts into the church.
- **Biblical Reference:** Acts 8:26-40 (example), Ephesians 4:11-14
- **Cautions:** Avoid stereotypes that may squelch the use of your gift. You may express your gift over coffee, not just in church or on the street corner. You may not see fruit. You may be a seed planter. Don't use canned approaches. Suit it to the individual. See Jesus' different approaches.
- **Warning:** Sometimes evangelists struggle with the thought that evangelism is the only reason the church exists. Sometimes evangelists never get going in their calling because all they see are platform evangelists and their scope of opportunity is squelched. Very few evangelists are platform evangelists, start where you are and let others around you make greater platforms for you.

Implementing Gifts (Father Gifts)

PASTOR/SHEPHERD

- **Category:** Father given gift
- **Definition:** The divine enablement to guide, care for, and nurture individuals or groups in the body of Christ as they grow in their faith toward maturity.
- **Distinctives:** They oversee and protect. They are committed to long-term relationships. They are under shepherds (under the Shepherd).
- **Value to Body:** They give direction to people's lives.
- **Biblical Reference:** John 10:1-18 (example), 1 Peter 5:2-4
- **Cautions:** Don't abuse authority. Don't view people as projects. Watch out for serving to be approved of by others. Don't betray a sacred trust. Don't become too independent (submit to the Shepherd).
- **Warnings:** Don't be impatient for growth even though you nurture. God gives the increase. Constantly release people to the Lord. Do not become disenfranchised when people (sheep) you have loved well, leave for other (what they think is better) pasture. They are not betraying you as much as it may feel that way.

Implementing Gifts (Father Gifts)

TEACHER

- **Category:** Father given gift
- **Definition:** Holds the church to a strict adherence to the Word of God. Establishes steady streams of truth to prepare God's people for works of service so the body of Christ can be built up.
- **Distinctives:** Studying the Word of God and freely giving to others the knowledge that is gained.
- **Value to Body:** Teaches foundation truth and advancement in accuracy.
- **Biblical Reference:** Ephesians 4:11-12
- **Cautions:** Must have the discernment to determine what is from the Lord. Often doesn't know when to stop. Doesn't recognize when people are full. Assumes that everyone is as excited about smaller concepts the way they are.
- **Warnings:** Don't be too detailed and do not be condescending when people do not know what you know. Pride can overtake you and make your ministry unpalatable. You can become a lover of your voice and people will perceive it.

Service Gifts (Christ Gifts)

Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhorting, Contributing, Leading, Mercy

Romans 12:3-8 (ESV)

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

The Purpose of Service: The purpose of this set of seven gifts is for the day-to-day efficient functioning of the local church. If you think about an engine, the fuel to run the engine is the Father's gift, the fire in the engine is the Holy Spirit's gift. And the oil in the engine to keep the engine parts operating together efficiently would be the Jesus given gifts.

Let's list the gifts and take a closer look. There is Prophecy, serving, teaching, exhorting, contributing, leading, and mercy.

There are two gifts in these "Christ" given gifts that are also in the "Father" gifts. Prophecy and teaching can occur in the believer and there not be a function of implementation in the gift as all of the Father's gifts are for implementing. The two gifts in this category would be to serve the church only and not be seen as implementing or carrying authority to shape or fuel the church.

Service Gifts (Christ Gifts)

This will help our understanding. Although I believe everyone has one of the five gifts mentioned in Ephesians 4:11, not everyone has been given the grace by God to use the gift in a governmental way in the church. God apportioned to each one for the general good of the church according to His will for that person's life.

Those gifts in the Ephesians passage can and do rise to become titles and roles of leadership, steering the church toward maturity in Christ. The gifts in this section are not designed to lead a church. They are described by Paul as being used in the church. Notice his language around the description.

“Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them...”

Paul is telling us that these gifts are not roles we have in the church like the prior gifts. A person can be a prophet or evangelist, but they cannot be a mercy. You can have mercy, and you can teach, and you can give generously.

I believe that you Christian, have at least one of these gifts, and maybe more than one. And these gifts are oh so necessary for all of our churches to exist in power and excellence. This specific set of gifts has the purpose of making sure the local church is efficient, effective, and in unity.

These are practical, day-to-day gifts that are to be used in small and great ways to make the church stay the church. In the act of ministering to others, which of these would make you feel satisfied and happy to do? In other words, suppose you got to do your favorite thing at church some Sunday morning, which of these things would it be?

Service Gifts (Christ Gifts)

- 1. Prophecy:** The divine enablement to proclaim God's truth with power and clarity in a timely and culturally sensitive fashion for encouragement, building others up, and comforting those who are hurting.
- 2. Serving:** The divine enablement to attach spiritual values to the accomplishment of practical and necessary tasks, which support the body of Christ, coupled with the desire to come alongside those who need help with various needs.
- 3. Teaching:** The divine enablement to understand, clearly explain, and apply the word of God to the lives of listeners.
- 4. Exhorting:** The divine enablement to reassure, strengthen, and affirm those who are discouraged, wavering, or young in their faith.
- 5. Giving:** The divine enablement to contribute money and material resources to the work of the Lord with cheerfulness and liberality.
- 6. Leading:** The divine enablement to instill vision, to motivate, and to direct people to accomplish the work of the ministry.
- 7. Mercy:** The divine enablement to see past brokenness to what God is doing in a person, showing compassion and understanding so-as-to compel toward spiritual growth.

Service Gifts (Christ Gifts)

So, which of these resonates with you? One or more will. After using your gift, driving away from a gathering of the body of Christ ought to make you feel excited and fulfilled. If you have embraced your spiritual gift and are eager to be used of the Lord...there is nothing like it on earth!

I can't for one second imagine the false teaching today, that spiritual gifts are gone. It is preposterous to me to conclude that none of these things are happening in the church. If a person simply took a second to look around in the church, you would see these things happening everywhere in the church. Are we to conclude that they are happening, but we shouldn't call them by their God-given names...spiritual gifts, so that we can keep our Holy Spirit quenching theology intact? Look at the church – these gifts are everywhere. Embrace them, use them, do not deny them.

1 Timothy 1:6-7

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, 7 for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

Service Gifts (Christ Gifts)

Descriptions of Service Gifts

PROPHECY

- **Category:** Christ given gift
- **Definition:** The divine enablement to proclaim God's truth with power and clarity in a timely and culturally sensitive fashion for encouragement, building others up, and comforting those who are hurting.
- **Distinctives:** Students of scripture; authoritative and don't beat around the bush. Apply truth to people today, but let the chips fall where they may. Understand truth others fail to see.
- **Value to Body:** Keeps individuals on target with God's plan.
- **Biblical Reference:** 1 Corinthians 14:3, Acts 2:10-11 (example)
- **Cautions:** May lack compassion. May speak pessimistically (Remove other's hope). Need to speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:5).
- **Warnings:** Watch pride and don't be too demanding. Also, see warnings and cautions mentioned in the Implementing gift of the prophet.

Service Gifts (Christ Gifts)

SERVICE / HELPS / HOSPITALITY

- **Category:** Christ given gift
- **Definition:** The divine enablement to attach spiritual values to the accomplishment of practical and necessary tasks, which support the body of Christ, coupled with the desire to come along side those who need help with various daily needs.
- **Distinctives:** Hands on worker. Whatever it takes attitude. Many Christians possess this gift. They can find great meaning and satisfaction in what others would consider to be the mundane chores, especially if it involves doing those tasks for others. They see a need and do it. They motivate others with their helpfulness. Helps others achieve their goals.
- **Value to Body:** Free others for more effective ministry. Lightens the load of a burdened person.
- **Biblical Reference:** I Corinthians 12:28, Philippians 2:25 (example) Acts 16:14-15 (example), Romans 12:9-13
- **Cautions:** May not see how their contribution is important to God. May require leadership to set priorities & procedures. May have difficulty saying "NO." May never achieve personal goals.

Service Gifts (Christ Gifts)

- **Warnings:** Learn when to say "NO" and "YES." Make sure that your own house is in order and that your own life is healthy, helping others should not be an escape from your own. Follow procedures well and pay attention to what is needed, not what you think needs to be done.

TEACHING

- **Category:** Christ given gift
- **Definition:** The divine enablement to understand, clearly explain, and apply the word of God to the lives of listeners.
- **Distinctives:** Able to understand complexity. Like to study, research, reflect, and pool data. Can simplify and apply complex concepts. Practical. Can stimulate the will not just the mind. Can motive students to desire more food. May be strong in small or large groups
- **Value to Body:** Maintains accuracy and integrity of the Bible for the church.
- **Biblical Reference:** Ephesians 4:12-13, Acts 18:24-28 (example)

Service Gifts (Christ Gifts)

- **Cautions:** Often struggle to keep it simple and practical. Must discern important data from trivial. May feel superior to students (more Informed). May get frustrated with other's disinterest.
- **Warnings:** Don't be too detailed. See cautions and warnings assigned to teachers in the implementing gift category.

EXHORTATION/ENCOURAGEMENT

- **Category:** Christ given gift
- **Definition:** The divine enablement to reassure, strengthen, and affirm those who are discouraged or wavering in their faith.
- **Distinctives:** Greeters, lovable leaders, practical, pragmatic. They look for those in need. They want to encourage others to look for and be in the will of God. Result oriented. Returns others to hope. Will often go through storms of life with others to help them. Their purpose is to help others.
- **Value to Body:** Bring hope to body through faith in God and trust in God's Word.
- **Biblical Reference:** Act 14:22 (example), Romans 12:8

Service Gifts (Christ Gifts)

- **Caution:** Don't be too simple in your comfort, or too complex. Don't be too optimistic. Your extreme optimism may alienate the very ones you are trying to help.
- **Warnings:** Be careful not to be glib or short in your encouragement. Be willing to be present with people. Look at the discouraged as though there is a circle around them, and you are trying to get in the circle more than trying to drag them out of their circle. The greatest thing you can do is to be with people.

CONTRIBUTING / GIVING

- **Category:** Christ given gift
- **Definition:** The divine enablement to contribute money and material resources to the work of the Lord with cheerfulness and liberality.
- **Distinctives:** You enjoy giving time, talents, and money. You enjoy freedom in giving generously and hilariously. You ask, "How can I give more!?"
- **Value to Body:** Necessary for ministry expansion.
- **Biblical Reference:** 2 Corinthians 8:1-7 (example), Romans 12:8

Service Gifts (Christ Gifts)

- **Cautions:** May not see how their contribution is important to God. May want to direct how the resources are used rather than trusting the leadership God has put in place for the expansion.
- **Warnings:** Don't allow the flesh to attach strings to gifts. Consider being as anonymous as possible.

LEADING

- **Category:** Christ given gift
- **Definition:** The divine enablement to instill vision, to motivate, and to direct people to accomplish the work of the ministry.
- **Distinctives:** Big picture people, vision carriers, motivating, so they have enthusiastic followers. They direct or guide others to achieve a goal. Others trust them to guide properly.
- **Value to Body:** They guide us in doing the right things with excellence and integrity.
- **Biblical Reference:** Hebrews 13:7+17, Acts 15:7-11 (example)

Service Gifts (Christ Gifts)

- **Cautions:** They may walk on others to get the job done. You must prove yourself: intentions and reliability. Ask yourself, "Why am I leading?" Make sure you are leading in the vision of the house and you have a very clear heart for the house or your leading may cause division in the house.
- **Warnings:** Don't sacrifice the procedure for the sake of the product. Don't cut corners to get the job done, the process and the product, both the Lord looks to honor. Follow through until the job is done. Make sure that people remain the focus, not nuts and bolts.

MERCY

- **Category:** Christ given gift
- **Definition:** The divine enablement to see past sin and brokenness to what God is doing in a person.
- **Distinctives:** Can minister joyfully to someone who is hurting or suffering with empathy and compassion. You work to alleviate sources of suffering. Driven to do deeds of kindness. Can see past the bad in people to the good deep inside.
- **Value to Body:** Bring comfort to others in time of brokenness and uncertainty.

Service Gifts (Christ Gifts)

- **Biblical Reference:** Romans 12:8, Matthew 25:34-40 (example)
- **Cautions:** Don't be overprotective and do not embellish or negate the sin. Mercy is not avoiding sin, mercy is seeing the sin through the eyes of a gracious and merciful God. God speaks and teaches through situations. Mercy works best in others as you remain in touch with God's mercy shone to you.
- **Warnings:** Don't carry other's problems so much that you become unproductive. You can become burned out if you hold too much of other's pain. Make sure that your house is in order and that you are ministering from abundance and not depletion. Your home and personal relationships bubble up your ability to minister to others.

Miraculous Gifts (Holy Spirit Gifts)

Wisdom, Knowledge, Faith, Healing, Miracles, Prophecy, Discernment, Tongues, Interpretation of Tongues

1 Corinthians 12:7-12 (ESV)

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

The Purpose of The Miraculous: *The purpose for this set of gifts is to manifest the miraculous power of God so that in the course of life of the church and individual alike, all are connected, encouraged, and reminded by the manifestation that the Holy Spirit is leading the church.*

The caution and warning in all of these are the same, and that is to be open to the Holy Spirit using you in any of these and not being controlled by fear, which will quench the Holy Spirit from using you.

Also, any believer can manifest any of these gifts. So, it is important to be in agreement with the truth that the Holy Spirit determines who manifests the gift and when. Therefore, it is critical to not walk in fear, to be open, in agreement with, and ready for God to use you as He desires.

This may have occurred to you already, but I am going to say this anyway, Jesus had all of the gifts and except for tongues and the interpretation of tongues, we see Him using all of the gifts. I would imagine that when He went off alone to pray, He might have used that gift too. I don't know for sure. The point I am making is that you do not have all of the gifts.

Miraculous Gifts (Holy Spirit Gifts)

Notice what the Apostle Paul says in 1 Corinthians 12:28-30.

“And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? 30 Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?”

The Holy Spirit distributes the gifts to everyone as He sees fit to help the specific local church reach maturity. The mature local church fits into the overall church of God across the planet. Together, we are all growing up into Jesus.

Descriptions of Miraculous Gifts

WISDOM

- **Category:** Holy Spirit manifested gift
- **Definition:** The divine enablement to apply spiritual knowledge effectively.
- **Distinctives:** Any believer can manifest this gift. This gift glorifies God as He uses the believer to deliver a miraculous solution or direction into the will of God whether corporate or personal.
- **Value to Body:** Practical application of limitations and God's Word.
- **Biblical Reference:** 1 Corinthians 2:1, 6-16

Miraculous Gifts (Holy Spirit Gifts)

KNOWLEDGE

- **Category:** Holy Spirit manifested gift
- **Definition:** The divine enablement to communicate a timely and otherwise unknown biblical reference, principle or truth.
- **Distinctives:** Any believer in Christ can manifest this gift. This gift glorifies God as He uses the unlearned to speak truth in a setting that clearly manifests His power.
- **Value to Body:** Helps the body of Christ to be open and ready for God to use anyone He desires to communicate truth.
- **Biblical Reference:** Acts 18:24-28 (example), 1 Corinthians 12:28

FAITH

- **Category:** Holy Spirit given gift
- **Definition:** The divine enablement to trust God's Will and act on it with unwavering belief in His ability.
- **Distinctives:** Any believer in Christ can manifest this gift. They just believe and trust God at His Word. They act out the motto: "Just trust God", and "God is able." They rely on intercessory prayers

Miraculous Gifts (Holy Spirit Gifts)

- **Value to Body:** Prayer warriors and living examples of faith, not just talk.
- **Biblical Reference:** I Corinthians 12:9, Romans 4:18-21 (example)

HEALING

- **Category:** Holy Spirit
- **Definition:** The divine enablement to be God's channel to restore people to health.
- **Distinctives:** Any believer in Christ can manifest this gift. You are an instrument for God's power of healing. Not just physical healing, but psychological, emotional, relational, or spiritual restoration.
- **Value to Body:** Restores the Body
- **Biblical Reference:** James 5:14-16, Acts 3:1-10 (example)

Miraculous Gifts (Holy Spirit Gifts)

MIRACLES

- **Category:** Holy Spirit manifested gift
- **Definition:** The divine enablement to obtain exceptional interventions of God's power that glorifies Him and give evidence of His grace.
- **Distinctives:** Any believer can manifest this gift. Miracles authenticate God's power, i.e. First century church -: miracles, yet not all converted
- **Value to Body:** Authenticate Christ power and meet immediate needs in God's universal plan.
- **Biblical Reference:** Acts 9:36-42, Mark 11:23-24

PROPHECY

- **Category:** Holy Spirit manifested gift
- **Definition:** The divine enablement to proclaim God's truth with power and clarity in a timely and culturally sensitive fashion for building up, edification, and comforting others.
- **Distinctives:** Anyone can manifest this gift, that is why the Apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 14 that he desired that everyone would prophesy.
- **Value to Body:** Keep us on target with God
- **Biblical Reference:** 1 Corinthians 14:3, Acts 2:10-11 (example)

Miraculous Gifts (Holy Spirit Gifts)

DISCERNMENT

- **Category:** Holy Spirit manifested gift
- **Definition:** The divine enablement to distinguish between truth, error, and to identify deception in character and relationships.
- **Distinctives:** They can recognize impure motives, or inconsistencies in character, relationships, or teachings. Sometimes individuals who discern struggle with what to do with the information. Reading people through the lens of past wounding is not supernatural discernment.
- **Value to Body:** Keep body on track and true to the Scriptures. Protect the body from apostasy.
- **Biblical Reference:** 1 John 4:1-6, Acts 16:16-22 (example)

TONGUES

- **Category:** Holy Spirit manifested gift
- **Definition:** The ability to speak a divinely-anointed message in a language one has never learned. Its purpose is an evangelistic tool for spreading the gospel and an edifying tool for self and others. Satan can counterfeit this gift “like all gifts of God”. The gift of tongues is not evidence of a special blessing, nor does it indicate special favor in the sight of God.

Miraculous Gifts (Holy Spirit Gifts)

- **Biblical Reference:** I Corinthians 14:13-19, Mark 16:17 (example)
- **Cautions:** Requires Interpretation. Sign gift.
- **Warnings:** Watch for pride.

INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES

- **Category:** Holy Spirit
- **Definition:** The supernatural ability to make known to the church gathering the meaning of the one who speaks in tongues.
- **Distinctives:** They are able to translate a tongue speaking in order to edify the body.
- **Value to Body:** Bring edification to tongues
- **Biblical Reference:** I Corinthians 14:26-28

Conclusion

Jesus had no weaknesses when He was on earth – He did not grow spiritually. He grew physically, but not spiritually. There was absolutely no weakness in the expression of love toward others. Jesus was the perfect representation of the Father.

Hebrews 1:3

He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.

If there was a weakness or imperfection, Jesus couldn't be the exact imprint of the Father in heaven. There are no weaknesses or imperfections in the Father. Therefore, when Jesus expressed the manifestation of the Holy Spirit, He did so perfectly. Guess what... you don't. We are not perfect, and we cannot and do not use the gifts perfectly, no matter how awesome we feel with the way our gift lands in the lives of people. We are not the exact imprint of the Father on earth. Jesus is, that is why we point to Him.

Therefore, it should be understood, that with our gifts comes inherent weaknesses. Because of our flesh, there are possibilities that exist that can make the gifts in us distasteful to God and others. Should we then deny the gifts so that we don't run the risk of improperly using them? No! Let me remind you that the Apostle Paul told us to pursue the gifts.

1 Corinthians 14:1

"Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts..."

It is wise to become familiar with your weaknesses, especially those that are associated with each of the gifts. For instance, mercy is a spiritual gift that greatly adds compassion to the church. Even with this gift which focuses on the hearts of others we can operate in our flesh and mess it all up.

Conclusion

Here is what the weakness in you associated with the gift of mercy may look like. The person with the gift of mercy can become consumed in the life of others to the degree that they lose self-control in their own life. They can carry other people's issues to the degree that they become unproductive in other areas of their own life. Those who minister with this gift must make sure that their own house is in order so that there is maximum benefit to those they care for.

Even with Timothy, Paul challenged him to be aware of the weakness of fear. Listen to his wise words.

2 Timothy 1:6-7

"For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, 7 for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control."

As a good mentor, Paul is warning Timothy about the weakness he sees regarding the use of his gift. He mentions fear and counters fear with power, love, and self-control. The ever-growing fruit of the Holy Spirit in our life will counter our weaknesses in our spiritual gifts. Learn what your weakness is. This is precisely why it is important that you do not go rogue on the church. Do you honestly believe that you have no blind spots? You have them. It is good to have those whom you trust that can speak to them.

Being in a small group and using your gift there, is the absolute best way to get encouragement and affirmation; and also, correction and at times, rebuke. We all need rebuke in our lives. Do you honestly believe that your life requires no correction? Jesus was perfect...you...not so much. Being in a safe environment where you can risk and try is super important. Being humble and open to encouragement is so helpful in your development.

Conclusion

I am afraid that some choose not to use their gifts in smaller settings first. They become deceived because they have not been submitted to others they trust to speak into their development. They see the whole church as their platform and become angry when they are not accepted. To receive healthy encouragement from others (Listen carefully to this next phrase) you must first be a HEALTHY encourager to others first. You have to put yourself in a place where you can be friendly and humble – serving first, loving first.

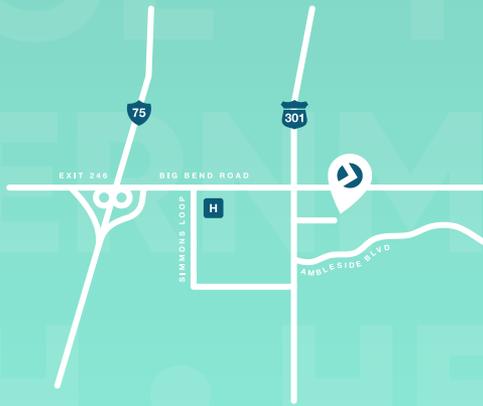
If you can put some thought into the tremendous gift you have been given by God, I believe He will reveal the inherent weakness that comes along with your gift. You can ask those that you trust what their thoughts are and get some good feedback. I highly recommend you do that.



SPIRITUAL GIFTS

THE HOLY SPIRIT WORKING THROUGH YOU

Class by: Dr. David Speicher



SOUTH BAY
church

13498 U.S. Hw 301 S,
Riverview FL 33598