

# Spiritual Gifts

## What is a spiritual gift?

A spiritual gift is a supernatural ability given by the Holy Spirit to a person at the moment of his or her salvation.

## What is the difference between a talent and a spiritual gift?

A talent is a natural ability given at birth. This could be anything from athletic ability to musical talent to artistic genius. There are some talents that could be considered spiritual gifts, but if they are not used for God's glory or to edify the body with love, then they are not spiritual gifts. When we use our talents and gifts for our own glory or on our own strength, we are disobeying and mocking God because He gave us the gifts and talents.

1. A spiritual gift is expressed with a servant motive, to minister to a local congregation or church
2. A spiritual gift is expressed with a steward motive, recognizing and managing this special ability not as one's own, but as God's.
3. A spiritual gift is expressed as sacred worship, giving God the awe and credit due to Him.
4. A spiritual gift is expressed as strengthened "by the strength which God supplies". A rugged individualist would neither lean upon God's power, nor believe that "God works in you both to will and to do His good pleasure." (Philippians 2:13 NASB)

## How many spiritual gifts are there?

The Bible lists eighteen spiritual gifts in three different passages. They are: Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, and Ephesians 4. They include:

-Administration/Ruling	-Apostleship	-Discernment of Spirits
-Evangelism	-Exhortation	-Faith
-Giving	-Healing	-Helps/Serving/Ministering
-Interpretation of Tongues	-Knowledge	-Mercy
-Miracles	-Pastor/Teacher	-Prophecy
-Teaching	-Tongues	-Wisdom

## Who gives the spiritual gifts?

The Holy Spirit, since the day of Pentecost has given each believer one or more spiritual gifts.

*-Hebrews 2:4 – "God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will."*

*-1 Corinthians 12:7, 11 – "Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good....All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines."*

## What is the purpose of the spiritual gifts?

*Ephesians 4:12,13 – "...to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of God."*

The purpose of the gifts is to glorify God and to edify His church. We do this by using our gifts to bear much fruit that lasts. (1 Peter 4:10, 11; Revelation 4:11; John 15:8)

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## **How many gifts do I have?**

*1 Peter 4:10 – “Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.”*

Each believer has at least one spiritual gift given to them on the day of their salvation. (Ephesians 4:7; 1 Corinthians 7:7, 12:7, 11; 1 Peter 4:10)

## **Does anyone have all of the spiritual gifts?**

No. Each believer is given a gift or gifts according to the will of God. (1 Corinthians 7:7, 12:29-30)

## **How do I use my gifts?**

The Bible tells us to use our gifts in love (1 Corinthians 13:1-13). There are many ministries around the world that need believers with all kinds of gifts. We need to use our gifts to serve the Body of Christ and to build the kingdom by sharing the Gospel with non-believers.

## **Definitions**

### **Administration/Ruling**

This is the spiritual gift where the Spirit enables certain Christians to organize, administrate, and promote the various affairs of the local church's ministry to direct them effectively. A local church cannot grow beyond a certain point without the ministry of these individuals. (1 Corinthians 12:28; Romans 12:8; Titus 1:4-5)

### **Apostleship**

This is the spiritual gift that refers to certain men called by Christ Himself and given special power to charter the newly formed church. (Ephesians 4:11; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Acts 1:21-22; 1 Corinthians 9:1)

### **Discernment**

This is the spiritual gift where the Spirit enables certain Christians to know without a doubt whether a statement or behavior is of God, Satan, or man. (1 Corinthians 12:10; Acts 5:3-6; 16:16-18; 1 John 4:1)

### **Evangelism**

This is the spiritual gift where the Spirit enables particular Christians to share the Gospel to unbelievers and burdens Christians about soul-winning. All Christians are called to witness for Christ whether they have this gift or not. (Ephesians 4:11; Acts 8:5-12; 26-40, 21:8; Matthew 28:18-20)

### **Exhortation**

This is the spiritual gift where the Spirit enables certain Christians to deliver challenging and encouraging words. (Romans 12:8; Acts 11:23-24, 14:21-22, 15:32)

### **Faith**

This is the spiritual gift where the Spirit provides Christians with great confidence to believe and expect great things from God. (1 Corinthians 12:9; Romans 5:1, 12:3; Hebrews 11)

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## **Giving**

This is the spiritual gift where the Spirit enables certain Christians to accumulate and give large amounts of their finances to the glory of God. (Romans 12:8; Acts 4:32-37; Galatians 4:15; Philippians 4:10-18; 2 Corinthians 8:1-5)

## **Healing**

This is the spiritual gift where the Spirit uses certain Christians to restore physical or mental health to the sick or demon possessed. (1 Corinthians 12:9, 28, 30; James 5:13-16)

## **Helps/Serving/Ministering**

This is the spiritual gift where the Spirit empowers certain Christians to render practical help in both physical and spiritual matters. Serving one another, like evangelism, is a calling of all Christians, but there are some who have a special desire to serve, and receive great blessing from it. (Romans 12:7; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Galatians 6:1-2)

## **Interpretation of Tongues**

This is the spiritual gift where the Spirit gives certain Christians the ability to clarify and interpret messages uttered in an unknown language. (1 Corinthians 12:10)

## **Knowledge**

This is the spiritual gift where the Spirit gives certain Christians the supernatural ability to understand God's Word and to effectively communicate it to others. (1 Corinthians 12:8)

## **Mercy**

This is the spiritual gift where the Spirit enables certain Christians to minister to and have compassion for those who are suffering or afflicted. (Romans 12:8; Luke 10:30-37)

## **Miracles**

This is the spiritual gift where the Spirit empowers certain Christians to perform events that are outside the realm of nature. (1 Corinthians 12:28)

## **Prophecy**

This is the spiritual gift where the Spirit empowers certain Christians to receive revelation of events in the future. (Romans 12:6; 1 Corinthians 12:10, 14:1-5, 30-33; Ephesians 4:11; 1 Peter 1:20-21)

## **Pastor/Teaching**

This is the spiritual gift where the Spirit enables certain Christians to preach and teach the Word of God and to take responsibility for the spiritual welfare of a body of believers. (Ephesians 4:11; 1 Peter 5:1-11)

## **Teaching**

This is the spiritual gift where the Spirit enables particular Christians to communicate and clarify the details and truths of God's Word for others to learn. (Romans 12:7; Ephesians 4:11)

## **Tongues**

This is the spiritual gift where the Spirit enables a Christian to supernaturally speak a previously unknown language. (1 Corinthians 12:10, 30, 14:4, 39; Acts 2:4, 19:6)

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## **Wisdom**

This is the spiritual gift where the Spirit empowers particular Christians with a supernatural understanding of God's Word and the will to apply it to life situations. (1 Corinthians 12:8; James 3:13-17)