



Spiritual Gifts

'PNEUMATIKOS' – BELONGING TO THE SPIRIT

What are Spiritual Gifts?

- ▶ Biblical Definition

- ▶ Romans 12: 6-8

- ▶ 1 Corinthians 12: 4-11, 28

- ▶ *Note: Apostolic Gifts – Spiritual Gifts given ONLY to the Apostles to authenticate their apostleship. Presently, those gifts are not given to anyone.*

Individual Exercise

- ▶ Read the various 'gifts' (15-16) definitions
 - ▶ NOT a comprehensive list
 - ▶ List attached to end of this document
- ▶ Meditate and see which gift/s you resonate with, or is something you know you have
- ▶ Think of others who might exhibit a certain gift, and think of way of encourage them in it

How to identify your gift

▶ Desire

- ▶ Have a definite desire to exercise the gift
- ▶ However, if our attitude is earthly rather heavenly, we might have the desire but not the gift

▶ Confirmation by others

- ▶ One of the best ways to recognize our own gifts.
- ▶ If someone comes to you and says they think you have a particular gift, you should probably consider it

How to identify your gift (cont'd)

- ▶ Fruit/Evidence

- ▶ If you truly have a particular gift, there will be recognizable evidence when you exercise that gift. You will be able to see the fruitful blessings coming from your efforts

How to use your gift effectively

- ▶ Recognise the source: God (1 Cor. 12: 4-5)
- ▶ Foster, develop it, grow it, persevere with it (Proverbs 16: 20)
- ▶ Remain in humility (1 Cor. 12: 19-26)
- ▶ Purpose of gifts: Edification of the church (1 Cor. 12: 7)

Next steps

- ▶ 1 Corinthians 13 - LOVE
- ▶ Pray
 - ▶ Philippians 4: 6-7
 - ▶ Ask God to help you identify your gift
 - ▶ He may answer in your heart
 - ▶ He may answer through a situation
 - ▶ Other people can see it in you
- ▶ Let's pray together to end our time

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- ▶ Prophecy

- ▶ The Greek word translated “prophecy” in both passages properly means “a speaking forth.” According to *Thayer’s Greek Lexicon*, the word refers to “discourse emanating from divine inspiration and declaring the purposes of God, whether by reproof and admonishing the wicked, or comforting the afflicted, or revealing things hidden; especially by foretelling future events.” To prophesy is to declare the divine will, to interpret the purposes of God, or to make known in any way the truth of God that is designed to influence people

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Serving

Also referred to as “ministering,” the Greek word *diakonian*, from which we get the English “deacon,” means service of any kind, the broad application of practical help to those in need.

Teaching

This gift involves the analysis and proclamation of the Word of God, explaining the meaning, context and application to the hearer’s life. The gifted teacher is one who has the unique ability to clearly instruct and communicate knowledge, specifically the doctrines of the faith.

Encouraging

Also called “exhortation,” this gift is evident in those who consistently call upon others to heed and follow God’s truth, which may involve correction or building others up by strengthening weak faith or comforting in trials.

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Giving

Gifted givers are those who joyfully share what they have with others, whether it is financial, material, or the giving of personal time and attention. The giver is concerned for the needs of others and seeks opportunities to share goods, money, and time with them as needs arise.

Leadership

The gifted leader is one who rules, presides over, or has the management of other people in the church. The word literally means “guide” and carries with it the idea of one who steers a ship. One with the gift of leadership rules with wisdom and grace and exhibits the fruit of the Spirit in his life as he leads by example

Mercy

Closely linked with the gift of encouragement, the gift of mercy is obvious in those who are compassionate toward others who are in distress, showing sympathy and sensitivity coupled with a desire and the resources to lessen their suffering in a kind and cheerful manner.

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Word of Wisdom

The fact that this gift is described as the “word” of wisdom indicates that it is one of the speaking gifts. This gift describes someone who can understand and speak forth biblical truth in such a way as to skillfully apply it to life situations with all discernment.

Word of Knowledge

This is another speaking gift that involves understanding truth with an insight that only comes by revelation from God. Those with the gift of knowledge understand the deep things of God and the mysteries of His Word.

Faith

All believers possess faith in some measure because it is one of the gifts of the Spirit bestowed on all who come to Christ in faith ([Galatians 5:22-23](#)). The spiritual gift of faith is exhibited by one with a strong and unshakeable confidence in God, His Word, His promises, and the power of prayer to effect miracles.

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Healing

Although God does still heal today, the ability of men to produce miraculous healings belonged to the apostles of the first century church to affirm that their message was from God. Christians today do not have the power to heal the sick or resurrect the dead. If they did, the hospitals and morgues would be full of these “gifted” people emptying beds and coffins everywhere.

Miraculous Powers

Also known as the working of miracles, this is another temporary sign gift which involved performing supernatural events that could only be attributed to the power of God ([Acts 2:22](#)). This gift was exhibited by Paul ([Acts 19:11-12](#)), Peter ([Acts 3:6](#)), Stephen ([Acts 6:8](#)), and Phillip ([Acts 8:6-7](#)), among others

Discerning Spirits

Certain individuals possess the unique ability to determine the true message of God from that of the deceiver, Satan, whose methods include purveying deceptive and erroneous doctrine. Jesus said many would come in His name and would deceive many ([Matthew 24:4-5](#)), but the gift of discerning spirits is given to the Church to protect it from such as these

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Speaking in Tongues

The gift of tongues is one of the temporary “sign gifts” given to the early Church to enable the gospel to be preached throughout the world to all nations and in all known languages. It involved the divine ability to speak in languages previously unknown to the speaker. This gift authenticated the message of the gospel and those who preached it as coming from God. The phrase “diversity of tongues” (KJV) or “different kinds of tongues” (NIV) effectively eliminates the idea of a “personal prayer language” as a spiritual gift

Interpretations of Tongues

A person with the gift of interpreting tongues could understand what a tongues-speaker was saying even though he did not know the language that was being spoken. The tongues interpreter would then communicate the message of the tongues speaker to everyone else, so all could understand.

Helps

Closely related to the gift of mercy is the gift of helps. Those with the gift of helps are those who can aid or render assistance to others in the church with compassion and grace. This has a broad range of possibilities for application. Most importantly, this is the unique ability to identify those who are struggling with doubt, fears, and other spiritual battles; to move toward those in spiritual need with a kind word, an understanding and compassionate demeanor; and to speak scriptural truth that is both convicting and loving.

Reference:
<https://www.gotquestions.org/spiritual-gifts-list.html>