

# Christian Basics: Spiritual Gifts

Lesson 7

# Gifts, Ministries and Effects

- The Bible says that God has given every Christian a Spiritual Gift ([1 Corinthians 12:1-2](#))
  - There are varieties of gifts, by the same Spirit (V 4)
  - There are varieties of ministries, but the same Lord (V 5)
  - There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons (V 6)
- But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good (V 7).
  - We are each given a Spiritual gift.
  - We need to unwrap God's gift to us to see what it is.
- There are several passages in the Bible where Gifts are identified.
  - [Romans 12:6-8](#)
  - [1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 28](#)
  - [Ephesians 4:11-12](#)
  - [1 Peter 4:10-11](#)

# Gifts Of The Holy Spirit

Speaking Gifts To Explain God's Truth		Scripture
Exhortation		Romans 12:8
Knowledge		1 Corinthians 12:8
Prophecy		Romans 12:6, 1 Corinthians 12:10, Ephesians 4:11
Teaching		Romans 12:7, Ephesians 4:11
Wisdom		1 Corinthians 12:8
Serving Gifts To Enable God's Work		Scripture
Administration		1 Corinthians 12:28
Charity (giving)		Romans 12:8
Distinguishing of Spirits		1 Corinthians 12:10
Faith		1 Corinthians 12:9
Leadership		Romans 12:8
Mercy		Romans 12:8
Service		Romans 12:7
Sign Gifts To Establish God's Authority (Temporal until The Bible Written)		Scripture
Effecting of Miracles		1 Corinthians 12:10
Healing		1 Corinthians 12:9
Interpretation of Tongues		1 Corinthians 12:10
Tongues		1 Corinthians 12:10
Special Gifts to Equip God's People		Scripture
Apostles		Ephesians 4:11
Evangelists		Ephesians 4:11
Pastors		Ephesians 4:11

# Perspective On Spiritual Gifts

- The abundant references to spiritual gifts in the New Testament are an indication of their importance to Christians.
  - Gifts are distinct
    - Spiritual gifts are different from our natural abilities.
    - Non-Christians and Christians alike have natural talents and abilities, but only Christians have Spiritual Gifts.
    - When someone gains a totally new ability after becoming a Christian, you know that's a Spiritual Gift at work.
  - Gifts are different
    - Spiritual Gifts are different from the fruit of the Spirit ([Galatians 5:22-23](#))
    - Generally speaking the fruit of the Spirit relates to attitudes while Spiritual Gifts relate to abilities. Attitude impacts how we use our gifts.
    - Therefore, every Christian should manifest all the fruit of the Spirit, whereas all Christians do not have the same Spiritual Gift.
  - Gifts Are determined
    - Spiritual gifts are determined by the sovereign choice of God. The gift you have is the gift God wants you to have.
    - True joy is found when we submit to God's will and discover His purpose in the choices He reveals to us
  - Gifts are distributed
    - Spiritual Gifts are distributed by the Holy Spirit and administered by the Lord Jesus Christ to the glory of God the Father.
    - The entire Trinity is involved in Spiritual Gifts in the believer's life.
  - Gifts are delivered – All you have to do is OPEN YOUR GIFT!
    - Gifts are delivered to every single believer. No exceptions, no mistakes. ([1 Corinthians 12:7](#); [1 Peter 4:10](#)). Open your gift now!

# Purpose Of The Gifts

- What is God's Purpose In Distributing These Gifts To Us?
  - *Equipping* (refers to “the equipping of the saints for the word of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ”)
    - It is the Pastor's job to equip the saints – individual Christians – to do the work of the ministry.
  - *Edification* (means to build up, to strengthen and mature)
  - *Establishment* (means for the purpose of teaching and exhorting us to learn and live in the truth so we can remain firmly establish in the faith)
  - *Encouragement* (means the imparting of courage – keeps the church strong when members use their gifts to help one another)
  - *Effectiveness* (The church becomes more effective when believers use their gifts in ministry)
  - *Enlargement* (means growth as a normal result of health – the effective use of our gifts “causes growth of the body”)
  - *Exaltation* (The ultimate purpose of spiritual gifts – the glory of God. When God sees His people using the gifts He has given them, He is honored and glorified. [1 Peter 4:11](#))

# Misunderstandings About Spiritual Gifts

- Some people equate levels of spirituality with certain gifts as if some gifts are better than others.
  - Having any of the Spiritual Gifts doesn't make one spiritual
  - Its what a person does with his gift that can make them spiritual
  - Every Christian has a Spiritual Gift, but that doesn't mean every Christian is spiritual mature.
- Some people think their gift exempts them from ministering in any other area in the church.
  - A gift of giving doesn't exempt one from tithing if they don't have the gift of giving.
  - There is a gift of teaching, but Jesus said we are to teach the nations to observe all His commands ([Matthew 28:20](#))
  - Etc.....
- Some people have misunderstood who benefits from the gifts, not themselves. It's a self-centered problem
  - Gifts are not for the one who has the gift but for those who receive the benefit of the gift.
  - If you are not using your spiritual gift, that means someone in the body of Christ is not being ministered to as God intended.
  - And if those around you are not using their gifts, you may not be ministered to.
  - Gifts are given to be opened and used for the benefit of every person in the body.

# How To Discover Your Spiritual Gift

- Four Stages have been suggested for a Christian to discover their Spiritual Gift.
  - Investigation
    - A Christian needs to understand the New Testament teachings on Spiritual Gifts. They really need to understand the doctrine of Gifts. This is a fundamental priority.
  - Involvement
    - A Christian needs to become involved in ministry. This will allow them to sense how God has gifted each individual.
    - God will use your own responses to various ministries, plus the responses of those around you, to give you insight into how God has gifted you.
    - God reveals our gifts to us in the context of ministry, so being actively involved is the best way to learn.
  - Interest
    - God, as a loving Father, gives us gifts that will bless us and give us satisfaction in ministry.
    - What kinds of things do you enjoy doing in ministry.
    - Seeing the desires of your own heart fulfilled is an excellent way to judge how God has gifted you.
    - Fruitfulness is an indication that you are ministering in the realm of your gift – fruitfulness not only in your own soul but in the lives of those to whom you are ministering.
  - Introspection
    - Pray, talk to others, inspect the fruit you are bearing, and be faithful over time
    - God has gifted you and what you should be doing for Him. He wants you to know your gift.
    - Most importantly, don't complain about not knowing your gift if you are not taking the above steps to discover what it is.
    - If you will follow the above steps, asking for God's guidance, you will soon discover, develop, and delight in His gift to you.