



Spiritual Gifts Pt.1

What if God gave you Spiritual gifts? Let's go back in the Bible timeline just for a minute.

What happened to Moses when he received the Sinai glory? What happened to Sampson when the Spirit fell upon him? Elijah and Elishia were led by the Spirit. Then we have this little nugget.

Exodus 31:2-3 "See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, 3 and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills."

God has always used gifts of the Spirit to move men and women. To further the kingdom of God. These gifts that we are about to describe are not new. The Spirit of God in the Old Testament came upon people to do amazing acts. We have always had gifts of the Spirit. The difference between the Old and New Testaments is that (in the New Testament) the gifts of the Spirit stay. They dwell within. Yes, some gifts are random Spiritual acts that God needs done in the moment. For most of us, what Jesus gives you; you get to keep. In my way of thinking its Jesus covenant with us. We believe and he enacts the kingdom through us. It's a symbiotic union between Spirit and flesh.

With that said let's take a quick look at the main gifts of the Spirit. These are found in Romans 12:3-9 *"We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; 7 if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8 if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give*

generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.” **These are gifts that work hand in hand with how God made you.**

I said that Spiritual gifts dwell within you. I also mentioned that you get to keep them. Generally, the word gift is defined as *something acquired without compensation. An endowment, gift, talent, natural endowment, or natural abilities or qualities.* Notice it says without compensation, it’s free! With that said, God has the right to empower them. As I mentioned before, Sampson did not know that the Spirit had left him. We have been given gifts that complement our character. Yet, they must edify God’s character. Yes, we get to keep them, but without the power of the Holy Spirit they are useless.

I like to call them general gifts. Once you take the test you will see that these gifts are within all of us. Some people have a high score in prophesy. Another person rates low in serving. Yet, you will find that you don’t score zero in any of these seven gifts. Each of us have some amount of them all. I feel the reason for this is growth. God gives us room to grow and mature in our Christianity. That means we will learn how to best utilize our gifts. With that said, we might find that in time we come to appreciate other gifts that we are not strong in. Why? It’s to use the whole body to make God’s kingdom better. Appreciating other people’s gifts makes love rule over jealousy or pride. Let’s look over these gifts found in Romans 12.

1. **Prophecy**- Deuteronomy 18:18 *“I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.”*
 - a. This is a very cool gift. You are speaking for God and with God.
 - b. There a word associated with Prophecy (Plenary) It means *“attended with all concerned.”* I could describe it as individuals meeting as one.
 - c. You:
 - i. are one who testifies and witnesses God’s word to others

- ii. are summoned, impelled, and invited to speak for God
- iii. are the Nabi (Hebrew), someone who transmits what you receive
- d. We have generally three messages from God:
 - i. Restoration after testing; redeemer prophesy; and utterance about the end of times
- e. Your words will be:
 - i. Prediction, revelation, and affirming gifts within the body of Christ

In the theology dictionary a prophet can be described as someone God invites, summons, and impels to speak for him. I have learned some wise wisdom concerning our Spiritual gifts. Possibly “prophesy” needs this wise wisdom most of all. How much of an impression (on others) does the word from God wield? If you feel that you have this gift, be careful. I would even say, take your time. Pray first before you speak. This gift can be volatile. How many people have said they heard from God? This is a real gift, but it’s a rare gift. There were not that many prophets in the Old Testament. There were even fewer in the New Testament. Hearing from God will involve a push to speak. Think about Jonah. God will not give up easily in getting his word out. If God empowers you to speak: you will speak. Prophesy is a great honor. Be mindful of this.

2. **Serving-** John 12:26 *“Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.”*
 - a. You:
 - i. Are a minister of the church
 1. Meaning overseer, Diakonos (Greek) table-waiter, servant
 - ii. Have a gift that builds up and supports the church body
 - iii. serves God and his people
 - iv. are the modern Levite
 1. Levites in the Old Testament did much of the serving.
 - v. Care for the people and the temple (church)
 - vi. Serve the natural (ex: ushering) and the spiritual (fellowship)

Our Lord and savior washed feet. He did not get the sleep he needed. Why? How many times did Jesus' attempt to have quiet time only to forfeit it to heal people? Jesus was all about serving. It just might be the greatest gift. The love a person gives (who enjoys serving) is unmatched. A servant is looking to help. They have passion for God's kingdom in a special way. People matter to them. The welfare of the church matters to them. You could Go through your gift test now, but I want you to ponder what you have read. I could also have just given you the whole list this week, but I want you to look at these first two and study them. Do you see yourself in the description? Parts of your character will be in prophesy and serving. Yet, you might be stronger or weaker in other gifts. This week why don't you pray for guidance and insight into who you really are. Let God open you up to his world of using Spiritual gifts. See you next week with the remaining five of the general gifts of the Spirit.