

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. John Owen said, "Where there are no spiritual gifts, there is no ministry at all."  
(Owen, John. [\*The Works of John Owen\*](#). Ed. William H. Goold. Vol. 4. Edinburgh: T&T Clark. Print.)
2. So if you do not know what your gift is, then you're not engaged in ministering in the church.
3. Our study today takes us back to 1 Corinthians chapter 12.
4. That's where we have been for some time looking at spiritual gifts as we found them in verses 8-10.
5. This morning we are looking at verse 11 which says, "But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills."
6. It is the Holy Spirit's choice as to what gift you have.
7. So gifts are not something to seek, but to be received from the Spirit "as He wills."
8. That's why we need to know what they are in order to recognize them.
9. It is also important to know the Holy Spirit does not give the same gift to everyone.
10. Romans 12:4 says, "For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function."

11. William MacDonald writes, "The Spirit sovereignly apportions the gifts. If we really grasp this, it will eliminate pride on the one hand, because we don't have anything that we didn't receive. And it will eliminate discontent on the other hand, because Infinite Wisdom and Love decided what gift we should have, and His choice is perfect. It is wrong for everyone to desire the same gift. If everyone played the same instrument, you could never have a symphony orchestra. And if a body consisted only of tongue, it would be a monstrosity. (MacDonald, William. [\*Believer's Bible Commentary: Old and New Testaments\*](#). Ed. Arthur Farstad. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1995. Print.)

So in discovering what gift you have first we need to...

## **LESSON**

### **I. Understand All Believers Have At Least One Spiritual Gift**

1. It is possible to have a combination of gifts but all believers have at least one gift
2. 1 Peter 4:10 says that "...each one has received a special gift."
3. 1 Corinthians 12:7 says, "But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."
4. Romans 12:3 says, "...God has allotted to each a measure of faith."
5. Ephesians 4:7 says, "But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift."
6. Each context where spiritual gifts receive specific mention in the New Testament strongly emphasizes this fact.
7. In every one of those verses, the Greek word hekastos ("each"~ occurs. The word individualizes each member with his specific gift.)

8. In 1 Corinthians 12:11, in addition to hekastos, it uses idios ("its own", which makes the expression more emphatically individualistic. (Robert L. Thomas, *Understanding Spiritual Gifts: A Verse-by-Verse Study of 1 Corinthians 12-14* (Kindle Location 2888). Kindle Edition.)

So the first step in discovering your spiritual gift is to understand all believers have at least one spiritual gift.

Second you need to also understand...

## **II. Understand the Purpose of Spiritual Gifts in the Church**

1. There are 9 gifts listed in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10
  1. Only 5 of the 9 gifts are permanent edifying gifts that promote growth in the church
  2. They are the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, faith, prophecy, and the distinguishing of spirits
  3. The other 4 gifts were temporary signs gifts given for the purpose of authenticating the message and messenger
  4. Those gifts are healing, miracles, tongues and the interpretation of tongues
2. Other gifts are listed in Romans 12:6-8, Ephesians 4:11, and 1 Peter 4:10
  1. All but two gifts listed in those passages are permanent edifying gifts
  2. They are prophecy, serving, teaching, exhortation, giving, leading, mercy, pastor-teacher, and evangelist

3. The two temporary gifts in Ephesians 4:11 are apostle and prophet
  4. The gifts that fall in the category of speaking gifts like the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, prophecy (preaching), teaching, exhortation, pastor-teacher and evangelist strengthen the body of Christ both numerically and qualitatively
  5. Evangelism adds new members to the body of Christ, and pastor-teaching, teaching, and exhorting help the already existing members to walk in service to the rest of the members. (Robert L. Thomas, *Understanding Spiritual Gifts: A Verse-by-Verse Study of 1 Corinthians 12-14* (Kindle Locations 2895-2896). Kindle Edition.)
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3. Spiritual gifts give us the ability to function in the body of Christ therefore whatever gift you have you are to "exercise them accordingly" "according to the proportion of [your] faith" (Rom.12:6)
  4. Spiritual Gifts are given to manifest the Spirit
    1. 1 Corinthians 12:7 says, "But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."
    2. The word "manifestation" (phanerosis, noun) is used 2 times in the NT. Both by Paul. Here and in 2 Corinthians 4:2.
    3. The word comes from the root word phaneroo, which means "to reveal" (Louw-Nida)
    4. Spiritual gifts are the spiritual endowments as vehicles to publicly reveal God's presence.
    5. So the genitive phrase "manifestation of the Spirit" is, then, likely objective (the gifting demonstrates [publicly] the Spirit's presence) rather than subjective (the Spirit displays the gifts). (Vang, Preben. [\*1 Corinthians\*](#). Ed.

Mark L. Strauss. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2014. Print. Teach the Text Commentary Series.)

In other words, spiritual gifts make Him known, understood, and evident in the church and in the world, by spiritually profiting all who receive their ministry. (MacArthur, John, Jr., ed. [The MacArthur Study Bible](#). electronic ed. Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997. Print.

So every Christian has at least one gift and each permanent edifying gift strengthens and builds the church.

Ephesians 4:16 says the "whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes growth of the body for the building up of itself in love."

From the lists of gifts mentioned then you need to...

### III. Survey the Lists of Spiritual Gifts

#### Spiritual Gift Lists in the New Testament

| 1 Cor. 12:8-10       | 1 Cor. 12:28      | I Cor. 12:29-30   | Romans 12:6-8 | Ephesians 4:11 | 1 Peter 4: 10-11 |
|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| word of wisdom       | apostles          | apostles          | prophecy      | apostles       | speaking gifts   |
| word of knowledge    | prophets          | prophecy          | ministry      | prophets       | servicing gifts  |
| faith                | teachers          | teaching          | teaching      | evangelists    |                  |
| gifts of healings    | miracles          | miracles          | exhortation   | pastor-teacher |                  |
| workings of miracles | gifts of healings | gifts of healings | giving        |                |                  |
| prophecy             | helping           | tongues           | leading       |                |                  |
| discerning of        | leading           | interpretation of | showing       |                |                  |

**spirits****tongues****mercy****various kinds of  
tongues****various kinds of  
tongues****interpretation of  
tongues**

## 1. There are 6 lists of spiritual gifts in the NT

### 1. 9 gifts in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10

For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues.

### 2. 8 gifts in 1 Corinthians 12:28

And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues.

### 3. 7 gifts in 1 Corinthians 12:29-30

All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not workers of miracles, are they? All do not have gifts of healings, do they? All do not speak with tongues, do they? All do not interpret, do they?

### 4. 7 gifts in Romans 12:6-8

Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

## 5. 4 gifts in Ephesians 4:11

And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers.

## 6. 2 gifts in 1 Peter 4:10-11

As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

2. From the 6 lists we have 37 gifts

3. But since some are repeated altogether there are 23 different spiritual gifts in the NT

1. Out of the 23 listed only 17 are permanent edifying gifts that are in operation today

2. The remaining 6 were temporary sign gifts that ceased with the apostles

1. Healing

2. Miracles

3. Tongues

4. Interpretation of tongues

5. Apostles

6. Prophets

So as you survey your gift...

#### **IV. Understand Which Gifts Are in Operation Today**

From the chart the 17 gifts that are in operation today are:

1. Word of Wisdom
2. Word of knowledge
3. Faith
4. Prophecy
5. Discerning of spirits
6. Teachers
7. Helping
8. Leading
9. Teaching
10. Ministry

11. Exhortation
12. Giving
13. Showing mercy
14. Evangelists
15. Pastor-teacher
16. Speaking gifts
17. Serving gift

## **V. Pray for Enlightenment Regarding One's Spiritual Gift**

1. Though not explicitly named in connection with learning about gifts, prayer sustains an unquestionable connection with zeal for spiritual gifts for which Paul commends the Corinthians.
2. First Corinthians 14:1 commands a zeal for spiritual gifts, even though that zeal is secondary to the pursuit of love in the same verse. (Thomas)
3. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand which gift you have

While you're praying, begin to...

## **VI. Experiment with Each Gift**

1. Experimentation is essential if someone wants to discover his or her gifts.
2. Believers must try their hand at every possible gift before they can know with certainty whether they have the gift or not.
3. This is a prolonged and extended effort in a given area for 4-6 months.
4. Robert L. Thomas says, "Getting people to experiment is very difficult. It is hard to experiment; it takes courage. Dozens of objections to undertaking this part of the process will arise, yet it must be done. It is crucial. No amount of spiritual-gift surveys can replace this. Experimentation is the proving ground where actual discovery comes. The acknowledged difficulty will disappear if a person possesses the zeal spoken of in 1 Corinthians 14:1, 12. If your desire to know your gifts is strong enough, you will go out on a limb, take that hardest of steps, and try to function in each of the eight ways. (Understanding Spiritual Gifts: A Verse-by-Verse Study of 1 Corinthians 12-14 (Kindle Locations 2923-2927). Kindle Edition.)"

## **VII. Do a Self Evaluation**

1. There is an inner satisfaction that you become aware of in performing functions in areas where you are gifted.
2. For example, there is great satisfaction in preparing a lesson from Scripture and teaching it to others. Though that is not his purpose, the teacher himself experiences growth in the faith.
3. He experiences a subjective awareness that in building up others, his own edification has resulted.
4. This is the satisfaction for which one should be alert in the step of self-evaluation. (Thomas)

## **VIII. Welcome Feedback from Others**

1. Seek out the reaction of mature Christians
2. Welcome their opinion of your gift
3. 1 Corinthians 14:29 is an illustration of the value of soliciting the reaction of others.
4. Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others pass judgment.
5. For a prophet's utterance to have been accepted as valid, fellow prophets had to judge it. If their opinion was negative, the church disregarded the speech. The words had not been a true prophecy. (Thomas)

## **IX. Develop Your Spiritual Gift**

1. To do that is to use it
2. As you use your gift you will develop it
3. Of course there are things you can do with certain gifts that will enhance it but nothing can replace doing it

## **CONCLUSION**

1. If you apply all these steps this will help you to discover what your spiritual gift is
2. So you need to:

1. Understand all believers have at least one spiritual gift
  2. Understand the purpose of spiritual gifts in the church
  3. Survey the lists of spiritual gifts
  4. Understand which gifts are in operation today
  5. Pray for enlightenment
  6. Experiment with each gift
  7. Do a self evaluation
  8. Welcome feedback from others
  9. Develop your spiritual gift
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3. Remember spiritual gifts are not talents even though the Spirit may use your background and abilities with your gift
  4. Also remember that spiritual gifts are only given to Christians
  5. So if you're not a Christian, then you do not have a spiritual gift
  6. But you can become one this morning by believing in Jesus Christ by committing your life to Him
  7. You do that by turning from your sin and confessing Jesus as Lord
  8. The Bible says if you confess Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead you will be saved

9. So call on Him now as we pray

10. Let's pray

11. The Lord's Supper