

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

WEEK 2: TEMPORARY AND PERMANENT GIFTS

INTRODUCTION TO THE SERIES

Romans 12:6 ~ “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;”

1 Corinthians 12:7 ~ “But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”

1 Peter 4:10 ~ “As each one has received a *special* gift, employ it in servicing one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

Our schedule will look like this:

- Week 1: February 25 Introduction and Purpose of the Gifts
- Week 2: March 3 Temporary and Permanent Gifts
- Week 3: March 10 Determining and Using your Gifts
- March 17 *Daniel Herceg: ministry update and time in the Word*
- Week 4: March 24 Contemporary Issues in the Church Week 1:
- March 31 *Easter- No Fellowship Group this week*
- Week 5: April 7 Contemporary Issues in the Church Week 2

REVIEW: THE GIFTS

James Stitzinger: “A spiritual gift, then, is any ability and accompanying spiritual ministry and effect that God, through Christ, enables a believer to use, or motivates him to use, for His glory, in the body of Christ, through the energizing work of the Spirit. God may grace the believer with a gift or gifts, or bring them to light, at salvation or later, but these abilities are only gifts when used for edification in the church.”¹

- Spiritual gifts are diverse and distinct among individuals yet they all contain gracious provision, a **spiritual ministry, and most important, an effect or activity**.²
- The key word here is **effect**. The gifts in these passages emphasize the result of what the Spirit does in the church.
- The gifts have the effect of edification (1 Cor. 14:3, 4, 5, 12, 17, 26).

¹ James F. Stitzinger, “Spiritual Gifts: Definitions and Kinds”, TMSJ 14/2 (Fall 2003) 161.

² Stitzinger, 161.

- *Dormant gifts* aren't really "useful gifts" since they aren't having their effect. They are just possible ways that you could bless the body but are not. Neglect of a gift isn't a gift received.
- In fact, some scholars have tried to promote a shift away from thinking about them all as **merely abilities** in favor of "concrete actions, actual events, and 'Spirit-given ministries.'"³
- Healthy members of a church will employ their gifts so that it has the intended effect given by God... to minister to one another.⁴
- BOTH/AND: The Spirit gives us the **ministry** and the ability. He also enables us with the ability to do it for the His divine purposes: edification!
 - Example: Ministry of **helps** is given and the ability to have joy serving is given.
 - Example: Ministry of **mercy** is given, and the ability to recall Scripture in the moment is given to edify the one cared for.
 - Example: Ministry of **teaching** is given, and the ability to explain difficult passages in a way that the audience understands is given.

Source, Recipient, Number, Purpose

- *Source*: Not of our own doing, but distributed by the Spirit according to his will (1 Cor 12:11).
- *Recipient*: Given to **believers** at the time they are indwelt with the Holy Spirit at conversion.
- *Number*: **18** among the "list passages" with possible sub categories.
- *Purpose*: **Edification** of the church and the **glory** of God (1 Cor 12:7; 14:26; 1 Peter 4:10)

Relationship between Gifts and Abilities and Talents

- Spiritual gifts are given at new birth by the Holy Spirit (think bout adoption), and effectively edify the saints. The ability to edify is not your own, but developed in you by the Spirit (Preaching, ruling, reconciling, caring, evangelizing).
- At Pentecost the Spirit was given to the church and at that time, so were gifts given to the church. This is one of the reasons we can rejoice in the Spirit, that all those in Christ have everything needed to continue to fulfil Christ's promise to build his church.

³ Kenneth Berding, "Confusing word and concept in 'spiritual gifts': Have we forgotten James Barr's exhortations?" *JETS*, 43/1 (March 2000) 46-47. Here he quotes the clarifying distinction by James Dunn, "when Paul speaks here of charismata [the word we translate to "spiritual gifts" in 1 Corinthians 12:1] he is thinking of concrete actions, actual events, not of latent possibilities and hidden talents," in *Jesus and the Spirit*, (Philadelphia: Westminster, 1975) 209.

⁴ "Ministries" is the same word where we derive "deacons" (diakonia) and means serving as a function of the church, and serving in the interest of a larger group of people. BDAG: William Arndt et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 230.

Relationship between Gifts and Fruit

- The Fruit of the Spirit is the righteousness the Spirit produces in each of us. They can be summarized by obedient living (Galatians 5:25 ~ “living by the spirit”) and the fruit of righteousness (Philippians 1:11).
- We walk according to the spirit and live by the spirit (Galatians 5:16-25).
- Fruit is singular, not plural. It is mentioned as a collective unit. You can have all of them!
- Our remaining in Christ is marked by “obedience to Scripture that honors God. It can be classified using six categories:
 1. Fruit of attitudes (Gal. 5:22–23; Eph. 5:9)
 2. Fruit of actions (Col. 1:10; Titus 3:8, 14)
 3. Fruit of worship (Heb. 13:15)
 4. Fruit of gospel telling (Rom. 1:13; Col. 1:5–6)
 5. Fruit of truth telling (Eph. 5:9; 1 John 4:2)
 6. Fruit of abundant giving (Rom. 15:26–28; 2 Cor. 9:6–8, 13; Phil. 4:17)”⁵
- As we abide in Christ (John 15:1-5), we prove to be Christ’s disciples and bear much fruit... fruit faithfully living out God’s Word (John 14:15, 21, 23; 15:7, 10, 14)
- **Fruit** is the product in the obedient believer growing more and more like Christ. It is the internal outcome of the work of God in you.
- **Spiritual gifts** take the “communicable attributes of God” and put them into action, put them to work!
- The gifts aren’t passive, they are employed, work, energize, serve, profit, give, and edify so that the Spirit can affect **not just YOU**, but also **everyone else** in the church!

Relationship between Gifts and Commands for ALL Believers

- “From word meaning and usage, it is evident that most of these gifts represent the kind of activity that should characterize all Christians.”⁶

⁵ John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, eds., *Biblical Doctrine: A Systematic Summary of Bible Truth* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2017), 374.

⁶ Stitzinger, 175. He also adds in the footnote: “Notice how the activity involved in a given spiritual gift is elsewhere commanded of all believers in the following instances; Evangelism (Acts 1:8, “you shall be My witnesses”); Pastoring (1 Thess 5:11, “build up one another”); Teaching (Matt 28:19, “teaching them”); Exhortation (Heb 10:25, “encouraging one another”).”

- All the commands given to believers should be obeyed. Some of us are given the ability to have an especially *effective ministry/service* in doing so.
- The fruit of the ministry seems to show true the “varieties of **gifts...ministries...effects... manifestation of the Spirit**” (1 Corinthians 12:4-7).

GIFT LISTS?

1 Corinthians 12:1 ~ “Now concerning spiritual *gifts*, brethren, **I do not want you to be unaware.**”

- Three primary list passages:⁷

Romans 12:6-8	1 Corinthians 12:8-10	1 Corinthians 12:28-30
Prophecy	Utterance of wisdom	Apostleship (apostles)
Service	Utterance of knowledge	Prophecy (prophets)
Teaching	Faith	Teaching (teachers)
Exhortation	Gifts of healing	Working of miracles
Giving (contributing)	Working of miracles	Gifts of healing
Leading	Prophecy	Helping
Acts of mercy	Distinguishing between spirits	Administrating
	Speaking in tongues	Speaking in tongues
	Interpreting tongues	Interpreting tongues

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 ~ Tongues, prophecy, knowledge, faith, giving

1 Corinthians 13:8-9 ~ Tongues, prophecy, knowledge

Ephesians 4:11 ~ 3 offices given to the church of apostle, prophet, evangelist, and shepherd-teacher.

1 Peter 4:10-11 ~ 2 large categories of speaking, serving.

- “Because these lists are not identical (see table [above]) it is best to interpret them as representative compilations (rather than exhaustive lists) of the ways in which the Lord empowers his people for ministry.”⁸
- Between these passages we can distinguish the specific mention of 18 gifts.⁹

⁷ John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, , 807.

⁸ John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, 802.

⁹ Thomas, Robert, *Understanding Spiritual Gifts*, 173. He uses the example of preaching being under teaching/exhortation. His list includes: apostleship, prophecy, distinguishing of spirits, word of wisdom, word of knowledge, faith, healing, effecting of miracles, tongues, interpretation of tongues, evangelism, teaching, pastor-teacher, exhortation, helps, showing mercy, giving, governing.

- Can represent other ways that the Spirit uses individuals for the ministry of the saints.
- If other ideas about gifts come up, it comes under one of these in the “list passages”.

PERMANENT GIFTS

- These are in operation from Pentecost until the church’s rapture.
- Given for the purpose of edifying the church and glorifying God.

Speaking Gifts:

- The effective use of speech and communication to minister to the body that builds up.

Evangelism ((Acts 21:8; Eph 4:11; 2 Tim 4:5)

- Found in the list of gifted persons in Ephesians 4:11, it seems this is not an office, but a ministry of conversion. Evangelists are given the ability to effectively explain the gospel to people in a way people do come to saving faith!
- They are to exhort, preach the truth, testify to God’s grace.
- Paul preached the gospel (Romans 1:9), Philip was an evangelist as one of the first seven deacons (Acts 21:8; Acts 6:5), and others were ministering in this way to grow the early church (Romans 10:13-15, “preacher” who “brings good news” (evangelizes in the Greek).

Teaching (Romans 12:7)

- Supernatural ability to clearly communicate God’s Word in such a way that people understand the Bible and believe the Bible and apply the Bible.
- God uses some natural ability, and the Holy Spirit enables the teacher to cut the word straight.
- The Truth of God’s word is spoken with great love for people (Eph 4:15)

Pastor-Teacher (Romans 12:8)

- Role and office in the church related to teaching. God gives the church not merely teachers to impart knowledge (great benefit!), but also careful shepherding (pastoring) with care, patience, dedication, oversight, and love.
- Synonymous with overseers/shepherds(Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-5), elders (2 Timothy 3:2).
- This dual-function role in the church is a gift of God to guard, feed, watch, care, tend, etc.

Exhortation (Rom 12:8)

- “An exhortation addresses itself to the human will and moves people to action by strengthening their determination to attain a goal.”¹⁰

¹⁰¹⁰ Thomas, *Understanding Spiritual Gifts*, 88.

- People need to respond to the word of God and it takes someone calling them, urging them to move from point A to point B.
- Public preaching, planned conversation, spontaneous conversation, small group setting, encouragement through music, indirectly or directly given to a group...

Auxiliary Gifts:

- The effective use of accompanying services which support and care for the body.

Helps/Ministry (Romans 12:7; 1 Corinthians 12:8)

- They have supernatural ability and ministry to serve and support others in the body “wherever temporal or physical needs arise in connection with the church’s ministry.”¹¹
- Officially this is also an office given to the church (deacons) to serve alongside the Elders.
- They include spiritual and physical help (Acts 1:25; 6:4), relief, serving tables (Acts 6:1), hospitality (1 Cor 16:15), serving all kinds of needs that arise, helping.
- They love serving, enjoy doing it without notice, tend to demonstrate unselfish love, and may be more aware of the needs around them.¹²

Showing Mercy (Romans 12:8)

- Supernatural ability to truly commiserate, show compassion and pity, demonstrate empathy for the benefit of those in need.
- Someone has a deep need of care, directed toward those who are in “some kind of distress, misery, pain, anxiety, or something of that sort... relieving that distress, misery, etc.”¹³
- Dorcas (Acts 9:36) showed deeds of kindness and charity, Epaphroditus ministered to the needs of Paul (Phil 2:25, 30), even risking his life. Romans 12:8 says it is done with cheerfulness.

Gift of Giving (Romans 12:8)

- The supernatural ability to give liberally with a cheerful heart, according to your means, and beyond your means (2 Corinthians 8:1-5). Paul calls their giving a grace of God done by the will of God.
- They couldn’t say no to the opportunity to participate in supporting the saints in Jerusalem despite their poverty.
- This gift enables the believer to give liberally whether in plenty or want, and is especially used to bless the needy in the church (Acts 2:45; 4:36-37; impure example Acts 5:1-11).
- All should give, some are gifted with the means to give more, some are gifted with the heart.

¹¹ Thomas, 198.

¹² Thomas reminds us that they may have unusual skill in awareness of needs and ability to meet the need in a way that edifies others, 199.

¹³ Thomas 200.

- Both wealthy and poor edify the church with the gift of giving.

Governing/Ruling (Romans 12:8; 1 Corinthians 12:28)

- The ability to lead others by the Lord’s enablement to effectively govern the church for effective service, with diligence.
- Consists of “a special skill in administrative direction... external organization... shrewd and wise directions – as in the piloting of a ship – that harnesses the maximum potential of a local body of believers.”¹⁴
- Elders are given the ministry of ruling (1 Tim 5:17; Heb 13:7, 17, 24; 1 Pet 5:2-3).
- Timothy had this gift before being appointed by the elders in Ephesus (1 Tim 4:14).
- This is the governing of a gentle, loving shepherd, not a dictatorship, lording over others.

TEMPORARY GIFTS

- In operation from Pentecost until the foundation of the church.
- Given for the purpose of revealing Scripture and confirming Scripture.

Revelatory Gifts:

Apostleship (Ephesians 4:11; 1 Corinthians 12:28)

- The Supernatural ability, office, and function of Jesus’ disciples who were sent by Jesus Christ directly for the establishment of the early church and her mission and leadership.
- Apostleship¹⁵ is the “supergift” of all the gifts because they basically demonstrated all of the gifts at that time, yet not without the ability to sin (Peter, Gal 2:11-14).
- They received the divine calling directly from the Lord (Acts 1:22; 1 Cor 9:1) to represent Him in the spread of the way, recall all what He taught (John 16:13-15), write down inspired Scripture and confirm with sign gifts that both the message and the messenger were indeed from God.
- They laid the foundation of the church (Eph 2:19-22).
- May have also included Barnabas and James (1 Cor 9:1, 5-6; 15:7; Gal 1:19), Adronicus, Junias, others (Rom 16:7; 1 Cor 15:5, 7), and perhaps others¹⁶ (2 Cor 11:13).

¹⁴ Thomas, 203. Stitzinger points out that classical Greek contained both the ideas of “presiding,” “leading,” and “direction,” and also more precisely, “to protect,” “to care for,” “to help,” “to further” so that when the gift of administration is employed, it involves both PRESIDING and CARING.

¹⁵ Requirements: 1. Disciple of Christ during his ministry (Acts 1:8, 21-23). 2. Eyewitness of the risen Christ with his own eyes (Acts 1:21-22, Luke 24:48; 1 Cor 9:1-2). 3. Directly ordained by Jesus to this office (Luke 6:13-16). Paul was the last, least (1 Cor 15:9, not one of the 12).

¹⁶ Thomas suggests if there were false apostles, that implies more than the 12 plus Paul would have been recognized as apostles such that the Corinthians could have been confused.

Prophecy (Romans 12:6; 1 Corinthians 12:10, 28)¹⁷

- Like the apostles, they were channels of direct divine revelation in the age of revelation.
- Prophecy continued in this early church to bring supernatural foreknowledge to the congregation when there was completed NT.¹⁸

Distinguishing Spiritual Gifts (1 Corinthians 12:10)

- The supernatural ability to distinguish between the Spirit of God and the demonic.
- A validating companion to prophecy to know and edify the church with clarity concerning whether claimed prophecy was legitimately from God. (Acts 16:16, 18; 1 John 4:1-3)
- “Guarded the church from being led astray”

Word of Wisdom (1 Corinthians 12:8)

- The supernatural ability to understand the mysteries of God (1 Cor 13:2, 8, 9, 12) when prophecy is given, offering to the church the depths of God (1 Cor 2:6-13).
- This gift “focuses more attention on the reception of the revelation from God while prophecy puts more emphasis upon communicating...”¹⁹

Word of Knowledge (1 Corinthians 12:8)

- The supernatural ability to what God knows to the extent the church needs to know it.
- On a supernatural level, God revealed to apostles and prophets what they needed to know regarding revelation. This wasn’t human level understanding and reason, but God-breathed knowledge.

Confirmatory Gifts:

Faith (1 Corinthians 12:9)

- The supernatural ability to trust the Lord in a special way to overcome obstacles to their ministries for Christ in the early church.
- Related to the miraculous gifts in 1 Corinthians 13:2.
- A trust that God would prove his word through the miraculous gifts when needed, how needed.

¹⁷ Prophecy may contain the ministry of 1. foretelling (Acts 11:27-28) of future events. A. Must be consistent 100% with God’s word. B. Must come true as stated. 2. Forthtelling (1 Corinthians 14:1-3) to speak the Word in a way that edifies. “But one who prophesies speaks to men for edification and exhortation and consolation” (1 Co 14:3).

¹⁸ Reasoning for temporary gift of prophecy: (A) The church in Corinth struggled with the abuse of sign gifts in the church before the NT was complete; (B) “Prophecy in the New Testament is the same as prophecy in the OT; it is a continuation of the same office and function.” Boyer, “The Office of the Prophet in the New Testament Times” 13, quoted by Stitzinger, 167; and (C) 1 Corinthians 13:2 leans heavily on revelation and sign gifts without love.

¹⁹ Thomas, 179.

Hebrews 2:4 ~ “God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.”

Healings (1 Corinthians 12:9)

- The supernatural ability to exercise and effectively heal in ways not normal to how our bodies normally heal themselves.
- Plural: wide variety of methods, means and levels of severity.
- Immediate and effective healings.

Effective Working of Miracles (1 Corinthians 12:10, 28)

- The supernatural ability to confirm the revelation of God through the Apostles with the accompanying sign or wonder which could only be from God.
- Used to verify God’s spokesmen and their messages before the NT was complete.

Tongues (1 Corinthians 12:10, 28; 14:22)

- Purpose: “Tongues are for a **sign**, not to those who believe, but to unbelievers” (1 Cor 14:22).²⁰ A sign (semeion) was, “a ‘fingerpost’ of God, an authenticating (Rom 4:11; 2 Thess 3:17) and in most cases miraculous (Acts 2:19, 22; 14:3; Rom 15:19; 1 Cor 1:22 ; 2 Cor 12:12) pointer... Those who had been steeped in Judaism all their lives needed elements of tangible proof that the new movement founded by Jesus Christ was genuinely of God.”²¹
- Always accompanied by audience of unbelievers or interpretation (1 Cor 14:13, 22, 26-28).

Interpretation of Tongues (1 Corinthians 12:30; 14:5, 13, 26-28)

- Tongues’ twin, and nearly identical to prophecy because the interpretation enabled the listeners to understand.
- Interpretation brings edification (1 Cor 14:5), a productive outcome of tongues (1 Cor 14:13-15), and peace in the assembly together (1 Cor 14:28, 33).

²⁰ “In Peter’s Pentecost sermon (Acts 2:22 ff.), he described Jesus the Nazarene as a man approved, identified, accredited, confirmed, and dedicated from God or by God to the Jewish people by means of miracles and wonders and signs that God did through Him in the midst of these same people. Such supernatural feats were what proved the apostles and prophets to be from God and demonstrated the divine origin of the message they spoke,” Thomas, 187.

²¹ Thomas, 104.

TEMPORARY... IS IT STILL APPLICABLE IN PRINCIPLE??

- Generally, we should be careful not to make something an operable gift today if it is closely tied to revelation (Apostle, Prophecy), or something promised in a similar nature to all believers (faith, knowledge). However in principle, certain believers in the church seem to demonstrate a special Spirit given capacity to trust, remember, discern, speak forth, etc.
- “Apostle” ~ We are ambassadors for Christ, *sent* as God’s messengers, but we are not gifted for the same purpose as Apostles in the first century, nor commissioned directly from Jesus.
- “Prophecy” ~ We proclaim the truth (forthtelling), but this should better be understood in exhortation and teaching.
- “Distinguishing of Spirits” ~ Today believers can be especially gifted in discerning truth from error, but great caution should be given that you do not think you have the gift of criticism.
- “Wisdom” ~ The general practical wisdom available to all as a means for living a profitable life with God, while the gift is the ability in the first century to disclose divine secrets.²²
- “Knowledge” ~ We can know what Scripture teaches us, but we are limited in having divine application abilities.
- “Faith” ~ Included in the temporary gifts because it is lumped in, along with wisdom, with the healing, miracles, prophecy, distinguishing gifts in 1 Corinthians 12:9-10. Faith saves, and sanctifies, and perhaps stands as a strong edifying witness through persecution and trials.
- “Tongues” as knowing/using a different language ~ Likely not a grace ministry, rather a situational blessing.
- “Interpretation” ~ I know someone who translated from one language to 2 others back to back, however, this is more of a learned skill than a divinely appointed ability to accurately give meaning to divine revelation.
- “Miracles” ~ God still works miracles (i.e. salvation), but the age of empowering people to readily accomplish miracles to confirm revelation is over.

1 Corinthians 13:1 ~ “If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.”

Pray for people, not for powerful abilities.

²² Thomas, 179-180.