



MESSAGE NOTES

Your Spiritual Gifts Can Help

Your Church Grow

Lawrence Chen

Who needs to know about spiritual gifts?

1 Corinthians 12:1 “Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed.”

1. You are a Christian
2. You believe that Jesus is your Lord and you want to love Him and follow Him in the best way possible
3. You want your church to be a healthy, growing group of people showing forth God’s love in your community

Who has spiritual gifts?

Not everyone has spiritual gifts. Unbelievers do not. But every Christian person who is committed to Jesus and truly a member of His body has at least one gift, or possibly more. The Bible says that every Christian has received a gift (1 Peter 4:10), and that “the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit” (1 Corinthians 12:7).

God’s Gifts and God’s Call

When related to the objective of doing God’s will or functioning in the Body of Christ, a person’s general call is equivalent to his or her spiritual gift. There is no better framework within which to interpret one’s call than one’s gift-mix. God does not give gifts which He does not “call” the recipient to use, nor does He call someone to do something for Him without equipping that person with the necessary gift or gifts to do it.

What is a Spiritual Gift?

A spiritual gift is a special attribute given by the Holy Spirit to every member of the Body of Christ according to God’s grace for use within the context of the Body.

Charismata is not the only word used in the New Testament for spiritual gifts although it is the most common one (Romans 12:6).

***Pneumatikos* (1 Corinthians 12:1) *Domata* (Ephesians 4:8) *Charis* = Grace (Ephesians 4:7)**

indicates the intimate relationship that spiritual gifts have to the grace of God.

The Benefits of Spiritual Gifts

Ephesians 4:13

¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

1. You will be a better Christian and more able to allow God to make your life count for Him (Ephesians 4:13-15).
2. Not only does knowing about spiritual gifts help individual Christians, but it helps the church as a whole (Ephesians 4:16).
3. Spiritual gifts glorify God (1 Peter 4:10, 11)

The Three Key Lists

The great majority of spiritual gifts mentioned in the Bible are found in three key chapters: Romans 12; 1 Corinthians 12; and Ephesians 4.

Romans 12:3-8

1. Prophet/Prophecy (preaching, inspired utterance)
2. Service (ministry)
3. Teacher/Teaching
4. Exhortation (stimulating faith, encouraging)
5. Giving (contributing, generosity, sharing)
6. Leadership (authority, ruling, administration)
7. Mercy (sympathy, comfort to the sorrowing, showing kindness)

1 Corinthians 12:1-11, 27-30

8. Wisdom (wise advice, wise speech)
9. Knowledge (studying, speaking with knowledge)
10. Faith
11. Healing
12. Miracles (doing great deeds)
13. Discernment (discrimination is spiritual matters)
14. Tongues (speaking in languages never learned, ecstatic utterance)
15. Interpretation of tongues
16. Apostle/Pioneering
17. Serving/Helps
18. Administration (governments, getting others to work together)

Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-16

19. Evangelist
20. Pastor/Shepherding (caring for God's people)
21. Celibacy (1 Corinthians 7:7, 32-34)
22. Voluntary poverty (1 Corinthians 13:3)
23. Martyrdom (1 Corinthians 13:3)
24. Hospitality (1 Peter 4:9-10, 1 Timothy 3:2, 5:10)
25. Intercession (Rom 8:26-27, John 17:9-26)
26. Creative communication (Psalms 150:3-5, 2 Sam 6:14-15, Mark 4:2, 33)
27. Craftsmanship (Ex 31:3, 2 King 22:5-6, Acts 9:36-39)

What Spiritual Gifts Are Not...

- Natural talents
- The Fruit of the Spirit
- The Christian Roles
- Counterfeit gifts

Application Questions:

1. How Can I Discover My Spiritual Gift?

- Explore the possibilities...
Study the Bible
Learn KBF's (your church's) position on gifts
Read extensively
Get to know gifted people
- Saturate in prayer
- Experiment on as many as you can
- Examine your feelings
- Evaluate your effectiveness
- Expect confirmation from the Body

2. How Can I Utilise My Gift in the Church or Community?