

DOCTRINE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

- I. All believers should understand Spiritual Gifts and their function. 1 Cor 12:1 “Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do now want you to be ignorant.” He also wrote Timothy twice regarding his gift. 1 Tim 4:14 – “Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you.” 2 Tim 1:6 – “And for this reason I remind you to fan the flame of the gift of God that is within you.

- II. The Definition of the Term ‘Spiritual gift’
 - A. A spiritual gift is a God-given ability and desire to minister to others (to do God’s work) 1 Cor 12:1-6
 - B. Spiritual gifts are different than natural abilities (the word ‘gift’ – χαρισμα – implies a non-meritorious bestowal; the word ‘spiritual’ – πνευματικον – indicates the Source being the supernatural, i.e. the Holy Spirit.) 1 Cor 2:3
 - C. They are accomplished through human participation, but their effectiveness is due to the Spirit of God. Natural abilities often compliment one’s gift(s), but are not a prerequisite. Ac 2:4,8;
 - D. “Gifts” of the Spirit are different than “fruit” of the Spirit. Gal 5:22-23
 1. Certain marks of the Holy Spirit are common to all growing, Spirit-filled Christians (cp Jn 15:1-5)
 2. The certain results in all Spirit-filled Christians include love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance.
 3. In contrast ‘gifts’ are distinct, diverse, and greatly varied. Cp 1 Cor 12:4-6
 4. The presence or absence of any one gift should never be a test of whether or not a person is “spiritual”. The gifts are apportioned as God chooses. Cp 1 Cor 12 11,18
 5. Therefore, Christian character, (the uniform ‘fruit’ of the Spirit), and Christian ministry, (the diverse ‘gifts’ of the Spirit), are works of the Spirit of God.

- III. The Universality of Gifts (among believers)
 - A. The Bible teaches that every Christian has one or more gifts. Eph 4:7-8; 1 Cor 12:7,11; 1Pet 4:10
 - B. At the point of salvation the believer is endowed with one or more gifts, as seen in the body metaphor of 1 Cor 12. As each physical body part is assigned its place in the anatomy under the laws of genetics, so each of us is assigned an “eye” function, “foot” function, “hand” function, etc. at the point of Baptism of the Holy Spirit. 1 Cor 12:13ff

- IV. The Significance of Spiritual Gifts
 - A. Spiritual gifts are not a mark of spirituality (time logged under the FHS) or of maturity level (level of growth), but of the new birth.
 1. The Corinthians were carnal and immature, to the point that Paul could not speak to them as spiritual men. 1 Cor 3:1,3

2. Factions, lawsuits, gross immorality, marital problems, disputes, drunkenness and other abuses of the Lord's Table, misuses of spiritual gifts, and false doctrine concerning the resurrection characterized them, so they could not be mature. (1 Cor 14:20, where the present imperative is used to forbid the *continuation* of an act, i.e. "stop being children").
 3. Yet, they were counted as "not lacking in any gift" – 1 Cor 1:7
- B. Spirituality and maturity do effect a gift's level of performance. 1 Cor 12:6 – 'varieties of effects'; Rom 12:6 – 'according to the grace given to us' and 'according to the proportion of his faith'.
1. Gifts apart from the FHS are offensive. 1Cor 13:1-3
 2. Gifts apart from growth are limited Rom 12:6b – 'faith' = passive faith, that which we possess, i.e. BD
 3. A Spirit Filled believer in maturity is going to perceive areas of application not known to a less mature believer. Heb 5:12-13
- V. Prerequisites for the Normal Function of the Gifts
- A. Love/Filling of the Holy Spirit 1 Cor 14:1
 - B. Growth Rom 12:6
 - C. Membership in a Local Church (the niche God has designed for the proper use of the gifts – 1 Cor 12:27)
 - D. Acclimation to your particular gift as it relates to the Royal Chain of Command 1 Cor 12:28
 - E. Your gift must reside in an environment in which there is a formal structure – 1 Cor 14:40 "let all things be done properly and in an orderly manner". The leadership (PT and Deacons) must provide this environment so you will have a niche in which to serve when you are ready to apply. 1 Pet 4:10-11
- VI. Temporary and Permanent Gifts
- A. The temporary gifts were those gifts given to the Church during the Apostolic Era, 33 AD – c 100 AD.
 - B. These gifts were essential to the foundational era. Eph 2:20
 - C. They were done away at the close of the canon of Scripture, i.e. the 27 books of the New Testament. 1 Cor 13:8-10 cp Jam 1:25, 'perfect' is a synonym for the Bible; also 1 Cor 13:12 cp Jam 1:23, 'mirror' is a synonym for the Bible.
 - D. The temporary gifts carried the Church until the Bible was completed.
 - E. The permanent gifts carry the Church until the Rapture.
 - F. Some temporary gifts were 'sign' gifts, to substantiate, corroborate, and authenticate the message. Ac 3:6,12-16; 1 Cor 14:22-25, cp Jn 1:48-49
 - G. Some temporary gifts were "infancy" gifts, to nurture, protect and edify the Church until the completion of the canon. 1 Cor 13:11
 - H. Some errors associated with the temporary gifts
 1. Sign and infancy gifts are for the Church now - 1 Cor 13:11
 2. Sign gifts (healings, miracles, tongues) should be preferred – 1 Cor 14:6
 3. All believers should or can have a particular gift – 1Cor 12:29-30
 4. Any gift (like tongues) indicates spirituality or maturity – 1 Cor 13:1-3

VII. The Gifts as Body Parts

- A. 1 Cor 12:12ff uses the metaphor of a human body to teach the principle of spiritual gifts. From it we learn:
1. Subordination and service (hand and foot – v 15)
 2. Authority (head – v 21)
 3. Privacy (genital gifts – v 23 ἀσχημα = indecent, improper i.e. unexposed)
 4. Service with ‘glory’ – v 23a like the finger with a ring on it
 5. Certain gifts enable the Church to act or react – vs 16-17
 6. As the body is structured so that each part is to look out for the other parts, so the members of the Church, both local and universal, are to look for ways to serve and help one another. vs 24-25
 7. When one believer suffers, we all do; when one believer is honored, we all are. V 26

VIII. Classification and Identification of Spiritual Gifts

- A. Spiritual gifts are listed in 3 different New Testament passages – Rom 12:4-8; 1 Cor 12; Eph 4:11
1. The list includes 18 gifts, with some being the same gift by a different name, e.g. “teacher” = “pastor-teacher”, “helps” = “service”, etc.
 2. All Christians manifest many of these ministries in limited ways, but concentration and exceptional ability for given ones is a ‘gift’.
- B. The listing, according to passage, is as follows (temporary gifts are asterisked):

1 Cor 12 (13 gifts)	Rom 12:4-8 (7 gifts)	Eph 4:11 (4 gifts)
1. *prophecy	prophecy	prophecy
2. *apostles		apostles
3. *wisdom		
4. *knowledge		
5. *healings		
6. *miracles		
7. *discerning of spirits		
8. *tongues		
9. *interpretation of tongues		
10. *faith		
11. helps	ministry	
12. teachers	teaching	
13. administrations	managerial	
14.	exhortation	
15.	giving	
16.	mercy	
17.		evangelism
18.		pastor-teacher

- C. These gifts involve a high degree of ability and desire to apply in certain necessary areas, based on the empowerment of the Holy Spirit and His guidance, such as (following the above numbering):
1. inspired utterance of a new prophetic truth Ac 11:28
 2. enablement to found the church, functioning by oneself as necessary (since this gift included all other gifts) 1 Cor 14:18
 3. inspired instruction of the church in an area not covered by available Scripture 2 Pe 3:15
 4. utterance of direct, supernaturally given information 1 Cor 13:9
 5. the ability to heal by speaking, touching, or other contact Ac 5:15
 6. the power to do miraculous deeds 2 Cor 12:12
 7. the power to distinguish true from false spirits 1 Jn 4:1
 8. the ability to speak foreign languages without having studied them Ac 2:7
 9. the ability to interpret foreign languages without having studied them
 10. the power to believe, to an exceptional degree, God for unusual things 1 Cor 13:2
 11. the ability to help and serve others in a practical way Rom 16:2
 12. the ability to communicate to others DVPT 1 Cor 14:26
 13. the ability to administer or be a leader in God's work 1 Tim 3:12
 14. the ability to urge, stimulate, and motivate believers to apply Heb 13:22
 15. the ability to contribute financially to the Lord's work to a high degree 1 Cor 13:3 (no examples are found, because it is a private gift, not exercised for the purpose of gaining approbation or attention)
 16. the ability to show mercy by benevolent deeds Phlm 12-13
 17. the ability to minister the gospel to unbelievers beyond the ordinary witness all believers have opportunity to do Ac 8:26ff
 18. the ability to feed and protect a local assembly of believers, so that the congregation has need of only one source. 1 Tim 3:1-5; 1 Pet 5:1-3

IX. The Recognition and Development of Spiritual Gifts

- A. An inclination and desire for particular kinds of tasks, along with an innate ability to so function, is a good indication of a latent gift.
- B. Recognition by others and effectiveness marks a spiritual gift. Ac 16:1-3
- C. As you attempt various tasks under mature leaders you will discover your gift and niche.
- D. Those who have not yet identified a specific gift should indicate their availability and interest (even if it is in some small area, it is a beginning).
- E. Some gifts, like PT, call for specialized training (seminary).
- F. A local church should be desirous of all gifts. 1 Cor 1:7
- G. The ultimate, and the only truly effective, preparation for any gift is consistent attendance in an adjusted local church, wherein Divine Viewpoint can be faithfully communicated.

Hope Bible Church
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