

The Holy Spirit has endowed the church with supernatural manifestations (gifts) so the the church may continue to walk in the supernatural ministry of Jesus Christ.

1. WHAT IS MEANT BY THE PHRASE “GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT”?

The phrase, “Gifts of the Spirit” speaks of the spiritual and supernatural gifts that have been freely given to believers by the Holy Spirit. The fact that they are gifts, means that they are unearned and unmerited, but these are freely given by the Holy Spirit as He determines according to His own purpose.

These gifts as outlined in **1 Corinthians 12** are distinguished from certain natural talents and abilities that a believer may possess in which God may also choose to use for His own purpose.

“Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant... Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.” 1 Corinthians 12:1,4

Notice, Paul said that we were not to be ignorant (uninformed) of Spiritual gifts.

2. IN **1 CORINTHIANS 12:7**, PAUL USES THE WORD “MANIFESTATION”, WHAT EXACTLY DOES THAT MEN?

The word, “**Manifestation**” means *to be expressed* or *to shine forth*. Though these supernatural expressions, the Holy Spirit actually “*shines forth*” or expresses His own power and ministry through the believer.

3. ACCORDING TO **1 CORINTHIANS 12** WHAT ARE THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT?

There are **(9)** Gifts / manifestations of the Spirit mentioned in **1 Corinthians 12** and they can be recognized under three categories:

A. **REVELATION GIFTS - God communicating His Mind**

1. Word of Wisdom: This is the God-given ability to perceive supernatural wisdom from God apart from natural experience and to communicate it.

“For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom...” 1 Corinthians 12:8

2. Word of Knowledge: This is the God-given ability to receive information (knowledge) of certain facts about a situation or person that would have been humanly impossible to know.

“...to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;” 1 Corinthians 112:8

(a) In **John 4:7-28**, Jesus ministered to a woman of Samaria. What did He tell her by the gift of the Word of Knowledge?

3. Discerning of Spirits: This is the God-given ability to recognize what spirits are actually operating behind different activities or manifestations.

*"...to another **discerning of spirits**..." 1 Corinthians 12:10*

*"And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation. And this did she many days. **But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.**" Acts 16:16-18*

B. INSPIRATION GIFTS - God Speaking to the Church

4. Tongues: This is the God-given ability which enables a believer to speak in a language which he does not know.

*"...to another **divers kinds of tongues**..." 1 Corinthians 12:10*

5. Interpretation of Tongues: This is the God-given ability which enables a believer to bring forth clear interpretation in a known language of an unknown tongue that has been spoken publicly.

*"...to another **the interpretation of tongues**..." 1 Corinthians 12:10*

There is no New Testament example of an interpretation of tongues, only instruction (1 Corinthians 14:27-28). Therefore we know that this gift should operate within the church. In the Old Testament, Daniel interpreted the hand writing that appeared on the wall (Daniel 5:25-28).

6. Prophecy: This is the God-given ability to speak forth a message from God received solely by revelation.

*"...to another **prophecy**..." 1 Corinthians 12:10*

*"And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and **signified by the Spirit** that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar." Acts 11:28*

(b) According to [Acts 21:10-11](#), describe how the gift of prophecy was expressed.

C. POWER GIFTS - God Demonstrating His Power

7. Faith: This is the God-given ability to believe God for something specific and what is humanly impossible.

“To another [faith](#) by the same Spirit...” 1 Corinthians 12:9

“And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship. For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee. Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: [for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.](#)” Acts 27:22-25

Notice, Paul had a gift of faith for specific circumstances that he was in.

8. Gifts of Healing: This is the God-given ability to impart healing for any part of an individual's physical body at certain and specific times. Notice, it says **gift(s)** of healing in the plural.

“...to another the [gifts of healing](#) by the same Spirit...” 1 Corinthians 12:9

“And it came to pass, that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and of a bloody flux: to whom Paul entered in, and prayed, and [laid his hands on him, and healed him](#). So when this was done, [others also, which had diseases in the island, came, and were healed](#): Who also honoured us with many honours; and when we departed, they laded us with such things as were necessary.” Acts 28:8-10

9. Working of Miracles: This is the God-given ability to perform the impossible.

“To another the [the working of miracles](#)...” 1 Corinthians 12:10

“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus. [And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it](#). But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, Saying, What shall we do to these men? [for that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them](#) is manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny it.” Acts 4:13-16

(c) Describe the unusual miracle that took place in [Acts 13:8-12](#).

4. WHICH GIFT IS MORE IMPORTANT?

None. Which ever one is required to meet the present need and whichever one the Holy Spirit determines should be expressed.

Food for thought: *If you have electrical problems in your home, which is more important, a plumber or an electrician?*

5. HOW SHOULD THESE GIFTS OPERATE?

Keep in mind that when it comes to the operation of Spiritual Gifts, it's the result of God and man working together as co-laborers. Therefore, there is a practicality to the supernatural operation. We supply the practical and God supplies the SUPERNATURAL.

(d) According to [Acts 2:4](#), what did the man supply and what did the Holy Spirit supply?

6. WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT THERE ARE DIFFERENT OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATIONS WHEN IT COMES TO SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

This means that similar gifts will operate differently through different vessels and depending upon the circumstances. There are very different styles (personalities) and level through which God operates through the different members of His Body. Therefore, we must be flexible and ready to receive the blessings these gifts bring through a variety of ways and at any level they are brought to us.

“And there are [differences of administrations](#), but the same Lord. And there are [diversities of operations](#), but it is the same God which worketh all in all.” 1 Corinthians 12:5-6

Administrations: (GK: *diakonia*) to serve, to administrate, to minister. Here is where the particular occasion and the expression of the personality will come into play. These factors will determine how the gift is administrated.

Operations: (GK: *energema*) This is where we get the word energy. It speaks of the various levels of spiritual energy that is operating through the gift. Some gifts will bring a greater impartation than others.

7. CAN WE DETERMINE WHAT GIFTS WILL FLOW THROUGH US?

Not at all. Only the Holy Spirit is the initiator and He alone determines how we will move through His Body and how He will distribute His gifts. We must have faith and sat yielded.

“But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.” 1 Corinthians 12:11

8. IS IT GOD’S WILL FOR ALL HIS PEOPLE TO OPERATE WITH SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

Yes. It seems quite apparent that it is God’s desire to manifest Himself supernaturally through every member of His Body, in some way.

“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.” 1 Corinthians 12:7

“But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.” 1 Corinthians 12:11

9. WHY IS IT THAT SOME DO NOT OPERATE IN SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

There are a number of reasons why some do not operate with spiritual gifts. The following represents (7) major reasons believers do not operate with spiritual gifts.

- A. Not Baptized with the Holy Spirit
- B. Unbelief in General
- C. Not Instructed (uninformed)
- D. Misinformed (influenced by wrong teaching concerning the operation of Spiritual gifts)
- E. Simply do not believe that God wants to use “them”
- F. Hurt (bad experience which resulted from abuse)
- G. Fear (fear of making a mistake)

All of these will prevent the individual from being yielded, expectant and desirous for the Holy Spirit to manifest Himself through them.

Whatever the case may be, keep in mind that the devil will do all he can to keep the Church from operating in the supernatural.

10. WHAT IS OUR PART WHEN IT COMES TO SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

Remember, we are co-laboring together with God. God will always do His part but we must do ours as well.

A. We are to **YIELD** ourselves to God's Spirit and not resist His influence.

*"Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: **but yield yourselves unto God**, as those that are alive from the dead, **and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.**" Romans 6:13*

B. We should **DESIRE** Spiritual Gifts

*"Follow after charity, and **desire spiritual gifts**, but rather that ye may prophesy."*
1 Corinthians 14:1

C. We should be **INSTRUCTED** about Spiritual Gifts

*"Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, **I would not have you ignorant.**" 1 Corinthians 12:1*

D. We should **PRAY** to function with Spiritual Gifts

*"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven **give good things to them that ask him?**" Matthew 7:11*

*"Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue **pray that he may interpret.**"*
1 Corinthians 14:13

E. We should have **FAITH** for God to operate through us with Spiritual Gifts

*"For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as **God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.**" Romans 12:3*

F. We must not **NEGLECT** but **STIR** up the gifts

*"Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou **stir up the gift of God, which is in thee** by the putting on of my hands." 2 Timothy 1:6*

*"**Neglect not the gift that is in thee**, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery." 1 Timothy 4:14*

11. ARE THE GIFTS IMPARTED TO US THROUGH THE LAYING ON OF HANDS OR SOVEREIGNLY?

Both. The Holy Spirit can impart gifts into our lives through the laying on of hands or spontaneously as He moves within our hearts.

A. The Laying on of Hands

“Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.” 1 Timothy 4:14

B. Sovereignly

*“While Peter yet spake these words, **the Holy Ghost fell on all them** which heard the word.... For they heard them **speak with tongues, and magnify God...**” Acts 10:44, 46*

12. ARE THE GIFTS TO BE ACTIVE ONLY WHEN THE CHURCH ASSEMBLES TOGETHER?

While it is true that the gifts of the Spirit enables the members of the Body of Christ to effectively minister to each other, we must not limit the supernatural operation of the Holy Ghost.

He will determine when He desires to manifest (shine forth) His power. Remember, both Jesus and the early church ministered to individuals and to the multitude by the operation of these gifts. Such gifts as the working of miracles, gifts of healing, the word of knowledge and the discerning of spirits are very profitable when it comes to evangelism.

*“Sing unto God, sing praises **TO HIS NAME**: extol him that rideth upon the heavens by **HIS NAME JAH**, and rejoice before him.” Psalms 68:4*

(e) Please read Acts 13:6-12. What gifts of the Spirit were in operation in Paul’s life that you could identify when confronting Elymas?

13. ARE THERE CERTAIN GUIDELINES THAT SHOULD GOVERN THE OPERATION OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

There are scriptural principles that should be considered whenever we are operating with Spiritual gifts:

A. PROPER MOTIVE

Our motives are very important (we will be judged accordingly on the day of Judgment). When operating in Spiritual gifts it should never be for the purpose of “building” our own ministries or to make a name for ourselves, but to build the Body of Christ and to bring a profitable contribution to the individual that is receiving ministry from us.

*“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to **profit** withal.” 1 Corinthians 12:7*

“That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.” 1 Corinthians 12:25

“Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.” 1 Corinthians 14:12

(f) According to Romans 1:11, why did Paul want to impart some Spiritual Gift to the church of Rome?

A. PROPER FLOW

A “proper flow” means the in addition to how we might feel the Holy Spirit is wanting to flow through us, we must also be sensitive to the overall move of the Spirit within the given situation, especially when the church comes together.

Notice how Paul did not hesitate to provide some guidelines to the flow of the prophetic gifts that were clearly operative within the church at Corinth. A proper flow ensures that all will profit and God’s will becomes clearly established.

“If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret. But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God. Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge. If any thing be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace. For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted. And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.” 1 Corinthians 14:27-33

14. DOES ONE NEED TO BE A MATURE BELIEVER IN ORDER TO OPERATE WITH SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

Not necessarily. There is plenty of proof where gifts of the Spirit were manifested in the life of a young believers as soon as they received the baptism of the Spirit (see Acts 10:46; 19:6).

Therefore it is very important to keep in mind that the operation of Spiritual gifts are not a sign of Spiritual Maturity at all. Nor is it a sign of God’s approval upon an individual. God is simply using an individual who has faith.

Look at what Paul said about the church at Corinth:

“So that ye come behind in no gift...” 1 Corinthians 1:7

“And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.” 1 Corinthians 3:1-2

*“Wherefore **by their fruits ye shall know them**. Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. **Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?** And then will I profess unto them, **I never knew you**: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”
Matthew 7:20-23*

15. WHAT IS THE SIGN OF SPIRITUAL MATURITY IN THE LIFE OF A BELIEVER?

The Fruit of the Spirit. Just as a tree does not yield its fruit until it has matured and endured cycles of seasons, so also will a believer begin to manifest very observable fruit (characteristics of the Holy Spirit) after they have grown some and endured various stages of God’s dealing within their lives (**Hebrews 12:11**).

Remember, you may receive a Spiritual Gift immediately and by the Laying on of hands, but true and undeniable fruit (character) will take some time to develop as we grow in the Lord.

*“But **the fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”
Galatians 5:22*

*“Being filled with **the fruits of righteousness**, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.”
Philippians 1:11*

16. IS THERE A WAY WE CAN MATURE IN THE OPERATION OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

Most certainly. Since Spiritual Gifts operate by the combination of the Holy Spirit’s activity and the life of the believer then it is possible that we can become more seasoned when it comes to operating with Spiritual Gifts. Also, the levels of Spiritual Gifts can increase in our lives as well.

*“Having then gifts differing **according to the grace that is given to us**, whether prophecy, let us prophesy **according to the proportion of faith**,”
Romans 12:6*

The following are a few important factors that will help provide growth and development when it comes to operating with Spiritual Gifts.

- A. Be in an environment that believes in and encourages the operation of Spiritual Gifts**
- B. Become informed Biblically and trained when it comes to the operation of Spiritual Gifts**
- C. Be willing to flow when the Holy Spirit is stirring within your heart**

- D. You're discernment for how you flow will increase and become more accurate over time as your exercise Spiritual Gifts
- E. Don't be afraid of making a mistake
- F. Remain under authority and always remain teachable

TRUTH IN REVIEW

WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

MOTIVE

FAITH

DESIRE

MEMBER

INITIATOR

REVELATION

GIFTS OF HEALING

MATURITY

EDIFYING

ORDER

MANIFEST

LAYING ON OF HANDS

IMPARTATION

WORKING OF MIRACLES

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

FAITH

FRUIT

1. Through the Gifts of the Spirit the Holy Spirit will _____ Himself.
2. Having accurate knowledge of something or someone that you did not previously know is called a _____.
3. When Paul was in a storm at sea he received the gift of _____ for the outcome
4. Jesus and the early church both operated with _____.
5. Spiritual Gifts are given for the _____ of the Body of Christ.
6. Every _____ of the Body has the potential to be used supernaturally.
7. The Holy Spirit is the _____ when it comes to Spiritual Gifts.
8. Spiritual Gifts can be imparted through the _____.
9. We should have proper _____ when we operate with Spiritual Gifts.
10. Spiritual Gifts are not any indication of true spiritual _____.
11. Only the _____ of the Spirit indicates true Spiritual Maturity in the life of a believer.

12. Paul said that all things should be done decently and in _____ when it comes to the operation of Spiritual Gifts within the Church.
13. As believers we should _____ Spiritual Gifts.
14. Increased levels of Spiritual _____ can occur as we exercise Spiritual Gifts.
15. These are three Power Gifts _____, _____, _____.
16. A gift or prophecy is when we communicate a message from God that came to us by _____.

Memorize: [1 Corinthians 12:1](#), [1 Corinthians 12:7](#)