

THE HOLY
SPIRIT AND
THE GIFTS
OF THE
SPIRIT



The gifts of the Spirit are different from the fruit of the Spirit. Spiritual gifts are skills that are supernaturally given by the Holy Spirit to someone so he or she can serve in a special way.

Every believer should bear the fruit of the Spirit, but not everyone has the same gifts of the Spirit. Each person is given different gifts as the Holy Spirit decides.

- ❖ **The gifts and love.**
- ❖ **The Giver of the gifts.**
- ❖ **The purpose of the gifts.**
- ❖ **The gifts today.**
 - ▣ **The first gifts.**
 - ▣ **Current gifts.**
 - ▣ **The gift of discernment.**



THE GIFTS AND LOVE

“But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way. Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.” (1 Corinthians 12:31-13:1)

Paul didn't use chapters when he wrote his letter to the Corinthians (that division was made some centuries later). Chapter 12 and 13 were originally together.

Paul taught that the use of spiritual gifts must be unavoidably connected to love.

Paul connects the gifts to love every time he mentions them:

♥ **“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets [...] speaking the truth in love” (Ephesians 4:11, 15).**

♥ **“Having then gifts differing [...] Let love be without hypocrisy” (Romans 12:6, 9).**



THE GIVER OF THE GIFTS

"But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore He says: 'When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men.'" (Ephesians 4:7-8)



When Jesus ascended to Heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit and gave gift to men and women. The Holy Spirit is in charge of distributing the gifts Jesus gives, according to His will.

Therefore, the gifts are given in a supernatural way. We shouldn't confuse the spiritual gifts and the natural gifts.

If a natural gift is strengthened and used by the Spirit to benefit the Church, then it becomes a spiritual gift.

In addition, the Spirit gives us gifts that have nothing to do with our natural gifts.

THE PURPOSE OF THE GIFTS

“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all.” (1 Corinthians 12:7)

What are the gifts given for?

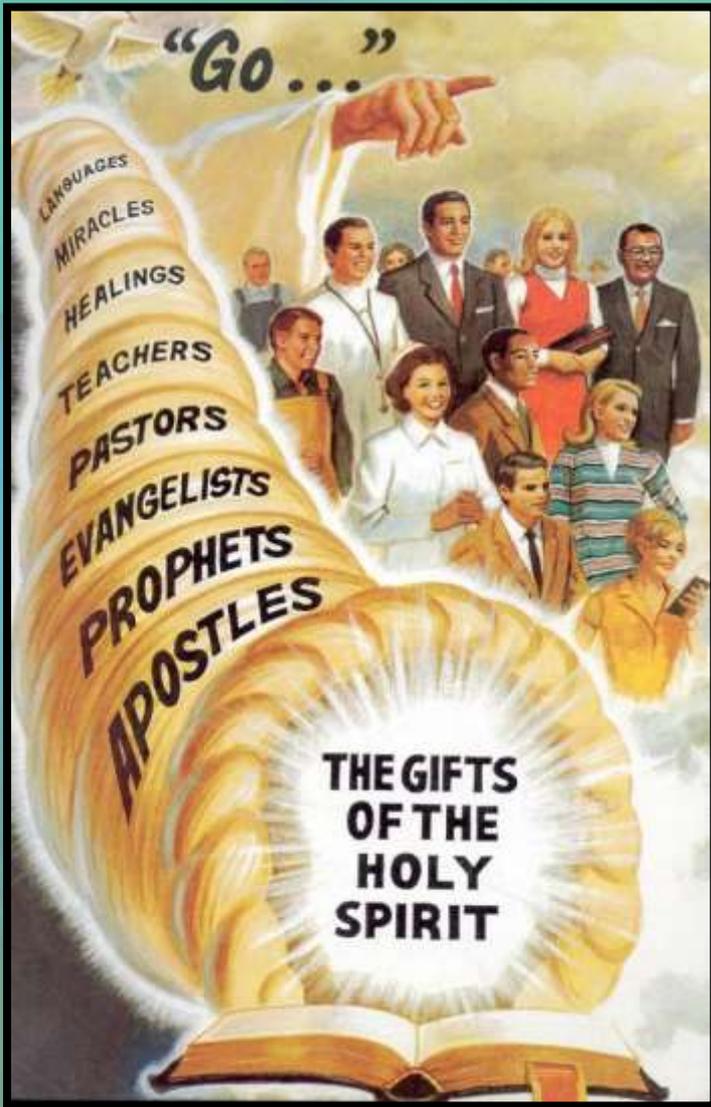
- “For the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry” (Ephesians 4:12).**
- “For the edifying of the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:12).**
- For the Church ministry, “He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets...” (Ephesians 4:11).**
- “As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another” (1 Peter 4:10).**
- “For the edification of the church” (1 Corinthians 14:12).**
- “That in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 4:11).**

The gifts make the believers able to serve others, to build the Church and to move God’s kingdom forward.



THE FIRST GIFTS

“There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.” (1 Corinthians 12:4)



The list of gifts the primitive Church received is found in 1 Corinthians 12:7-11, 27-31; Romans 12:3-8; Ephesians 4:11-12.



- Word of wisdom.
- Word of knowledge.
- Faith.
- Gifts of healings.
- Working of miracles.
- Prophecy.
- Discerning of spirits.
- Different kinds of tongues.
- Interpretation of tongues.
- Apostles.
- Teaching.
- Helping.
- Administration.
- Service.
- Exhortation.
- Liberality.
- Mercy.
- Evangelism.
- Pastors.

THE CURRENT GIFTS

“Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.”

(1 Corinthians 13:8 NIV)

Are all gifts still necessary today or could we do without some of them?

There will come a time when all gifts will cease. That moment is “when completeness comes” (1Co. 13:10); that is, when Christ returns.

The Church needs to be built until then, so the Church members must remain together and grow together in Christ. The grace of God must be ministered within and outside the Church.

We need to be equipped with the gifts so we can prepare the world for the second coming of Christ.



E.G.W. (This Day with God, January 18)

“One worker may be a ready speaker, another a ready writer, another may have the gift of sincere, earnest, fervent prayer, another the gift of singing. Another may have special power to explain the word of God with clearness. And each gift is to become a power for God because He works with the laborer. To one God gives the word of wisdom, to another knowledge, to another faith. But all are to work under the same Head.”

THE GIFT OF DISCERNMENT

"Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world."

(1 John 4:1)



Not all the manifestation of spiritual gifts come from the Holy Spirit. Satan can forge those gifts to deceive people (Revelation 13:14).

In order to preserve the church in truth and unity and to safeguard the members from following false prophets and being deluded by false signs and miracles, God gives the church the gift of discernment.

The gift of discernment gives special clarity to distinguish between true gifts from false ones.

Nevertheless, every believer can use the Word of God to distinguish true doctrines from false ones.



“God has put men and women in possession of precious gifts. To different ones He has given different gifts. Not all have the same strength of character or the same depth of knowledge. But each one is to use his gifts in the Master’s service, however small this gift may seem to be. The faithful steward trades wisely on the goods entrusted to him.”