

New Testament Lists of Spiritual Gifts

1 Corinthians 12:8ff.	1 Corinthians 12:28	Romans 12:6-8
Word of wisdom	Apostles	Prophecy
Word of knowledge	Prophets	Service
Faith	Teachers	Teaching
Gifts of healings	Workers of miracles	Exhortation
Working of miracles	Helps	Giving
Prophecy	Administration	Leadership
Distinguishing of spirits	Kinds of tongues	Showing of mercy
Kinds of tongues		
Interpretation of tongues		

Ephesians 4:11	1 Peter 4:11	Other Possible Gifts
Apostles	Speaking	Celibacy
Prophets	Service	Music
Evangelists		Hospitality
Pastors		Writing
Teachers		Craftsmanship
		Intercession

Believers flourish in their service to Christ when they are serving in the area of their giftedness and in conjunction with who God made them to be. As we serve others in various ways, God uses these experiences to continue to mold and shape us spiritually.

- This list of spiritual gifts is NOT exhaustive. The definitions are intended to be used only as a guideline for exploring the implications of your area(s) of giftedness.
- The ideas presented here are very general, and are meant to leave room for the abundant creativity of the Spirit, as well as individual expression and discovery.
- May the Holy Spirit bless you and guide you as you seek to understand and live out your necessary and unique function in His Body!

The Early Church had a commissioning service releasing people into ministry; it was called baptism.

-Robert Slocum

Spiritual Gifts in the Body

What Are Spiritual Gifts?

- *“Supernatural abilities Christ gives believers to build the body of Christ.”*
– Paul Ford
- *“God’s way of administering His grace to others.”* – Charles Stanley
- *“Supernaturally empowered by God through the Holy Spirit to serve others.”* – Susan Maycinik
- *“Bestowed by God, independent of parents, to benefit mankind at a spiritual level.”* – William McRae
- *“Special abilities that are given to everyone at birth that are brought to life by the Holy Spirit for a specific purpose: to fulfill the Body of Christ.”*
–Bill Easum

The Emergence of Spiritual Gifts

- God is a God of design and order – He has a

calling and a plan for each of our lives.

Isaiah 30:21; Jeremiah 29:11; Psalms 139:16; Ephesians 1; 2:8-10; 4:1; 1 Corinthians 12:18

- God bestows on each of us natural skills and talents.
Exodus 31:1-11; Exodus 35-36; Psalms 139: 13-16; Matthew 25: 14-30
- God can mobilize our natural skills and talents for spiritual purposes when we accept Christ, receive God’s Spirit in us and connect with God’s calling on our life.
1 Corinthians 2:6-13; 12:7,11; 1 Peter 4:10
- God may also bestow on us a spiritual gift, which may not flow out of our natural skills and talents, at any time and for whatever spiritual purpose He deems necessary.
1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4:11
- God does indeed administer His Grace to others through the ministry of his children.
1 Peter 4:10; 1 Corinthians 12 & 14:12; Ephesians 2:10; 4:11-12; Romans 12:6
- We can discern our spiritual gifts and as we mature in Christ, God reveals more about their quantity, quality and potential.
Matthew 25:14-28; Romans 12:3-8; Ephesians 4:11-16; Colossians 1:9-12; 1 Corinthians 4:2

There is a great deal of unmapped country within us.

-George Elliot

Why Are Gifts Given?

- The Spirit gives his gifts for the edification of the church, the formation of Christian character, and the service or ministry of the community.

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

- The parallelism in 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 (Gifts/Service /Working) makes it clear that Paul is not concerned to define “spiritual gift” or “spiritual manifestation” too narrowly.
- Paul declares that there are “different kinds “ or “varieties” of gifts assigned....
- Verse 4: “Gifts” A "*charismata*" is a gift, enabling the Christian to perform a service (Romans 12:6; 1 Cor 7:7; 12:28). It refers to visible manifestations of the Spirit’s activity. The word has a wide range of usage in Paul.
- Verse 5: “Service” A "*diakonia*" is a ministry. This is a general term in secular Greek for all kinds of work, including waiting on tables, as well as the term used for a collection for the poor (2 Corinthians 8:4-5). The point is that even everyday acts of service are included under the umbrella of “Spiritual Gifts.”
- Verse 6: “Working” The word "*energēmata*" appears only here and in verse 10 in the New Testament. The emphasis seems to be on the “effects” produced by work, not simply on activity in and of itself.

Summary

- None of the three terms in verses 4-6 can be associated with only certain spiritual gifts and not others. It is clear that Paul uses all three terms together to refer to what we might call spiritual gifts phenomena.
- Paul tends to flatten distinctions between charismatic and non-charismatic gifts in the modern sense of those terms.

- A spiritual gift is a specific divine endowment of a special ability for service upon a member of the Body of Christ.
- Care must be taken not to be dogmatic in either the number or names of the spiritual gifts. (The Bible does not give an exhaustive list.) The key concept is that, for Paul, Christ and the Spirit determined which gifts should be given at any one time or place.

Use what talents you possess; the woods would be very silent if no birds sang except those that sang the best.

-Henry Van Dyke

- Exodus 31:1ff. Teaches us that not only does God equip people for spiritual ministry in our traditional understanding of the concept, but he also gifts people for artistic work as well.
- There seem to be cases where the gift is not a ready-made ability to perform, but rather a capacity for service that can be developed over time. (cf. 1 Timothy 4:14)

When Are Gifts Given?

Two views:

- The gifts are spiritual abilities given to everyone at birth and which are brought to life by the Holy Spirit for a specific purpose at conversion. (It is a dormant spiritual ability MT 25:14-28; given at physical birth GN 2:7)
- The gifts are spiritual abilities given to everyone by the Holy Spirit for a specific purpose at conversion. (1 Cor 12:7,11; 1 PT 4:10)

So What?

- The reception of a spiritual gift brings serious responsibility. It is essentially an opportunity for giving ourselves in service to others. Our gifts point us, lead us to our ministry context.
- Every believer is strategic to God's design. Until every person is involved in living out their giftedness, the church will not fully accomplish what God has intended. The body is effective only when everyone is serving in their place.
- For the Christian, the central issue is not "what you do for God;" rather it is learning to be who you already are in Jesus Christ by divine appointment. It is a process of discovery. It is a matter of stewardship.

If God speaks to us at all in this world, if God speaks anywhere, it is into our personal lives that he speaks.

- Frederick Buechner

Spiritual Gifts VS Natural Talents

Natural talent is what we do to accomplish something; a spiritual gift is what God does through us to accomplish something. Natural talents, like spiritual gifts, are given by God and must be recognized, developed and exercised. Both vary in degree and kind. An individual's spiritual journey as well as the Body of Christ will be better served if individuals exercise their spiritual gift instead of their natural talent.

Spiritual Gifts

Require spiritual birth
Enable the church
Given to all believers

Natural Talents

Require physical birth
Enable the individual
Given to all people

Some Common Natural Talents and Abilities

Writing	Decorating
Performing	Investigating
Creating	Organizing
Supervising	Fixing
Cooking	Hosting
Humor	

- Ray Stedman cautions: "Don't try to use your natural talents to accomplish the work of God, for talents cannot operate in that sphere. But use them as channels or vehicles for spiritual gifts, and you will find that they dovetail beautifully. You might expect that they would do this since they both come from the same God."
("Equipped for Community," His, March 1972, p.3)

