

“The Gifted: The Serving Gifts”

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Scripture

Romans 12:6-8

“Since **we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us**, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.”

1 Corinthians 12:28

“Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues.”

Spiritual Gifts

What Spiritual Gifts are Not

Gifts are not Developed Skills

Gifts are not Roles in the Church

Gifts are given by the Holy Spirit

Each One is given a spiritual gift

1 Corinthians 12:1-4

“Now there are varieties of gifts, **but the same Spirit**. And there are varieties of ministries, **and the same Lord**. There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. But **to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit**.”

“What if I don't have a spiritual gift?”

- 1) You may not have the Holy Spirit within you (you are not His)
- 2) You may not have devoted yourself to the Lord's church (The gift has not been shown)
- 3) You may have a spiritual gift but do not know what it is (you have not been taught)

Purpose of spiritual gifts

“So that in all things, God may be glorified” -> gifts are given for the purpose of God's glory in their use

Categories of Gifts

1 Peter 4:11

“Whoever **speaks**, is to do so as one who is **speaking the utterances of God**; whoever **serves** is to do so as one who is **servicing by the strength which God supplies**; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

Speaking Gifts -> Using your mouth to proclaim the Word to others

Serving Gifts -> Using your body to become a willing servant to another for an event

List of Gifts

- A) Romans 12:6-8,
- B) 1 Corinthians 12:8-10,
- C) 1 Corinthians 12:28-30

Romans 12:6–8	1 Corinthians 12:8–10	1 Corinthians 12:28–30
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Prophecy2. Serving3. Teaching4. Exhortation5. Giving6. Leadership7. Mercy	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Word of wisdom2. Word of knowledge3. Faith4. Gifts of healings5. Miracles6. Prophecy7. Distinguishing between spirits8. Tongues9. Interpretation of tongues	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Miracles2. Kinds of healings3. Helps4. Administration5. Tongues

We have an abundance of serving gifts at CBC:

- Schaeffers cleaning the church
- Carpenters taking care of the lawn
- Jerry repairing the ceiling in the kitchen
- The ladies cleaning the kitchen and demoing and painting the bathrooms
- The ladies preparing Communion for us each month
- Jim (and Jesse) taking care of the sprinkler system repairing broken pipes

Thank you for your service to the church!

Romans 12:6-8

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1 Corinthians 12:8-10

“For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues.”

1 Corinthians 12:28

“Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues.”

1) Faith

1 Corinthians 12:8-10

“For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; **to another faith by the same Spirit**, and to **another gifts of healing by the one Spirit**, and to another the **effecting of miracles**”

The gift of faith is a unique and special trust in God, believing His power to supply a specific need.

The **gift** of faith is a special trust which enables one to see things that God wants done, and then has the confidence to believe that God will do them in spite of obstacles along the way.

There are three uses of the word “faith” in Scripture: There is “natural” faith—a mental assent (James 2:19); a “saving” faith—committing our souls to Christ (2 Timothy 1:12); and a “gift” of faith—laying hold of God’s promises (Hebrews 11:17-19).

The gift of faith is illustrated in the Bible by:

- David, when he overcame Goliath—by faith
- Gideon, when he drove out great armies with a mere 300 men, by faith
- Peter, when he walked on the water, by faith

Holding on to the Promises and Faithfulness of Jesus in extreme or dire personal circumstances.

Does anyone have that spiritual gift?

2) Healing

The Greek word for healing is **always in the plural** in the New Testament.

Healings reveal that God is near to His people, and He cares about their sufferings. Healings are meant to draw people to God through His Son Jesus Christ.

Luke 7:18-22

“The disciples of John reported to him about all these things. Summoning two of his disciples, John sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are You the Expected One, or do we look for someone else?" When the men came to Him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to You, to ask, Are You the Expected One, or do we look for someone else?" At that very time, He cured many people of diseases and afflictions and evil spirits; and He gave sight to many [who were] blind. And He answered and said to them, "Go and report to John what you have seen and heard: the BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the POOR HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO THEM.”

There is no guarantee that a person will always be able to heal anyone he or she desires. It is subject to the sovereign will of God, as all spiritual gifts are.

God wants those healed to respond in faith **with thanksgiving and love as the leper did** in Luke 17:15-19, and as the **demon-possessed man** did in Mark 5:18-20.

The Disciples were given authority to heal and cast out demons, but they were not always successful. The **Apostle Paul was not able to heal himself and was told that God’s grace was sufficient to carry him through his infirmity without removing it from him (2 Corinthians 12:7-10).**

By God’s grace, physical healing should lead to spiritual healing (faith in Jesus) and eternal life with Him in heaven.

This gift is given at various times and places to reveal the God of heaven to the sick and tormented. If healing is not granted, then we can conclude that God has greater plans for letting the person go through the illness or infirmity.

Those who have this gift **are compassionate toward the sick and pray over them regularly.** They have great faith and trust that God can and will heal some and are not deterred when He chooses not to. They are motivated knowing that God’s revealed power will draw people to faith in Jesus.

Their ultimate concern is the spiritual well-being of those being healed and their relationship with Jesus. They yearn for the day that there will be no more pain and suffering, and sin will no longer wreak havoc on the people of God.

3) Miracles

The spiritual gift of miracles is described in Scripture much like the gift of healing. It is found in **1 Corinthians 12:10** and the Greek phrase *energēmata dynamēon* literally translates “**workings of powers.**”

The double plural most likely means that these gifts were diverse and **were not permanently available at the will of the gifted believer,** but instead were bestowed at various times and circumstances.

They involve feats of strength or determined will that defy human possibility.

Samson is a good example of this in the Old Testament.

Elijah calling down fire from Heaven.

A man whose wife was trapped under a car was able to lift it and pull her to safety.

The gifts are subject to the divine will of God and His purposes and are not decided by the one who performs the miraculous works.

We know that Jesus performed many miracles in His earthly ministry, even more than those recorded in Scripture (John 20:30-31, Acts 2:22).

The Apostles regularly performed miracles of all kinds including **casting out demons, healings, raising people from the dead, striking people dead, causing blindness**, and much more (Acts 2:43; 3:1-10; 5:1-16; 9:36-43; 13:4-12; 19:11-12). Other believers performed miracles as well, including Stephen (Acts 6:8) and Phillip (Acts 8:4-8).

Miracles were **given by God to the church to reveal the presence and glory of God among His people** and to create a sense of awe and wonder and Godly fear.

The result of miracles being performed was more people coming to faith in Jesus and glorifying God, as well as greater faith and boldness within the church (Acts 4:29-31; 9:35, 42).

Those with the spiritual gift of miracles often **have a heightened sensitivity to the presence and power of God through His Holy Spirit**. They have a special measure of faith and desire for God to reveal Himself and draw many to faith in His Son Jesus Christ.

They take care not to draw attention to themselves or have a following of people but are constantly pointing others to Jesus. Those with this gift understand that God is Sovereign, and He can work when and how He desires, but they make sure they are available and listening to the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

This gift is **often accompanied by prayer and strong petition by these individuals for God to reveal His glory to people**. They do not claim power themselves, but always give credit and glory to God for His mighty works.

4) Distinguishing of Spirits

1 Corinthians 12:8-10

“For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, **and to another the distinguishing of spirits**, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues.”

The spiritual gift of discernment is also known as the gift of “discernment of spirits” or “distinguishing between spirits.” The Greek word for the gift of discernment is *diakrisis*.

The word describes being **able to distinguish, discern, judge or appraise a person, statement, situation, or environment**. In the New Testament it describes the ability to distinguish between spirits as in 1 Corinthians 12:10, and to discern good and evil as in Hebrews 5:14.

The Holy Spirit gives the gift of discernment to enable certain Christians to clearly recognize and distinguish between the influence of God, Satan, the world, and the flesh in any given situation.

The church needs those with this gift to warn believers in times of danger or keep them from being led astray by false teaching.

The gift of discernment is a special ability to distinguish between the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

A person with this gift has the ability to detect false teachings. They can read a religious book and soon detect error. He can hear a sermon and put his finger on a lack of truth.

Paul warned that in the latter times “some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils” (1 Timothy 4:1).

We need people with the gift of discernment in order to tell the genuine apart from the false.

5) Helps

The spiritual gift of service, or ministering, covers a wide range of activities in its application. There are two Greek words for this gift. The first one, found in Romans 12:7, is *diakonia*.

Romans 12:6-8

“Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; **if service, in his serving**; or he who teaches, in his teaching; or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.”

1 Corinthians 12:28

“Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, **helps**, administrations, various kinds of tongues.”

The **basic meaning of this word is “to wait tables,”** but it is most often translated in the Bible as “ministry.”

The word *antilepsis* is translated “helping” and is found in 1 Corinthians 12:28. It has a similar meaning: **“to help or aid in love within the community”.**

It refers to any act of service **done in genuine love** for the edification of the community.

The Holy Spirit endows some believers with this gift to fill the many gaps of ministry and meet the needs of the church as it fulfills the Great Commission. **The goal is to energize the church and free up others to use their gifts to the fullest.** The result is the continued edification of the church and the added ability to see beyond its own needs and reach out into the community.

We see people with this gift in passages like Acts 6:1-7 with the selection of Deacons.

They serve in ways that benefit others with different gifts and ministries that are more public. They have a heart devoted to Jesus and a desire to follow His command and example in Matthew 20:25-28 (cf. Mark 10:42-45).

Those with this gift do not seek recognition or a position in the “spotlight,” they just love to help out.

They are content with serving in the background knowing that their contribution will bless the church, display the love of Christ to the world, and bring glory to God.

6) Leadership (it is the Leading of People)

Romans 12:6-8

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The Greek word for the spiritual gift of leadership is *proistemi* which means **to lead, to assist, to protect and to care for others**. The word *proistemi* is connected to caring for people.

The spiritual gift of leadership is found in Romans 12:8 sandwiched between the gifts of giving and of mercy. It is placed there intentionally to show that it is a gift associated with caring for others. **It is more people oriented than task oriented in its application.**

Those with the spiritual gift of leadership focus on people and relationships more directly.

They do so “with diligence” meaning “**with earnestness and enthusiasm**”

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

“Respect those who labor among you and are over (proistemi) you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work.”

The labor and work of those who were leading the believers in Thessalonica was that of tirelessly caring for their souls.

Paul also connects leadership to caring for others:

1 Timothy 3:5

“If someone does not know how to manage (proistemi) his own household, how will he care for God’s church?”

The Holy Spirit gives the spiritual gift of leadership to some in the church to care for God’s people and lead them into deeper relationship with Christ and each other.

They base their success on **how well they help others succeed and grow in their spiritual walk with Jesus**. They are able to accomplish many different tasks and objectives as they lead, but they will always lead relationally and with a deep concern for the well-being of others.

They are “visionary” and **less concerned with mundane details** than those with the spiritual gift of administration.

Many are entrepreneurial and willing to take risks to see the kingdom of God advanced through the church.

They will go to **great lengths to protect those under their care** and are well-equipped to lead through crisis situations.

7) Administration (or “Governments” is the steering of the tasks -> the project manager role)

1 Corinthians 12:28

“Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues.”

The spiritual gift of administration is closely related to the gift of leadership.

The Greek word for “administrations or governments” (1 Corinthians 12:28) means “**to be a captain or a pilot.**”

The leader who is able to steer the church through the problems which it encounters, holding it to the heavenly assignment, is exercising the gift of governing.

Administration is focused on organizing the tasks not the people.

Administration gifts go to the mundane levels of detail to ensure that everything is accomplished well.

The gift of administration or ruling is **the ability to moderate a meeting so that things are organized, and people are not confused**, and **business is done decently and in order**. The gift of ruling refers to able administration.

The Apostle Paul saw to it that each church had elders (Acts 14:23) whose duty it was to oversee the work of the local congregation. Later, he said that the elder who “rules well” should be counted worthy of double honor (1 Timothy 5:17).

8) Giving

Romans 12:6-8

“Since **we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us**, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; **he who gives, with liberality**; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.”

The Greek word for the spiritual gift of giving is *metadidomi*. It simply means “to impart” or “to give.”

“With liberality” -> This word is accompanied in Romans 12:8 by another descriptive word: *haplotes*. This word tells us much more about the kind of giving that is associated with this gift. **The word Haplotes means “sincerely, generously and without pretense or hypocrisy.”**

KJV uses the word simplicity. It is giving without a lot of thought -> **it’s not a complex decision but instead it’s a simple one.**

The Holy Spirit imparts this gift to some in the church to meet the various needs of the church and its ministries, missionaries, or of people who do not have the means to provide fully for themselves. The goal is to encourage and provide, giving all credit to God’s love and provision.

Those with this gift love to share with others the overflow of blessings God has given them. They are typically very hospitable and will seek out ways and opportunities to help others.

They are also excellent stewards and will often adjust their lifestyles in order to give more to the spread of the Gospel and the care of the needy.

They are grateful when someone shares a need with them and are always joyful when they can meet that need.

9) Mercy

Romans 12:6-8

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All Christians are called to be merciful because God has been merciful to us (Matthew 18:33; Ephesians 2:4-6).

The gift of mercy is **founded in God’s mercy towards us as sinners** and is consistently expressed with measurable compassion.

Matthew 5:7 -> “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy”

The Greek word for the spiritual gift of mercy is *eleeo*. It means **to be patient and compassionate toward those who are suffering or afflicted.**

“With cheerfulness” -> *hilarotes* -> overwhelming cheer and readiness to jump in.

They are typically good listeners and feel the need to simply “be there” for others.

Those with this gift are able to “weep with those who weep” (Romans 12:15) and “bear one another’s burdens” (Galatians 6:2).

The concern for the physical as well as spiritual need of those who are hurting is covered by the gift of mercy.

Those with this gift **have great empathy for others** in their trials and sufferings.

They are able to come alongside people over extended periods of time and see them through their healing process.

They are truly and literally the hands and feet of God to the afflicted.

The Holy Spirit gives the spiritual gift of mercy to some in the church to love and assist those who are suffering and walk with them until The Lord allows their burden to be lifted.

They are sensitive to the feelings and circumstances of others and can quickly discern when someone is not doing well.

What serving gifts do you have that have been unused?

Prayer