

# “The Gifted: The Speaking Gifts”

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## Scripture

### 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

“Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware. You know that when you were pagans, you were led astray to the mute idols, however you were led. Therefore, I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus is accursed”; and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.

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 for the common good. 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. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.”

## 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

### Acts 6:1-4

“Now at this time while the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic Jews against the native Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving of food. So, the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, **“It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables.”** Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task. **“But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”**

## 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"><li>1. Prophecy</li><li>2. Serving</li><li>3. Teaching</li><li>4. Exhortation</li><li>5. Giving</li><li>6. Leadership</li><li>7. Mercy</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Word of wisdom</li><li>2. Word of knowledge</li><li>3. Faith</li><li>4. Gifts of healings</li><li>5. Miracles</li><li>6. Prophecy</li><li>7. Distinguishing between spirits</li><li>8. Tongues</li><li>9. Interpretation of tongues</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Miracles</li><li>2. Kinds of healings</li><li>3. Helps</li><li>4. Administration</li><li>5. Tongues</li></ol>

### 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 12:8-10

“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) Prophecy

**Prophecy is the Spirit-given ability to proclaim the Word of God with clarity**, and to apply it in such a way that it will edify the church. When we hear the word “prophet” we often think of predicting the future, but the gift of prophecy (as used in the New Testament) speaks of forthtelling the truth of God. Prophecy speaks **primarily of the pastor/preacher**, but others can have the gift, as well.

## Acts 21:8-9

“On the next day we left and came to Caesarea, and **entering the house of Philip the evangelist**, who was one of the seven, we stayed with him. **Now this man had four virgin daughters who were prophetesses**.”

The prophet instructs and warns and exhorts and rebukes. When **John the Baptist** admonished Herod that he should not have taken his brother's wife, he exercised a prophetic ministry.

When the preacher gives forth the message of God, in the wisdom and power of the Holy Spirit, he is exercising the gift of prophecy. The prophet is a spokesman for God, transmitting the Lord's message to others.

Anybody can have this spiritual gift of prophecy

**A Prophet had a specific office of continual prophecy: Ezekiel, Jeremiah, Isaiah**

## Mark 7:5-6

“The Pharisees and the scribes asked Him, "Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat their bread with impure hands?" And He said to them, "**Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites**, as it is written: THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME.”

## Romans 12:6

“If prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith”

The faith, the revealed Word of God -> prophecy about what you have learned from the Bible...

## 2) Word of Knowledge (Teaching)

The phrase “word of knowledge” refers to the Spirit-imparted ability to comprehend and then verbalize the deep truths of God’s Word. Knowledge speaks of the gift which enables a person to read and study and search, and then summarize the teachings of the Bible.

**Ginosko:** This is the gift of the teacher of God’s Word

In the early church, this would have been all new to many hearers of the Word, but not as much so now.

It is **very similar to the gift of prophecy** but not as much “front of the room” but most often seen as leading a small group of believers

The subject matter for the teaching is **general knowledge of biblical instruction, living and practice**

**Romans 12:7**

**Didasko:** “He who teaches, in his teaching”

To interpret, grasp the meaning or, clarify or explain God’s truth clearly

## 3) Word of Wisdom (Specific Application of Knowledge to Circumstances)

The phrase “word of wisdom” refers to the special ability to apply God’s truth to difficult circumstances and to complex problems. It is one thing to grasp the deep truths of God’s Word (to have knowledge), but it is another thing to relate those truths to the needs and problems of life (to have wisdom).

**Sophia:** Wisdom is to have skill in living

For example, you are in a church council meeting, and the group has reached an impasse on the matter being discussed. They hardly know which way to turn; the members seem confused in their knowledge; and then someone stands to his feet, quotes a Scripture principle, and applies it to the situation. Suddenly the answer comes, and most everyone agrees that the proposal is a good solution to the problem.

A “word of wisdom” casts a specific solution to an otherwise perplexing problem.

It often reflects in a very simple statement that brings clarity to an individual or a group.

**Acts 20:32-35 (Paul’s Farewell to Ephesus)**

“And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. "I have coveted no one's silver or gold or clothes. "You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my own needs and to the men who were with me. "In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'”

**Comparing Word of Knowledge and Word of Wisdom**

**Word of Knowledge:** “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

**Word of Wisdom:** “John, don’t covet your neighbor’s new truck, but instead help your next-door neighbor who is on her own and needs your care -> there’s more joy in giving than getting...”

Having biblical knowledge is great, being able to easily apply it to situations is another gift of the Spirit.

#### 4) Exhortation

**Exhortation refers to the Spirit-endowed ability to strengthen the weak, to re-assure the wavering, and to encourage the troubled.**

One who exhorts is not one who gets up front and waves his arms and points his finger at the congregation and shouts from the top of his voice. One who exhorts gives words of healing. He points out a few areas that need correction, and then gives some suggestions for improvement.

**Acts 14:21-22** -> Paul, (on his Second Missionary Journey) retraced his steps at Lystra and Iconium, "confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith".

Exhortation is an ability which is given by the Holy Spirit so that one can strengthen the weak and reassure those who waver.

**Parakaleo:** to come alongside and encourage

Used of the Holy Spirit within us.

The gift of exhortation is **the ability to draw close to individuals in time of need, counseling them correctly with the Word of God.**

To "exhort" literally means to call a person aside, to advise, recommend, admonish, encourage, or comfort.

Involves speaking words of encouragement

##### 1 Thessalonians 2:10-11

"You are witnesses, and so is God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers; **just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children"**

##### Titus 1:7-9

"For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain, but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled, **holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.**"

##### 2 Timothy 4:2

"Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; **reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction"**

#### 5) Tongues

**Eden** -> One language

**Tower of Babel** -> Multiple languages (God confused their languages)

Different languages are a curse on man by God.

**Glossa** -> literally meaning "the tongue"

Tongues are human languages such as those heard in Acts 2 (everyone heard Peter's words in their own language), but often may be languages where no one that is present understands, such as if I started preaching in French.

**The gift of tongues is simply being able to speak a foreign language.**

Tongues are not "ecstatic speech" but are always orderly and are able to be controlled by the one speaking.

**No mention of tongues in any Pastoral Epistles (1 & Timothy or Titus)**

**Not a personal prayer language** -> I believe God understands English just fine...

### **1 Corinthians 12:30**

"All do not speak with tongues, do they? All do not interpret, do they?"

### **Teaching on Tongues to the Corinthians**

Corinth was a crossroads of civilization with many cultures converging. It was also a place of various religious cults, orgies, and other sexual practices created around the worship of gods.

### **1 Corinthians 12:1-3**

"Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware. You know that when you were pagans, you were led astray to the mute idols, however you were led. Therefore, I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus is accursed"; and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit."

They were involved in many demonic, cultish practices where their ecstatic speech was really the cursing of Jesus's name.

### **1 Corinthians 14:1-3**

"Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. **For one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God; for no one understands, but in his spirit, he speaks mysteries.** But one who prophesies speaks to men for edification and exhortation and consolation."

**Speaking in tongues were for unbelievers (the Jews) that God would be praised by men speaking other languages (the Gentiles). It was a sign gift.**

### **1 Corinthians 14:21-22**

"In the Law it is written, "BY MEN OF STRANGE TONGUES AND BY THE LIPS OF STRANGERS I WILL SPEAK TO THIS PEOPLE, AND EVEN SO THEY WILL NOT LISTEN TO ME," says the Lord. **So then, tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers;** but prophecy is for a sign, not to unbelievers but to those who believe."

We saw this happen in Acts 2 and Acts 10:

### **Acts 2:3-4**

"There appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them and they were **all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues**, as the Spirit was giving them utterance."

## Acts 2:7-8

“They **were amazed** and astonished, saying, "Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans? "And how is it that we each hear them in our own language to which we were born?”

## Acts 10:44-47

“While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message. All the circumcised believers who came with Peter **were amazed** because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been **poured out on the Gentiles also**. For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God. Then Peter answered, "Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we did, can he?”

Application of Tongues: To be used in an orderly manner, not a confusing one...for edification of the church.

## 1 Corinthians 14:26-33

“When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification. **If anyone speaks in a tongue, it should be by two or at the most three, and each in turn, and one must interpret; but if there is no interpreter, he must keep silent in the church;** and let him speak to himself and to God. Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others pass judgment. But if a revelation is made to another who is seated, the first one must keep silent. For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn, and all may be exhorted; and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets; for God is not a God of confusion but of peace.”

## 6) Interpretation of Tongues

The Greek word for interpretation is the Greek word *hermeneia* and simply **means to interpret, explain, or expound some message that is not able to be understood in a natural way.**

This spiritual gift is the supernatural ability in someone to understand and explain messages uttered in natural language, but unknown to them.

This is a revelatory gift, meaning that God “reveals” the meaning of the words or message being spoken and allows the interpreter to communicate its meaning to those who need to hear it. When this happens in the church two things happen: the church is edified, and God is glorified.

The spiritual gift of interpretation is given by the Holy Spirit to certain individuals to reveal messages spoken in an unknown tongue to God for the building up of the church.

What speaking gifts do you have that have been unused?

## Prayer