

# Grow - Spiritual Gifts

## I. Introduction

### A. What Are Spiritual Gifts?

- There are a variety of terms used for what we refer to as “Spiritual Gifts”.
- The most common term is “charisma”, which simply means, “gift”.
- Often when charisma appears in the New Testament, it highlights the Holy Spirit’s activity in empowering and equipping believers for ministry.
  - Definition – A spiritual gift is ANY ability that is empowered by the Holy Spirit and used in any ministry of the church.

## II. Listing Of The Gifts In The New Testament

### Romans 12 vs. 6-8

1. Prophecy – Ability to exhort, instruct, or comfort with the Spirit-inspired articulation of God’s Word and purposes (Rom. 12:6, 1 Cor. 12:10).
2. Serving – Ability and motivation to meet the needs of others in a practical, joyful manner (Rom. 12:7).
3. Teaching – Ability to instruct others from the Word of God (Rom. 12:7).
4. Exhortation – Ability to admonish, encourage, or appeal to individuals in a way that motivates them to follow a Godly course of action (Rom. 12:8).
5. Giving – Ability and willingness to give money liberally for the advancement of the Kingdom of God (Rom. 12:8)
6. Leadership – Ability to motivate, manage, and move people to fulfill God’s purposes in their lives and in the church (Rom. 12:8).
7. Mercy – Ability to identify with, minister to, and feel strong empathy for those suffering misfortune or experiencing pain (Rom. 12:8).

### 1 Corinthians 12:8-10

1. Word of Wisdom – A divine inspiration or illumination enabling one to see, understand, and respond to life situations from God’s perspective (1 Cor. 12:8).
2. Word of Knowledge – A supernatural revelation of insight and information which transcends the sharer’s own natural ability to understand the situation (1 Cor. 12:8).
3. Faith – Ability to believe God for the impossible in the face of colossal tasks or extraordinary circumstances (1 Cor. 12:9).
4. Gifts of Healing – Ability to minister to physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual healing to those in need (1 Cor. 12:9).
5. Miracles – Ability to accomplish supernatural acts that defy physical laws of nature (1 Cor. 12:28).

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6. Prophecy – Ability to exhort, instruct, or comfort with the Spirit-inspired articulation of God’s Word and purposes (Rom. 12:6, 1 Cor. 12:10).
7. Discernment – Ability to perceive the spiritual source of words, motives, or actions and to judge accurately between truth and error (1 Cor. 12:10).
8. Tongues – Ability to speak in a language one does not understand, either for self-edification or, if spoken publicly and interpreted, for the edification of the church (1 Cor. 12:10, 14:4-5).
9. Interpretation of Tongues – Ability to interpret, for the church’s edification, a message given in a tongue (1 Cor. 12:30, 14:6).

## 1 Corinthians 12:28

1. Apostle – A “wise master builder” sent out from a local church he has built in order to establish other churches on a proper biblical foundation (Eph. 4:11, Eph. 2:20).
2. Prophet – Working in a foundational capacity with the apostle, a prophet motivates and encourages the church through prophetic gifting (Eph. 4:11, Eph. 2:20).
3. Teacher – An instructor in the word of God who establishes Christians in sound doctrine and inspires them to search out the precious truths contained in Scripture (Eph. 4:11, 1 Cor. 12:29).
4. Miracles – Ability to accomplish supernatural acts that defy physical laws of nature (1 Cor. 12:28).
5. Kinds of Healings – Ability to minister to physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual healing to those in need (1 Cor. 12:9).
6. Helps – Ability to support others to take care of their specific needs (1 Cor. 12:28).
7. Administration – Ability to manage affairs of the church (1 Cor. 12:28, Rom. 12:8).
8. Tongues – Ability to speak in a language one does not understand, either for self-edification or, if spoken publicly and interpreted, for the edification of the church (1 Cor. 12:10, 14:4-5).

## Ephesians 4:11 – People who are gifts.

1. Apostle – A “wise master builder” sent out from a local church he has built in order to establish other churches on a proper biblical foundation (Eph. 4:11, Eph. 2:20).
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3. Evangelist – A proclaimer of the gospel of the kingdom (with signs following) who also equips others for evangelism (Eph. 4:11, Acts 8:5-7).

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4. Pastor-Teacher – The local overseer, elder, or shepherd who leads, equips, and cares for the local flock of God’s people (Eph. 4:11, 1 Pet. 5:1-3).

## 1 Peter 4:11

1. Whoever speaks.
2. One who serves.

- No gift list is intended to be exhaustive.
- Gifts aren’t limited to these.

### III. The Purpose Of The Gifts

- Spiritual Gifts are given by the Holy Spirit, and designed by Him to bring glory to God, and to edify other believers. They are also intended to equip the church to carry out its ministry until Christ returns.

*“Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says “Jesus is accursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit.*

*Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” 1 Corinthians 12:1-7*

“A spiritual gift is any ability that is empowered by the Holy Spirit and used in any ministry of the church. This broad definition includes both gifts that are related to natural abilities (such as teaching, showing mercy, or administration) and gifts that seem to be more ‘miraculous’ and less related to natural abilities (such as prophecy, healing, or distinguishing between spirits).

The point of this analysis is to caution us against making a supernatural/natural distinction in our minds whereby we think that some gifts are ‘supernatural’ and some gifts are simply ‘natural.’ The Bible makes no such distinction, and the danger of doing this is that we may tend to think of some gifts (which we think to be supernatural) are more important or more clearly from the Lord, and we may tend to devalue or deemphasize the

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gifts which we think to be natural. If we do this we will fail to see God's hand in the working of all the gifts and fail to thank him for all of them."<sup>1</sup>

"One of the greatest tragedies among God's people is that while they have a deep longing to experience Him, they are experiencing God day after day but do not know how to recognize Him. If this has been true of your own Christian experience, I pray that this book will help you learn the way to recognize clearly the activity of God in and around your life. I pray that God will open your spiritual eyes to see what He is doing."<sup>2</sup>

## IV. Where Do We Begin?

### A. Desire

*"Pursue **love** and **eagerly** desire the spiritual gifts..."* 1 Corinthians 14:1

*"But **eagerly** desire the higher gifts..."* 1 Corinthians 12:31

*"So with yourselves, since you are **eager** for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church."* 1 Corinthians 14:12

*"So, my brothers, **earnestly** desire to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues."* 1 Corinthians 14:39

### B. Pray

*"You do not have, because you do not ask."* James 4:2

*"And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"* Luke 11:9-13

### C. Cultivate and Practice

"First, you must be convinced that the Bible teaches the gifts are for today and that they are important; otherwise you won't have faith to exercise them or to pray for them. Likewise you must be confident that the gifts are

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<sup>1</sup> Wayne Grudem

<sup>2</sup> Blackaby

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given to all Christians rather than just a few specially deserving people. Once I came to these two conclusions, I was in a place to begin to cultivate the gifts in my own life. As soon as I was convinced that the Scriptures taught the gifts of the Spirit are for today, I began to pursue them diligently. The most important thing I've done in pursuing the gifts has been to pray very specifically for the gifts I felt the Lord wanted to give me...Probably the second most valuable thing I have done in my pursuit of spiritual gifts is that I have attempted to use them on a regular basis. More often than not this involves some risk, and specifically risk of looking foolish. When I first began to give words of knowledge in public, I also had some embarrassing moments. But there is no other way to grow in anything apart from constant practice and risking..A third thing I have found helpful is, of course, to study the gifts."<sup>3</sup>

"We must recognize that these activities of the Holy Spirit are not to be taken for granted, and they do not just happen automatically among god's people. Rather, the Holy Spirit reflects the pleasure or displeasure of God with the faith and obedience-or unbelief and disobedience-of God's people. Because of this...the Holy Spirit gives stronger or weaker evidence of the presence of the blessing of God, according to our response to him."<sup>4</sup>

"Finally, as you are learning about spiritual gifts, be patient. Don't despise the day of small beginnings. Be thankful for everything you are learning and for every answer to prayer the Lord gives you...If you will persist in your pursuit of the Lord and his gifts, more will be given to you than you ever dreamed to ask. People who want more of God and more of the gifts of the Spirit almost always feel that things are moving too slowly. They almost always fear that they are going to miss out. But if you really desire more of God and more of His gifts, it is a sign that the mercy of God is resting upon you. These desires were put into your heart by your heavenly Father, and He has not drawn you this far to abandon you or leave you unfulfilled. The holy frustration you feel right now is meant to drive you on."<sup>5</sup>

## D. Anticipate

*"What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up. If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three,*

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<sup>3</sup> Jack Deere

<sup>4</sup> Wayne Grudem

<sup>5</sup> Jack Deere

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*and each in turn, and let someone interpret. But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them keep silent in church and speak to himself and to God. Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said. If a revelation is made to another sitting there, let the first be silent. For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged, and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets. For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.” “But all things should be done decently and in order.” 1 Corinthians 14:26-33 & 40*

## E. How Does God Want To Use You?

- Home Group
- Prayer Meetings
- Sunday Celebrations
- Ministry Times
- In Homes
- Casual Conversations

## F. Final Thoughts

- Pray
- Pursue Love
- Resist Fear
- Exercise Faith
- Take Risks
- Ask Questions
- Seek Input And Feedback
- Develop A Servants Heart
- Increase Expectations
- Meditate on Scripture
- Wait On God
- Listen To God’s Voice
- Worship
- Memorize Scripture
- Encourage Others
- Cultivate Humility