

What are the spiritual gifts?

- A. What is a spiritual gift?
1. Definition: A spiritual gift is a ***DIVINE ENABLEMENT*** given to the child of God in order that God may build up His Church.
 - Spiritual gifts are to be distinguished from natural talents and abilities.
 - A Spiritual Gift is a Divine Enablement given to the Believer in Jesus Christ.
 - A spiritual gift is the manifestation of the Presence and the Power of God in the child of God.
 2. Every believer in Jesus Christ receives a spiritual gift (1 Peter 4:10).
 3. The spiritual gift is for the purpose of serving one another in the local assembly in order that the Church of God will be built up (1 Peter 4:10; Ephesians 4:12-13, 16)
- B. There are two categories of Spiritual gifts
1. There are the miraculous “sign” gifts.
 - The miraculous or sign gifts were given for three purposes:
 - 1. To establish the Divine Authority of the Apostles who ministered on behalf of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 12:12; Acts 14:3; Hebrews 2:3-4)
 - 2. To announce judgment on Israel (1 Corinthians 14:20-22).
 - 3. To help the Body of Christ at its inception before the New Testament of the Word of God was completed (1 Corinthians 12:7; 13:8-10).
 - The miraculous or sign gifts are temporary (1 Corinthians 13:8-10).
 2. There are Divine service gifts (1 Peter 4:10)
 - These are practical, Divine enablement of the Holy Spirit for service and edification in the Body of Christ, His Church (1 Peter 4:10, Eph. 4:12)!
 - The example of the gift of prophecy (1 Corinthians 14:3)
 - Edification, Exhortation & Comfort
- C. Our Lord Jesus told His disciples that the ministry of the gospel would be accompanied by Divine and miraculous spiritual gifts (Mark 16:15-20)
- D. There are three lists of spiritual gifts in the New Testament.
1. Romans 12:6-8
 2. 1 Corinthians 12:7-11, 28
 3. Ephesians 4:11
- E. The Spiritual gifts listed in (Romans 12:6-8)
1. Prophecy
 - The speaking forth of the mind and the counsel of God (Vines Expository Dictionary)
 - A spokesman for God who declares “Thus says the Lord!”
 2. Ministry
 - The gift of ministry: serving one another; having a servant’s heart
 - This is in addition to the office of a deacon (1 Timothy 3:8-13)

3. Teaching
 - The gift of explaining the Word of God to others
 - This involves exposition, interpretation and application of God's Word.
4. Exhortation
 - to call alongside
 - To come alongside & stir up (both negatively and positively)
5. Giving
 - To be aware of needs and to meet them
6. Leading
 - To be over (a ruler or leader)
7. Showing mercy
 - Showing mercy and compassion to those who are in a place of need.

F. The spiritual gifts listed in (1 Corinthians 12:8-11)

1. A word of wisdom (v. 8)
 - Wisdom is the right use of knowledge. Knowing the right thing to do at the right time to do it.
 - Speaking words that are full of God's wisdom
2. A word of knowledge (v. 8)
 - A clear perception of the truth
 - Having the facts or truth of a matter
3. Faith(v. 9)
 - This is the same translated "faith" in other passages.
 - Here the Scripture indicates that faith is also a spiritual gift (1 Cor. 13:2)
4. Healing (v. 9)
 - A means of healing; remedy; medicine
 - Divine healing that is complete
5. Working of miracles (v. 10)
 - Strength; power; ability
 - God's power for performing wonders
6. Prophecy (v. 10)
 - The speaking forth of the mind and the counsel of God (Vines Expository Dict.)
 - Before the New Testament was completed God gave revealed His will to New Testament Prophets just as He did in the Old Testament (Acts 11:27-28).
 - A spokesman for God who declares "Thus says the Lord!"
7. Discerning spirits (v. 10)
 - Judging the spirits
 - This spiritual gift is for the purpose of judging and discerning the teaching of the prophets before the New Testament Scriptures were completed.
 - See 1 Corinthians 14:29
 - In 1 John 4:1 all believers are told to test or examine the spirits.
 - Today all believers can test teachers by the completed Word of God!
 - Today we have the Word of God to help us examine if teaching is of God or whether it is in error that is of the Devil

8. Tongues (v. 10)
 - The tongue, a member of the body, an organ of speech (James
 - The language or dialect used by a particular people which is distinct from the language spoken by people of other nations (1 Corinthians 14:9-13)
9. Interpretation of tongues (v. 10)
 - The translation or interpretation of an actual language

G. The spiritual gifts in (1 Corinthians 12:28) are given in an order of importance in the assembly.

1. First Apostles
2. Second Prophets
3. Third teachers
4. Then miracles
5. Then healings
6. Then helps
7. Then Administrations
8. Lastly varieties of tongues (known languages)

H. The Spiritual gifts listed in (Ephesians 4:11)

1. Apostles
 - The very first Apostles chosen by the Lord Himself!
 - The Apostles were eyewitnesses of the risen Lord Jesus Christ and they were the foundation of the Church. (Luke 24:46-48; Ephesians 2:20)
2. Prophets
 - Those who foretell God's truth, "Thus says the LORD"
 - Those who forth-tell God's truth
3. Evangelist
 - The gift of proclaiming the gospel of Salvation
 - This is a perfect gift for a missionary!
4. Pastors
 - The gift of shepherding the local assembly
5. Teachers
 - The gift of instruction in the local assembly