

INSIGHTS TO SPIRITUAL GIFTS

A. To Whom and How Are Spiritual Gifts Given?

- ✦ 1. Every believer is spiritually gifted – 1 Peter 4:10; 1 Cor. 12:7; Eph. 4:7-8
- ✦ 2. When he or she becomes a Christian – 1 Cor. 12:13

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- ✦ 3. With the gift(s) that God chooses for him or her – 1 Cor 12:11, 18
- ✦ Note: No one Christian has all the gifts nor is any one gift common to all Christians – 1 Cor. 12:12-31.

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B. What is the Purpose of Spiritual Gifts?

- ✦ 1. The glory of God in His church – 1 Peter 4:10-11
- ✦ 2. The building up of the body of Christ – Eph 4:12
- ✦ 3. The unity of the body – Eph 4:13

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- ✦ 4. The maturity of the body – Eph 4:14-15
- ✦ 5. The growth of the body – Eph 4:16
- ✦ 6. The common good (for the good of the whole) – 1 Corinthians

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✦ C. What are the Differences between Human Talents and Spiritual Gifts?

Talents

- ✦ 1. Inherited from forefathers
- ✦ 2. Present from natural birth
- ✦ 3. God-given to all members of the human race

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- ✦ 4. For human activities
- ✦ 5. Can be operated independent of the Holy Spirit
- ✦ 6. Ministers primarily on natural level
- ✦ 7. Effects are usually temporal/finite

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Gifts

- ✦ 1. Given by the Holy Spirit
- ✦ 2. Present from New Birth
- ✦ 3. God-given to members of Christ's body

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- ✦ 4. For ministry of the body
- ✦ 5. Dependent on the Holy Spirit
- ✦ 6. Ministers on spiritual level
- ✦ 7. Effects are usually eternal/infinite

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✦ D. What are the Differences between the Fruit of the Spirit and the Gifts of the Spirit?

Fruits

- ✦ 1. Defines what a Christian is
- ✦ 2. Same in every Christian
- ✦ 3. Singular

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- ✦ 4. Satan cannot imitate
- ✦ 5. Deals with character
- ✦ 6. End in itself
- ✦ 7. Permanent/Eternal
- ✦ 8. According to spirituality and maturity

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Gifts

- ✦ 1. Determine what a Christian does
- ✦ 2. Different in each Christian
- ✦ 3. Plural
- ✦ 4. Satan can imitate

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- ✦ 5. Deals with service/ministry
- ✦ 6. Means to an end
- ✦ 7. Will cease
- ✦ 8. Not according to spirituality

Discover Your Gifts

1. Pray for God's guidance



Discover Your Gifts

2. Explore the possibilities

- ✦ study the Bible
- ✦ take spiritual gifts test
- ✦ learn your church's position
- ✦ read other resources
- ✦ get to know gifted people



Discover Your Gifts

3. Experiment with many different gifts

- ✦ what are some needs around you
- ✦ be open to invitations to serve



Discover Your Gifts

- 4. Examine your feelings
 - the same God who made us gave us our gifts
 - Psalm 37:4 *"Delight yourself also in the Lord and He shall give you the desires of your heart."*
 - Does your service bring enjoyment?
 - How effective are you?

Discover Your Gifts

- 5. Expect feedback/confirmation
 - honest feedback from people you trust
 - the body of believers will give you confirmation of your gifts

Discover Your Gifts

- 6. Develop your gifts
 - practice
 - study

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✦ E. The Charismatic Movement

✦ Positive Contributions

- ✦ It has brought spiritual renewal.
- ✦ It has challenged the deadness of theological indifference.
- ✦ It has brought a deeper commitment to the Bible as part of one's personal faith.
- ✦ It has contributed to the recovery of personal evangelism.

Discover Your Gifts

✦ 2. Negative Tendencies

- ✦ There is a tendency to reduce the process of sanctification to the one-time experience of the filling of the Holy Spirit, erroneously called the "baptism of the Holy Spirit."

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- ✦ There is a tendency among some to claim their own experience as normative for all Christians.
- ✦ Some segments of the Pentecostal/charismatic movement go beyond Scripture in the public expressions of their religious experience.

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- ✦ **F. Guidelines that the apostle Paul lays down in I Cor. 14:26-33.**
- ✦ All things that are done when Christians come together should be done for mutual edification (verse 26).
- ✦ Glossolalia is not an indispensable component of public worship (verse 27).
- ✦ If glossolalia is available and needed in public worship there should be one. Two are three at the maximum who speak in tongues (verse27).

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- ✦ They should speak in turn, not all together (verse 27).
- ✦ An interpretation should follow after a person speaks in a tongue (verse 27).
- ✦ The person intending to speak in tongues must secure the interpreter in advance (verse 28).
- ✦ Once interpreted, it becomes intelligible prophecy that must be evaluated. (verse 29).

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- ✦ Opportunity for ministry should be shared (14:40).
- ✦ People who participate in worship, especially in ecstatic expressions such as glossolalia, are responsible to control their behavior (verse 32).

Parts E and F are taken from the book Christianity 101 by Gilbert Bilezikian pp. 109-114.
