



SPIRITUAL GIFTS

"In the New Testament, we don't find our gift through self-examination and introspection and then find ways to express it. Instead, we love one another, serve one another, help one another, and in so doing we see how God has equipped us to do so." - Russell D. Moore

All of life lived for Jesus is spiritual, from the way we eat, look after our families and the attitude we have towards our work. As the early church wrestled with what it meant for all of life to be spiritual, leaders like Paul spoke of how the Holy Spirit gives us different gifts so we can serve people inside and outside the church.

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us.

The Greek word for 'spiritual' (pneumatikos) means 'belonging to the Holy Spirit' and the Greek word for 'gift' (charisma) means 'free gift' – a gift given without deserving it. So putting that in a sentence – Christians are given free gifts and these are gifts belonging to the Holy Spirit. So although given to us to use to fulfil the work of the church they only operate through the Holy Spirit in us and like any skill, are more useful the more we practice them. Churches play an important role in creating safe places where we can practice our gifting's as best we can without worrying about getting it wrong. Christians can use these same gifts to encourage those outside the church and make them want to know more about Jesus.

Sir Michael Costa was a great orchestral Conductor of the 19th Century. It is said that one day he was conducting a rehearsal in which the orchestra was joined by a great choir. Midway through the session the piccolo player stopped playing. It seemed innocent enough – after all who would miss the tiny piccolo amidst the great mass of instruments blazing away? All of a sudden Sir Michael stopped the entire orchestra and choir. "Stop! Stop! Where's the piccolo? What's happened to the piccolo?" We may sometimes feel like that piccolo player – that we don't have much to offer, that if we stopped our ministry no one would notice anyway. Yet the Great Conductor notices, and needs us to complete his orchestral masterpiece!

Check out the whole chapters for yourself...

Romans 12

exhortation
giving
leadership
mercy
prophecy
service
teaching

1 Corinthians 12

administration
apostle
discernment
faith
giving
healings
helps
knowledge
miracles
prophecy
teaching
tongues
tongues interpretation
wisdom

Ephesians 4

apostle
evangelism
pastor
prophecy
teaching

Other Gifts

There are also a few other gifts mentioned in the New Testament that use the same original language for spiritual gifts found in the key passages above.

Check them out for yourselves...

Celibacy – 1 Corinthians 7:7-8
Hospitality – 1 Peter 4:9-10
Martyrdom – 1 Corinthians 13:3
Missionary – Ephesians 3:6-8
Voluntary poverty – 1 Corinthians 13:3

The church is often described as the body of Christ.

As the body has different parts to make it work and so all of us have different gifts to make the Church work.

Romans 12:4-6

Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.

In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well.

Check out other scriptures that back this up...

Ephesians 4:4-7

1 Peter 4:10

We are responsible to use the gifts Holy Spirit has given us

2 Timothy 1:6-7

This is why I remind you to fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you. For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.

Check out other scriptures on this...

Matthew 25:14-30

Luke 19:11-27

There are stories in the Bible of God giving specific gifts to people

Check them out for yourself...

Genesis 37-41

Exodus 31:1-6

Exodus 35:10-19

Jeremiah 1:4-9

Daniel

Check out your own spiritual gifts and what they mean by going to:
citybaptist.org.nz/courses/spiritual-gifts-test/