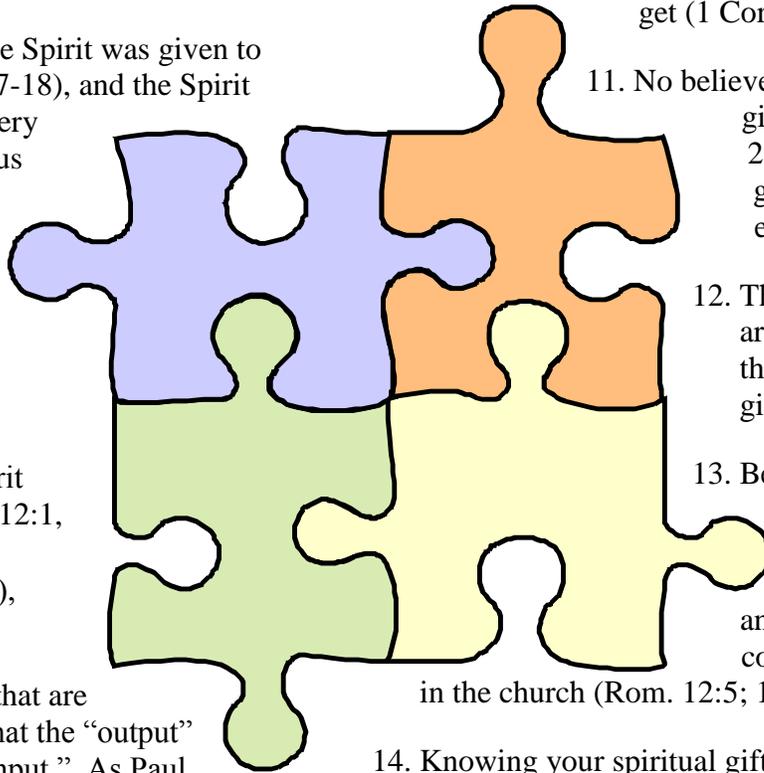


# On the Subject of Spiritual Gifts

1. In the Old Testament, the Spirit of the Lord was given to selected leaders rather than to all of God's people (Ex. 31:2-3; Judges 3:9-10, 6:34, 14:6, 14:19; 1 Sam. 10:6; Micah 3:8).
2. Jesus was the unique bearer of the Spirit (Mark 1:10; Luke 4:14-18), and he promised his disciples that they, too, would receive the Spirit (Mark 13:11; Luke 11:13).
3. On the day of Pentecost, the Spirit was given to all believers (Acts 2:3-4, 17-18), and the Spirit continues to be given to every person who believes in Jesus (Acts 2:38; Rom. 8:9).
4. The Spirit gives at least one spiritual gift to every believer (1 Cor. 12:7, 11; Eph. 4:7).
5. Spiritual gifts are "special abilities" that the Holy Spirit gives to each of us (1 Cor. 12:1, 4-7). These gifts are "charismata" (χαρισματα), or grace-gifts.
6. Spiritual gifts are abilities that are empowered by God such that the "output" is much greater than the "input." As Paul Ford put it, "There are many things you do well, but only two or three you do supernaturally on a consistent basis" (Exodus 31:6).
7. Spiritual gifts and natural talents have similarities, but they are not the same. Talents are abilities that are a part of our "first creation" or our birth & upbringing. Gifts may be related to our talents, but they don't have to be. For example, "God may give the gift of evangelism to a natural-born salesman or He may not. He may give the gift of teaching to a professional schoolteacher, but He is not so bound. He may give the gift of faith to someone who is optimistic by nature, but He does not have to do so" (Basden-Johnson, p. 5).
8. Spiritual gifts are sometimes, but not necessarily, related to formal roles in the church.
9. Spiritual gifts are not the same as the "fruit of the Spirit" (Gal. 5:22-23).
10. We do not choose, control, earn, or work for our spiritual gifts. The Spirit decides what gifts we get (1 Cor. 12:11).
11. No believer has every spiritual gift (1 Cor. 12:12, 27, 29-30), and no single gift is given to everyone.
12. The more visible gifts are not more important than the less visible gifts (1 Cor. 12:22-26).
13. Believers have different sets of spiritual gifts (Rom. 12:3-6), and these gifts complement each other in the church (Rom. 12:5; 1 Cor. 3:7-9, 12:4-7).
14. Knowing your spiritual gifts is not as important as making sure that your life is a blessing to others. The work of the Spirit in our lives turns persons-as-a-whole into gifts.
15. Love is the most important factor in spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 12:31-13:1; Rom. 13:10; Matt. 22:39-40), and using your gifts without love is worthless (1 Cor. 13).
16. Discovering your spiritual gifts will probably require some experimentation. How will you know whether or not you have a certain gift if you have never tried it?



17. If you are interested in discovering your spiritual gifts, you must also be open to applying them for their intended purpose—building up the church. How many hours a week are you prepared to invest in the development and use of the spiritual gifts God reveals to you? (Schwarz, p. 57).
  18. Using your spiritual gifts glorifies God and helps you to grow. If you are using a true spiritual gift, you will experience joy. You will be effective. And others will confirm both this joy and this effect.
  19. As you discover the gifts you have been given, you get a better idea about what it is that God calls you to do.
  20. Spiritual gifts do not come fully developed, and it requires maturity to use them correctly.
  21. We are accountable for our management of the gifts that God gives us (1 Peter 4:10). We will be evaluated not on the number of gifts we have, but on how we have used what we have been given (Matt. 25:14-30). It is a sin to waste the gifts God gives us.
  22. Although God's gifts and God's call can never be withdrawn (Rom 11:29), we can neglect, "smother," and "stifle" the Spirit's gifts so that they become ineffective (1 Thess. 5:19).
  23. Another danger is that we tend to "project" our gifts onto others; that is, because the things in the areas of our giftedness are so easy and joyful for us, we have a hard time understanding why those things are not easy for everyone else, too.
  24. There are universal Christian responsibilities that correspond to the gifts of the Spirit. We do not all have the gift of evangelism, for example, but we all do have the responsibility of sharing our faith (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:19; 1 Peter 3:15).
  25. The Spirit's gifts are given to the entire church, not to us simply as individuals (Rom. 12:3-11; 1 Cor. 12:7), and spiritual gifts are an important part of God's plan for the growth, maturity, and renewal of the church.
  26. Every believer, and every congregation, has every spiritual gift that we need to do that work to which God calls us (1 Cor. 1:7).
  27. There are many systems for categorizing spiritual gifts, but none of them are found in the Bible.
  28. The New Testament does not mention every possible spiritual gift. Our endlessly creative God brings new gifts into being to meet the changing needs of the work of redemption.
- Here is a partial list of Spiritual Gifts:
1. Apostleship
  2. Artistic Creativity
  3. Counseling/Encouragement/Exhortation
  4. Craftsmanship/Handiwork
  5. Deliverance/Exorcism
  6. Discernment of Spirits
  7. Evangelism
  8. Faith
  9. Giving
  10. Healing
  11. Helps/Helping
  12. Hospitality
  13. Interpretation
  14. Knowledge
  15. Leadership
  16. Mercy/Kindness
  17. Miracles
  18. Missionary
  19. Music
  20. Organization/Administration
  21. Prayer/Intercession
  22. Prophecy/Preaching
  23. Service/Serving
  24. Shepherding/Pastor/Teacher
  25. Singleness/Celibacy
  26. Suffering/Martyrdom
  27. Teaching/Writing
  28. Tongues/Unknown Languages
  29. Voluntary Poverty
  30. Wisdom