

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit Mike Potter

Definitions: The following is a list of the various gifts of the Holy Spirit mentioned in the New Testament given to the Church so we can function as Christ did and re-present Jesus Christ to the world as His body! An effort has been made to understand the actual meaning of each word, its intended purpose and practical application for today's church.

Eph 4:11-16 (Leadership Gifts)

Apostolic Leadership

The gift that God gives to the Church to function with extraordinary spiritual authority that is spontaneously recognized by the Church. This person is effective in the establishment of new churches and para-church ministries and is especially gifted at establishing others in kingdom truth.

Prophetic Leadership

The gift that God gives the Church in order for His will to be interpreted and communicated to others for the purpose of direction, instruction and accountability. Prophetic leaders enable the saints to do the ministry by receiving direction from the Lord and then providing specific concrete instruction to the Church. Someone sitting under prophetic leadership may be: instructed, exhorted, confronted, challenged, comforted and provoked to action.

Evangelistic Leadership

The gift God gives to the Church in order to challenge people through various methods to receive the Gospel of Salvation through Christ in ways that provoke or stimulate a response to the offer given. An Evangelistic Leader would be extremely helpful in training the congregation in soul-winning, organizing, planning and coordinating events to reach the community, plan mission trips, educate the Church on the need for global evangelization and convey God's plan for using the Church as His primary means of informing the world of redemption through Jesus Christ.

Pastoral Leadership

The gift God gives to the Church to assume responsibility for the spiritual growth, equipping and maturity of believers. The central thrust is to encourage, equip, edify, exhort and empower a group of people for ministry in Christ's Church and the world through modeling ministry and maturity and protecting them from error by disseminating the truth.

Teaching Leadership

The gift God gives to the Church to provide instruction, clarity and sound doctrine. This person is effective at systematically presenting truth and communicating it in such a fashion that those who are present and under their leadership will grow spiritually and become a true disciple of Jesus Christ.

Rom 12:4-8 (Motivational Gifts)

Prophecy

The gift God gives to the Church that motivates a person to speak clearly, boldly, persuasively and sometimes confrontationally—the truth. This person is motivated by a pursuit of holiness and God's standards being enforced and lived out in the life of the Church. Someone with this gift is motivated by truth. They tend to see things in concrete rather than abstract terms (black and white, heaven or hell)

Teaching

The gift God gives to the Church that motivates a person to study, research, clarify and communicate truth accurately. The person with this gift will become agitated if scripture is taken out of context. They are motivated to learn and see others learn.

Exhortation

The gift God gives to the Church that motivates a person to encourage another who is or may be weak in the faith or lacking appropriate skills in dealing with life. An exhorter is motivated by a pursuit of God's plan and purposes and will be likely to provide practical, detailed steps of action in order to reach the desired goal. An exhorter may thrive in one on one counseling scenarios.

Helps/Service

The gift God gives to the Church that motivates a person to get involved in any type of service where they are needed. A person who has this gift will do menial tasks and thankless jobs without being concerned over recognition. They are interested in blessing others and the Lord by providing a service to a particular individual or Church. (They can and are oftentimes taken advantage of—Be Careful and no when to say NO)

Giving

The gift God gives to the Church that motivates a person to seek to meet financial or *other needs* (material or emotional) and do so with pure motives. They are not interested in seeking public recognition but prefer to give secretly and without appeal. People with this gift are

passionate about stewardship and view everything they possess as actually belonging to the Lord.

Administration

The gift God gives to the Church that motivates a person to organize, plan and exercise influence over a group of people in order to lead them to accomplish a particular task. Once the task is completed, the administrator prefers a NEW CHALLENGE. Administrators do well with details and support and free other leaders to prioritize their efforts. (Every Pastor needs at least one)

Mercy

The gift of God that motivates a person to sympathize and or empathize with those who are suffering or in need whether physically, spiritually or emotionally. Their motivation does not end with words but is actually demonstrated in a specific act that is consistent with the mercy one receives from the Lord. They are gifted at helping others in practical ways with a cheerful, encouraging spirit.

I Cor 12:7-11 (Manifestation Gifts) *

Word of Knowledge

The gift God gives to the Church that enables an individual to: receive information supernaturally from the Holy Spirit. The individual receives revelation from God regarding a person, or specific situation that would not have otherwise been known or communicated. The revelation may be fragmentary and is often perceived, discerned or distinguished. When the message is spoken, it will serve as evidence of the mind and will of God as the recipient receives tangible benefits resulting in their personal or corporate edification.

Word of Wisdom

The gift God gives to the Church that enables an individual to: receive illumination or revelation of divine truth from the Holy Spirit that in turn is formulated in the thought process. When the message is spoken it becomes a tangible expression and *application* of the mind of God and is designed to regulate or bring a person's relationship with God into alignment by applying truth and facts to meet the need of the situation.

Discerning of Spirits

The gift of God that enables an individual to judge between the work of the Holy Spirit, demonic spirits or a work of the flesh. Discernment is keenness of insight and refers to the ability to make a proper distinction or determination

regarding truth from error. This gift provides information about the type of spirit that underlies actions—motivation (e.g. lust, envy, malice, greed, criticism, love etc...)

Faith

The gift of God that enables an individual to have confidence in divine truth and is understood to be miraculous, resilient confidence in God. It is the supernatural ability to trust God for a particular situation or need regardless of the lack of tangible, rational, and empirical evidence. This gift is given to an individual to ensure unwavering confidence and trust in the Lord in what would otherwise be deemed an impossible situation. (This is different than saving faith)

Miracles

The gift God gives that enables an individual to experience and be involved in an unmistakable, immediate and powerful action of God. Historically miracles served to indicate the presence of the kingdom of God and authenticate the ministry of Jesus and His Church. Miracles involve the direct intervention of God as an unusual occurrence that suspends or transcends the laws of nature, as we know them

Healings

The gift of God that enables an individual to provide various forms of supernatural cure, therapy or restoration from illness, disease, injury, spiritual and emotional trauma primarily through intervening prayer offered up in faith.

Prophecy

The gift of God that enables an individual to declare truth through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit whether by prediction or not with the primary purpose of edifying the body. Supernatural revelation is given to an individual who then declares or communicates this truth with others for the purpose of building of the body of Christ and convincing any unbelievers present. Two things must occur: 1) the individual must receive insight from God and 2) this insight must be communicated to others

Tongues

The gift of God that enables an individual to give a supernatural utterance in one or more languages unknown to the speaker but not necessarily unknown to those listening (including the Lord himself). The exercise of this gift in private devotion results in personal edification and blessing that is not readily understood or learned any other way. The corporate use of this gift is designed to bring

edification to the body. Guidelines for the proper use of this gift in public are provided for us in scripture.

Interpretation of Tongues The gift of God that enables an individual to spontaneously interpret, respond to and or communicate a message that was spoken in tongues in a public setting into the understood language of the listening audience for corporate edification. An interpretation of a message in tongues is the equivalent of prophecy since the message first of all originated with God, was subsequently interpreted and then communicated to those gathered. An interpretation may last longer than the message given due to the differences between the nearly 6000 languages that exist on planet earth today...(not to mention the languages of Angels which Paul spoke of in I Cor 13). As for the language of angels: we know Angels have communicated with people and their messages were understood...one classic example is the angel announcing to Mary that she was going to give birth to the Messiah. Also with regard to interpretation: one word in Hebrew, Aramaic or Greek may turn into an entire sentence when interpreted in English. Interpretation is not a word for word translation of the message.

*Manifestation gifts tend to be situational in context depending on the needs of those being ministered to. A person may function more frequently in one of these gifts during their lifetime of ministry oftentimes depending on their sensitivity to the Holy Spirit and those they are surrounded by.