

## **GIFTS TO BE USED FOR THE LORD**

**1 Corinthians 12:1 (2-31)**

**(Not entirely original with me)**

**Introduction:** The Word of God and the Holy Spirit bring a person to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ and that person is then indwelt with the continual presence of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit then equips the believer for service for the Lord by giving him/her at least one special gift. What are the gifts? How are they to be used? How long does one have his/her gift? Who decides what gift is to be given to what person?

### **I. ABOUT THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

1. Gifts are not the same as natural talents. The gift may however be a supernatural enhancement of a natural talent. There are school teachers, but only the gifted can teach spiritual things.
2. Gifts are not ministries. The Lord gives gifts for the ministry He has called one to and will not give one the gift of pastor if that person is never going to pastor. God prepares one for whatever He wants that person to do.
3. Gifts are not offices. Those holding offices will have gifts, but it is not the office that is the gift. The gift of being a pastor/teacher is not an office, though whoever is pastor/teacher should have the gift to be pastor/teacher.
4. Gifts are not spiritual maturity or the fruit of the Holy Spirit.
5. Every believer has at least one gift whether he/she knows it or not and that gift (s) is for the building up of the church. It may take some time for a person to discover his/her spiritual gift.
6. Gifts differ from person to person and everyone in a church will not have the same gift, although there may be several who have the same one.
7. Gifts are for the common good of the church. The benefit will be for that gifted person as well as for the entire church. Jesus set the church into motion for a purpose and spiritual gifts are to aid and assist in the body (church) fulfilling Jesus' purpose.
8. The gifts are given through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit empowers the believer with a spiritual gift.
9. The purpose of gifts is to lift up and grow the body of Christ, the church. Anyone not using his/her gift is not ministering and the church is not growing properly.
10. Believers are to know about their gift. They are to look at the Word of God and know about the gifts and as they follow the Lord Jesus, their gift will be revealed to them.
11. The gift can be abused and Paul in 1 Corinthians talks about the proper/improper use of the gift of tongues.
12. It is possible to have more than one gift.
13. If a believer knows what his/her gift is then he/she should be using it in his/her Church and if not using it, it is a sin for the gift was given to be used for the Lord Jesus Christ in His church.

14. Gifts are often given for one's whole life such as pastor/teacher. Many pastors/teachers have given many years to their given ministry and finally reached a point in their lives that they had to "retire."

## **II. HOW TO FIND ONE'S SPIRITUAL GIFT**

1. Know what the gifts are, what they mean, and what each gift is supposed to do.
2. Go to work and find out what area you seem to be best at. Get busy in several different areas and see how you function. "God can't steer a parked car..."
3. Consider what part you would like to have in your church. Your desire can help you find your gift.
4. Dedicate yourself to the Lord and to serve Him the best way you can and allow the Holy Spirit to lead.
5. Try to develop the gift you think that you may have and see if the gift is there or if it is just a talent.
6. Wait and see if anyone else sees you as having that gift that you think you may have.
7. Don't worry if you don't know or find your gift for you can still do good within your church.

## **III. THE GIFTS EXAMINED**

1. Prophecy: This gift is often listed in the "sign" gift area because of 1 Corinthians 14:3. No doubt the gift of prophecy in the New Testament differs from that of the Old Testament.
2. Faith: A God-given faith to see something God wants done and to go forward to planning and praying for it. James 5:15
3. Word of Wisdom: A sign gift that can come to one as he/she goes through life and sometimes it is God placing a "wise" person in one's path in life.
4. Word of Knowledge: The ability to search the scriptures accumulating the knowledge of God's Word.
5. Healing: Miraculously healing different kinds of disease. The New Testament speaks of many acts of healing done by the Lord Jesus and the disciples and apostles. God is able to do as He pleases in response to a believer's prayers and heals at His discretion, directly, not through some "faith healer."
6. Miracles: The supernatural intervention in the laws of nature brought about by prayer or command.
7. Discerning of Spirits: The ability to see the difference between a spirit of truth and a spirit of error.
8. Tongues: The supernatural ability to speak in a language/tongue that has not been learned.
9. Interpretation of Tongues: The supernatural ability to interpret what is being said by a person speaking in tongues.
10. Apostles: Paul held the office of "Apostle" but there seems to be no equivalent or gift in that area today.

#### **IV. THE MINISTRY GIFTS**

1. Ministry: A gift relating to something like the work of the Deacon such as ministering to the physical needs of the church family.
2. Teaching: The God given ability to search the scriptures and declare the truth which was learned. Also the ability to create interest in spiritual things, having insight into the needs of one's students.
3. Exhortation: The God given ability to comfort and help those that ask for help or assistance. Also to be a comforter. One who has this gift often finds that people seek him/her out with problems, asking advice or just to listen.
4. Giving: The ability to give money for the work of the Lord with a single mindedness to continue to give as long as the Lord allows. (Not that one will become rich though.)
5. Ruling: Not just being able to govern, but one who would guide the church along.
6. Mercy: The ability to show mercy/kindness to those of the church family who are hurting or in need of encouragement. Usually the pastor does this, but with help from others, he could do much more within the church family.
7. Helps: The ability to step into any situation and help in accomplishing the task at hand. It also could mean organization skills as well.
8. Governments: Administration skills, running church affairs smoothly, assisting the different church leaders.
9. Evangelists: The gift that enables one to share forth the Gospel to the unsaved in a way that is powerful and effective, leading lost souls to the Lord Jesus Christ. One does not necessarily need a call from God to be involved in evangelism, for every believer is to go out and witness and bring new believers into the church for training.
10. Pastor-Teacher: The shepherd of the flock that feeds the flock with food from the Word of God.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

1. Sometimes one's gift being properly used shows little if any result.
2. The believer's responsibility is to be right with God and do what He leads one to do.
3. God will often give the believer another opportunity to use his/her gift if that believer has failed to do so in the past.
4. God gives the increase in His day and time, believers are to use their gift in obedience and faith.
5. Be thankful for your gift. Don't be prideful. Don't look down at others if you think your gift is better than theirs. Be an encouragement to your fellow church family for they could be having bad times.
6. Every believer has at least one gift from the Holy Spirit to be used for the building up of God's Kingdom.