


SPIRITUAL GIFTS

## Finally, Spiritual Gifts – *a quick-access guide*

### 1. What Spiritual Gifts Are

- God-given **abilities empowered by the Holy Spirit** for the building up of the church.
- Expressions of **grace** ("charismata") rather than natural talent alone.
- Given to **all believers**, not just leaders or the spiritually confident.
- Designed to **edify**, **encourage**, **strengthen**, and **mobilise** the body.
- Signs that **Jesus is alive and active** in His church.

### 2. Why the Gifts Matter

- They reveal the **power, compassion, and creativity** of God.
- They help the church grow in **maturity, unity, and mission**.
- They enable believers to minister **beyond their natural capacity**.
- They keep church life from becoming merely organisational or intellectual.
- They demonstrate the **kingdom of God breaking in** through ordinary people.

### 3. Biblical Foundations

- **1 Corinthians 12–14** – diversity, order, love, and mutual edification.
- **Romans 12:3–8** – practical, serving gifts grounded in humility.
- **Ephesians 4:11–13** – leadership gifts equipping the body.
- **1 Peter 4:10–11** – use your gift as a steward of God's grace.

## 4. Types of Gifts (Grouped Simply)

**Equipping Gifts (acknowledging that these are given primary position.)**

- **Word of Knowledge** – The Spirit-given ability to impart truth.
- **Word of Wisdom** – The mysteries of God explained effectively.

Also, these are popularly seen as aspects of prophecy, as modelled by Jesus. Though these definitions would neglect Paul's specific first-century context of his letter, particularly the Greeks' love of wisdom – as highlighted in 1 Corinthians 1, as well as the issues in Jewish thinking created with a crucified Christ.

**Power Gifts**

- **Faith** – God-given confidence for impossible situations.
- **Healing** – physical, emotional, or inner restoration.
- **Miracles** – supernatural interventions that reveal God's power.

**Revelation Gifts**

- **Prophecy** – Spirit-inspired information to encourage, strengthen and comfort.
- **Discernment of Spirits** – recognising spiritual activity (good and evil).
- **Tongues** – prayer, praise and prophecy in Spirit-given language. (more often 1 Corinthians 13:1, of angels rather than of men, such as in Acts 2)
- **Interpretation of Tongues** – translating the meaning for the benefit of Christ's body.

**Serving Gifts**

- **Helps**, **administration**, **mercy**, **giving**, **hospitality**, **leadership**, **teaching**, **evangelism**, **pastoral care**, and more.

## 5. How the Gifts Operate

- They flow through **ordinary believers** responding to the Spirit's prompting.
- Often, as in 1 Corinthians 12-14, in the context of the gathered community.
- Often prophecy begins (1 Corinthians 13:9 & 12) with a vague **impression –** needing faith and integrity to step into the activities of God's supernatural realm.
- We grow through **use, feedback, humility, and accountability**.
- Strengthened by **prayer, holiness, listening, and community discernment**.
- They are always aligned with **Scripture** and reflect **Christlike character**.

## 6. Using Gifts Safely and Well

- **Love is the boundary**—1 Corinthians 13 is not a digression but central to Paul's teaching.

- Submit gifts to **testing**:
    - Does it align with Scripture?
    - Does it honour Jesus?
    - Does it edify, rather than control?
    - Does trusted leadership confirm it?
- Keep gifts **accessible and understandable** in gathered worship.
- Stay accountable—gifts flourish in **community**, not in isolation.

**Prophecy (Charismatic Focus)**

- A gift for **encouragement, strengthening, and comfort**.
- Can bring clarity, confirmation, warning, or direction.
- Best offered with **humility**: "I sense…" not "Thus says the Lord."
- Should always be weighed by Scripture, leaders, and the wider body.

**Tongues and Interpretation**

- Tongues as **personal prayer** builds the inner life and sensitivity to the Spirit.
- Tongues **publicly** require interpretation for communal benefit.
- Not a mark of superiority; simply one gift among many.
- Encouraged but not demanded – **diversity is God's design**.

**Healing and Miracles**

- Natural outflow of Jesus' compassion.
- Pray boldly, humbly, and often.
- Leave outcomes to God—faithfulness is our part; results are His.
- Celebrate what God does, however small, without exaggeration.
- Offer prayer gently and with permission.

## 7. Growing in the Spiritual Gifts

- Pray regularly: **"Holy Spirit, use me today."**
- Practise in safe environments (small groups, prayer meetings).
- Step out when you feel a spiritual nudge – growth requires risk/faith.

- Receive training, feedback, and correction with humility.
- Saturate your life in Scripture and worship; gifts grow out of His presence.

**#Common Errors**

- **Making gifts the goal** instead of knowing Christ.
- **Spiritual elitism** – forgetting all gifts are given by grace.
- **Neglecting accountability** and drifting into excess or imbalance.
- **Overcomplicating** what the Bible keeps simple.
- **Fear of mistakes** – healthy correction is part of discipleship.

## 8. What a Healthy Church Culture Looks Like

- Gifts operate with **joy, humility, and order**.
- Leadership provides **guidance**, not restriction.
- Gatherings have room for the **unexpected** but remain intelligible.
- People are encouraged to **discover, develop, and deploy** their gifts.
- The church becomes a place of **edification, mission, healing, and encounter**.

**In One Sentence**

Spiritual gifts are Spirit-empowered expressions of God's grace that build up the church, reveal Jesus, and release believers into supernatural ministry—naturally, humbly, and in love.