

Spiritual Gifts



397) What is a spiritual gift?

- A. A spiritual gift is one that God bestows on us so that we can better serve Him. It is not the same as our natural talents, although it might enhance and flow with our natural abilities.

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

EPH 2:10 NIV

398) Who is eligible to receive a spiritual gift?

- A. Every born again Christian is given a spiritual gift.
- B. Gifts are not based on merit. You do not earn a spiritual gift because you are a "good" Christian, nor does God take away your gifting when you sin against Him.
 - 1. We must never judge the condition of our spiritual health by whether or not we can operate in our spiritual gift(s). It is a false measure.

"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. [5] There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. [6] There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men."

1COR 12:4-6 NIV

"for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable."

ROM 11:29 NIV

399) Who determines what gift we get?

- A. God determines our spiritual gifts.
- B. We are not limited to one gift. Since the Holy Spirit resides in us, it is possible for any of the spiritual gifts to operate in our life, but we must be sensitive to God leading. Remember, God is the source of all the gifts.
- C. Although we could operate in any gift, we usually "flow in" (are especially comfortable operating in) one or two gifts.

"All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just

Building Firm Foundations

as he determines."

1COR 12:11 NIV

"But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it."

EPH 4:7 NIV

400) Why does God give us gifts?

- A. God desires that the body of Christ grow, mature and become like Jesus. God could do this without including us, but He has chosen to use us in His service.
 - 1. As each of us takes our place and does our part, the job will get done.
- B. Spiritual gifts are designed by God to edify (build up), encourage, and comfort others.
- C. Our gift was not given to draw attention to us or make us look good. Our gift was not given to serve ourselves, but to serve the body of Christ.

"Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good."

1COR 12:7 NIV

"So it is with you. Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church."

1COR 14:12 NIV

"This is why it says: 'When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men.' ... [12] to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up [13] until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. [14] Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. [15] Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. [16] From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."

EPH 4:8, 12-16 NIV

401) Do the gifts work automatically?

- A. No. God gives us a gift, but then we become the steward of that gift. God expects us to put it to good use in the body. We will exercise and flow in our gifting to the extent of our faith.
- B. God could sovereignly overpower a person and cause the gifts to operate in their life. This would be exception and not the rule. God has chosen to co-labor with us. As we step out in faith, His gifts will work through us.
- C. Many people have received a gift from God but do not operate in that gift. You can't sit back and wait for the Lord to strike you with divine lightning before you operate in your gift. God expects us to courageously demonstrate the reality of Jesus Christ in our lives.

"We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith."

ROM 12:6 NIV

"Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you."

1TIM 4:14 NIV

"For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands."

2TIM 1:6 NIV

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms."

1PETER 4:10 NIV

402) What gifts has God given to the church?

- A. Word of knowledge
- B. Word of wisdom
- C. Discerning of spirits
- D. Gift of faith
- E. Gifts of healings
- F. Gift of miracles
- G. Prophecy
- H. Various kinds of tongues
- I. Interpretation of tongues
- J. Exhortation
- K. Intercession
- L. Giving
- M. Helps (service)
- N. Mercy (compassion)
- O. Hospitality
- P. Government (administration)

"We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. [7] If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; [8] if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully."

ROM 12:6-8 NIV

"To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, [9] to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, [10] to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues."

1COR 12:8-10 NIV

"And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues."

1COR 12:28 NIV

Building Firm Foundations

"It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, [12] to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up [13] until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."

EPH 4:11-13 NIV

403) What is the word of knowledge?

- A. The word of knowledge is a revelation gift. It operates when the Holy Spirit makes known to you information that you did not or could not obtain by natural means.
 - 1. When God speaks to us through the word of knowledge, the word of wisdom or prophecy, we are only given part of the picture. The only parts of the puzzle we are given are those that are important at the moment. Never assume you know all about a person or their situation based on one word from God.
- B. The word might be for yourself or for another. It might be a warning, identify a need, indicate a course of action, expose sin, answer a question, provide insight, etc.
- C. Not all words of knowledge are to be shared. Sometimes the Holy Spirit gives a word of knowledge so that you can intercede on behalf of another.

"Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?"

ACT 5:3 NIV

"For we know in part and we prophesy in part,"

1COR 13:9 NIV

404) What is the word of wisdom?

- A. The word of wisdom is a revelation gift. It operates when the Holy Spirit gives you insight to a problem or shows you what course of action to take in confusing or difficult situations. At times, this wisdom will look like foolishness when evaluated with our mind.
- B. Having knowledge is never enough. We need the wisdom of God to show us what to do with the knowledge we have.

"Then the king said, "Bring me a sword." So they brought a sword for the king. [25] He then gave an order: "Cut the living child in two and give half to one and half to the other." [26] The woman whose son was alive was filled with compassion for her son and said to the king, "Please, my lord, give her the living baby! Don't kill him!" But the other said, "Neither I nor you shall have him. Cut him in two!" [27] Then the king gave his ruling: "Give the living baby to the first woman. Do not kill him; she is his mother." [28] When all Israel heard the verdict the king had given, they held the king in awe, because they saw that he had wisdom from God to administer justice."

1KINGS 3:24-28 NIV

405) What is the gift of discerning of spirits?

- A. Discerning of spirits is a revelation gift. It is when the Holy Spirit identifies what spirit is behind events.
 - 1. Just because an event is supernatural does not mean it is of God.
- B. Once God reveals the spirit that is operating, it demands that we take action. Either we embrace and accept the moving of the Holy Spirit or we reject and resist the influence of the evil spirit. We can't just sit there and say, "I knew that."
- C. The gift of discernment, like all spiritual gifts, is sharpened by experience and use.

"Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world."

1JOHN 4:1 NIV

"And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light."

2COR 11:14 NIV

"But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil."

HEB 5:14 NIV

406) What is the gift of faith?

- A. This special kind of faith is a power gift. It is closely related to healing and miracles. It is a faith planted in our heart by God that needs no convincing and can withstand many tests without faltering.
- B. The gift of faith speaks a miracle into existence.
- C. This goes beyond the faith necessary for salvation and day-to-day Christian living.

"He replied, "Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

MAT 17:20 NIV

"But Elymas the sorcerer (for that is what his name means) opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul from the faith. [9] Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said, [10] "You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord? [11] Now the hand of the Lord is against you. You are going to be blind, and for a time you will be unable to see the light of the sun." Immediately mist and darkness came over him, and he groped about, seeking someone to lead him by the hand."

ACT 13:8-11 NIV

407) What is the gifts of healing?

- A. Healing is a power gift. It is when healing takes place through supernatural means. Healing can result from Holy Spirit directed prayer, touch or other contact. Although God flows through a human vessel, divine healing does not result from natural methods.

Building Firm Foundations

- B. Flowing in the gifts of healings does not make you a "healer." It only means you are a vessel God can use to bring healing.
- C. God responds to faith. Sometimes the faith for healing flows from the one in need of the healing and sometimes it flows only from the one who prays, but faith is always present when God heals.

"Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." [7] Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. [8] He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God."

ACT 3:6-8 NIV

408) What is the gift of miracles?

- A. The gift of miracles is a power gift. It is when an event takes place that goes above or beyond the natural laws of nature. Miracles are super(above)-natural by definition.
 - 1. Instantaneous healings are miraculous, but miracles are not limited to just physical healings.
- B. The gift of faith and the gift of miracles are closely related.

"As one of them was cutting down a tree, the iron axhead fell into the water. "Oh, my lord," he cried out, "it was borrowed!" [6] The man of God asked, "Where did it fall?" When he showed him the place, Elisha cut a stick and threw it there, and made the iron float. [7] "Lift it out," he said. Then the man reached out his hand and took it."

2KINGS 6:5-7 NIV

"When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. [40] Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea."

ACTS 8:39-40 NIV

409) What is the gift of prophecy?

- A. Prophecy is a verbal gift. It is when the Holy Spirit directs you to speak as God's voice to the church. Prophecy can deal with future events, but is not limited to foretelling the future.
- B. All prophecy is to be judged as to its origin and accuracy. It is not to happen in the dark corners of the church or parking lot, but before those who can judge its merits.
- C. The purpose of prophecy is to strengthen, encourage and comfort the church. Sometimes the theme is correction (possibly rebuke), but never condemnation.
 - 1. Because it builds up the church, Paul told us to eagerly desire to prophesy.
 - 2. (More detailed information is found in Chapter 33, Prophetic Presbytery.)

"But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort."

1COR 14:3 NIV

"And if a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, the first speaker should stop. [31] For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged. [32] The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets."
1COR 14:30-32 NIV

"Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy."
1COR 14:1 NIV

410) What is the gift of various kinds of tongues?

- A. Tongues is a verbal gift. It is when the Holy Spirit inspires you to speak to the church in a language that is unknown to you.
 - 1. (More detailed information is found in Chapter 13, Baptism of the Holy Spirit.)
- B. The gift, as described here, is addressed to the church and is to be interpreted. When interpreted, it becomes equal with prophecy and serves the same purpose.

"I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. He who prophesies is greater than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may be edified."

1COR 14:5 NIV

"What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church. [27] If anyone speaks in a tongue, two - or at the most three -should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret. [28] If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and God."

1COR 14:26-28 NIV

411) What is the gift of interpretation of tongues?

- A. Interpretation of tongues is a verbal gift. It operates in conjunction with the corporate use of tongues.
- B. Anyone who is called on by God to speak to the church in tongues should also pray for the gift of interpretation. It is possible to understand what you speak in tongues in your private prayer time as well as being able to give the interpretation in a corporate setting.

"So it is with you. Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church. [13] For this reason anyone who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret what he says."

1COR 14:12-13 NIV

412) What is the gift of exhortation?

- A. Exhortation is a verbal gift. It is when the Holy Spirit allows to you arouse, admonish, strengthen and encourage the church.
- B. An exhorter can say hard things, make you face harsh realities, while making you feel good about it.

Building Firm Foundations

"When he arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts."

ACT 11:23 NIV

"Judas and Silas, who themselves were prophets, said much to encourage and strengthen the brothers."

ACTS 15:32 NIV

413) What is the gift of intercession?

- A. It is a gift of deep prayer, born of the Holy Spirit, on behalf of others.
 - 1. (More detailed information is found in Chapter 17, Prayer & Fasting.)

414) What is the gift of giving?

- A. Every Christian is responsible to tithe and bring offerings to God. With the gift of giving, the Holy Spirit takes a person beyond these minimal requirements to a place of liberality.
- B. The amount of money given is not the distinguishing feature of this gift. It is the attitude of joy and excitement which accompanies the gift.

"if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully."

ROM 12:8 NIV

415) What is the gift of helps (service)?

- A. The gift of helps cover a wide range of work within the church that assists the church to function well. It covers everything from ushering to setting up tables for a church dinner.
- B. The gift of helps is a vital ministry in the church. The office of deacon was set up for those who excel in this gift.

"In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. [2] So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. [3] Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them [4] and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.'"

ACTS 6:1-4 NIV

416) What is the gift of mercy (compassion)?

- A. The gift of mercy is a Holy Spirit inspired love and concern for those who are sick, infirmed, or oppressed by the devil.
- B. The person with this gift is drawn to these people in prayer and personal ministry.

"if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let

him do it cheerfully."

ROM 12:8 NIV

417) What is the gift of hospitality?

- A. The gift of hospitality is when the Holy Spirit empowers you to warmly welcome and include everyone God brings to the church.
- B. This gift includes greeting those who come to the house of God as well as serving tables, entertaining guests, or serving traveling ministry.
- C. Someone with this gift will go out of their way to make visitors to the church feel comfortable.

418) What is the gift of government (administration)?

- A. The gift of administration is when the Holy Spirit grants an anointing for the details of church structure and organization. This is necessary if the church is going to be effective in it's primary responsibility of spreading the Gospel.
- B. People with these gifts often serve behind the scenes, making everything run smoothly.

"And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues."

1COR 12:28 NIV

Name: _____ Group Leaders: _____

Date: _____

Homework for Chapter 27

Please answer the following questions from the textbook in full sentences and return to your Group Leaders next week.

- 1) Explain the use of spiritual gifts in daily life.

- 2) Explain why the gifts do or do not work automatically.

- 3) Explain how the word of wisdom is used.

- 4) Explain when the gift of tongues is used.

- 5) Explain when the gift of mercy is used.
