

# **Spiritual Gifts**

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## I. Introduction.

A. Without exception, every Christian has a spiritual gift or spiritual gifts.

B. A spiritual gift is an ability given by God, empowered by the Spirit to perform the functions in the body of Christ which is God's will for you.

1. God starts with the natural abilities he has given from birth. (Galatians 1)
2. A native ability is not to be confused with a spiritual gift because it must be empowered by the Spirit. God does not necessarily empower every natural talent.
3. The test of a spiritual gift is whether something supernatural happens in the body of Christ so that God is glorified.
4. The results of our spiritual gifts may be indirect. (Romans 12)
5. God's gift and will for you will be parallel for your life as a whole.

## II. Principles for use of our spiritual gifts. (1 Corinthians 12)

A. The purpose of gifts is the good of the body of Christ and the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 12:7; Romans 12; 1 Peter 4:10)

1. We can test the gifts by how they are used. (

B. Each person is gifted. (1 Corinthians 12:7; 1 Peter 4:10; Romans 12)

1. The exercise of our gifts must be developed and used. (1 Timothy 4:13-14; 2 Timothy 1:6)

C. Our gifts are sovereignly determined by God. (1 Corinthians 12:11, 18)

1. Never despair at your gift.
2. Get excited about your gift. (Ephesians 3:8)

D. The diversity of gifts should contribute to the unity of the body. (1 Corinthians 12:12; Romans 12; Ephesians 4:11-12)

1. There is no place for competitiveness.
2. There is no place for self-degradation. (1 Corinthians 12:15-16)
3. There is no place for pride. (1 Corinthians 4:7; Ephesians 3:8)
4. The least attractive gifts are the most indispensable.

5. Our gifts must be exercised in a sense of caring for one another. (1 Corinthians 12:25-26)

III. How to identify spiritual gifts.

- A. Be committed to doing the will of God. (Romans 12:3-8)
- B. Consider your abilities and interests but only in light of the cross. (John 12:24)
- C. Consider your experience.
- D. Consider feedback from other Christians.
- E. Be willing to assume responsibility. Identifying gifts gives us a responsibility to exercise them.

IV. Conclusions.

- A. You have a gift, so use it.
- B. The exercise of you gift must serve the body of Christ.

**Application questions:**

1. How should the purpose of the gifts frame our expectations of the spiritual gifts today?

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2. What is your spiritual gift?

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3. How can you develop your spiritual gift? Explain.

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