

Ephesians

Finding And Using My Spiritual Gift – Part 1

The spiritual gifts are given by grace and are not based on our worthiness or personal abilities; they are given according to God's sovereign choice. The gifts are given by the Spirit of God; thus, the gifts are a part of the new life granted to us in Christ and may be drastically different from our perceived capabilities or desires prior to salvation.

Ephesians 4:7-16 - But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. ⁸ This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people." ⁹ (What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? ¹⁰ He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.)

¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his 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 people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of 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.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 - There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. ⁵ There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. ⁶ God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us.

- **Spiritual gifts are for the benefit of other believers.**
- **Using our gifts helps us mature in our faith.**
- **Every spiritual gift is important and needed.**

What Are The Gifts?

Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4, 1 Peter 4

- **Teaching - the ability to instruct other in the truths and doctrines of God's Word for the purpose of building up, unifying, and maturing other believers in the church.**
- **Shepherding - the ability to look out for the spiritual welfare of others. This gift is not limited to a pastor or staff member.**
- **Discernment - the ability to recognize the true intentions of those within or related to the church. They are able to test the message and actions of others for the protection and well-being of the church.**
- **Encouragement - the ability to encourage others in the church to be involved in and enthusiastic about the work of the Lord. Members with this gift are good counselors and motivate others to service.**
- **Wisdom - the ability to discern the work of the Holy Spirit in the church and apply His teaching and actions to the needs of the body.**

Two Dangers of Spiritual Gifts

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- 1) Using your gift for selfish reasons.**
- 2) Being frustrated with others who don't share your gift.**