

Spiritual Gifts #2: Grace & Various Gifts

INTRODUCTION

1. The various spiritual gifts are expressions of God's grace.
 - Romans 12:6 (ESV) *Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them...*
 - 1 Peter 4:10 (ESV) *As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace...*
2. Spiritual gifts are given by the Holy Spirit for the benefit of others.
 - 1 Corinthians 12:7 (ESV) *To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.*
3. Love should be the motivation behind our desire for spiritual gifts and the exercise of them through us to others.
 - 1 Corinthians 13:1–2 (ESV) *If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.*
 - 1 Corinthians 14:1 (ESV) *Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.*
4. The Holy Spirit supernaturally empowers believers with spiritual gifts to express God's grace and power in a way that is beyond what the believer is naturally able to do in their own ability.
5. There are many gifts listed in the New Testament providing examples of the diversity of the manifestation of God's grace and power. They are not necessarily a complete listing of all the different ways that God graces people with special gifts.

- Romans 12:6-8 mentions prophecy, service, teaching, encouragement, giving, leading, and doing acts of mercy.
- 1 Corinthians 12:8-10 mentions the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, faith, gifts of healing, the working of miracles, prophecy, the ability to distinguish between spirits, various kinds of tongues, and the interpretation of tongues.
- 1 Corinthians 12:28 mentions helping and administration, in addition to other gifts listed elsewhere.
- 1 Peter 4:10-11 mentions (public) speaking and serving.

AN OVERVIEW OF SOME OF THE GIFTS

1. The gift of **servicing**. This gift can be described as the Spirit empowered ability to identify and meet needs involved in doing God's work.
 - God requires all of us to serve, but he endows some of us with a special ability to serve.
2. The gift of **teaching**. This gift can be described as the Spirit empowered ability to communicate revelation and truth from God's Word so that others will grow and mature.
 - God wants all of us to teach others about what we have learned from him, but he endows some with special teaching ability.
3. The gift of **encouraging** and **exhorting**. This gift can be described as the Spirit empowered ability to minister words from God that comfort, strengthen, and inspire God's people.
 - God wants all of us to encourage and exhort others, but he endows some of us with a special ability to do so.
4. The gift of **giving**. This gift can be described as the Spirit empowered ability to contribute significant financial resources for the Lord's work.
 - God wants all of us to be generous toward those in need and the work of the Lord, but he endows some of us with a special ability to do so in significant ways.

5. The gift of **leading**. This gift can be described as the Spirit empowered ability to influence and mobilize God's people to work together to advance God's kingdom.
 - God wants all of us to lead others in some capacity, such as in leading others to Christ and helping them follow God, but he endows some of us with a special ability to do so.
6. The gift of doing acts of **mercy**. This gift can be described as the Spirit empowered ability to feel genuine empathy and compassion for suffering people and to help them in ways that reflect God's love.
 - God wants all of us to do acts of mercy, but he endows some of us with a special ability to do so more than others.
7. The gift of **helping**. This gift can be described as the Spirit empowered ability to support others and increase their effectiveness
 - God wants all of us to help others in various tasks for the purpose of carrying out God's work, but he endows some of us with a special ability to do so more than others.
8. The gift of **administration**. This gift can be described as the Spirit empowered ability to help formulate and implement plans and processes for accomplishing goals.
 - God wants all of us to administrate various aspects of our own lives and work, but he endows some of us with a special ability to do so more effectively on a far greater scale.

DISCUSSION QUESTION

1. Has God ever empowered you to express any of the gifts discussed in the last section? If so, which one(s)?
2. Do you believe God wants to express any of these gifts in an ongoing ministry through you?
3. How could you practically learn more about expressing any one of these gifts?

HOMEWORK

1. Review the lesson notes and reflect on whether you would especially like to receive and/or grow in one of the gifts that were discussed.
2. Take some time to pray about the gifts. Express any desire you may have to operate in one of the gifts. Ask God if he wants you to receive and/or grow in any of the gifts.