

RELEVANT PRINCIPLES OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

1. Every Spiritual Gift is a “Manifestation of the Spirit” and is Given “For the Profit of All” (1Co.12:7)

- Every gift is by definition supernatural as it enables the presence of the Spirit operating through us.
- Though there are varieties of gifts, it is the same Spirit who empowers them in everyone (1Co.12:4-6).
- Thus, teaching is as supernatural as speaking in tongues, prophesying, or helps, etc.

2. A “Gift” (charism) of the Spirit is Imparted to Equip us to Serve Others

- Gifts are not portrayed as personality traits.
- A person who is quiet and introverted can receive the gift of teaching.
- A person who lacks self-confidence can receive the gift of evangelism.
- There may be an overlap between a person's unique personality and the gift God gives to them.
- We must not identify any particular gift with any particular personality trait.

3. The Context of 1 Corinthians Indicates that Anyone is a Candidate to Prophecy (1Co.14:1,5,24,29-32)

- A prophet is someone who receives spontaneous revelatory words from God that he shares to edify others (1Co.14:3).
- Nowhere does Scripture indicate that “prophet” must have certain personality traits.

4. Spiritual Gifts are Concrete Manifestations of the Spirit Through Us

- The gift is not who we are.
- The gift is what we do in the power of the Spirit for the good of others.
- We need to differentiate between our gift(s) and who we are as God's children in Christ.
- There is a difference between our personality and what the Spirit imparts to us.
- Whether extroverted or introverted, self-confident or timid, loves crowds or prefers solitude, is organized or disorganized, it does not necessarily mean we will have a certain spiritual gift that corresponds to our personality style.
- Our personality trait and spiritual gift MAY overlap. But we must not insist on a one-to-one correspondence.
- Our identity as children of God must not be tied to a particular gift the Spirit imparts to us.

5. Some Spiritual Gifts, Because of their Overt Manifestation of the Spirit's Presence, are Occasional in Nature

A. *Prophecy, Faith, Word of knowledge, Word of wisdom, Healings, Working of miracles, Discerning of spirits...*

- These overt gifts are not resident in that they are permanently within us and we can call them whenever we please.
- These are sovereignly given at a particular point in time to address a particular circumstance.
- God determines when a gift is operative.

B. *Teaching, Evangelism, Mercy, Service, Administration...*

- These gifts are more permanent and residential.
- Those with these gifts can exercise them at any time, according to our own will.

6. No one Christian Will Ever Have Every Spiritual Gift

- No one Christian will ever have all the gifts of Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4, or 1 Peter 4.
- Believers should not think he will have at least one gift from the list of Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, or Ephesians 4.
- Believers can “desire” or “seek” for more spiritual gifts than we currently have (1Co.14:1, 13).

