

Now Concerning Spiritual Gifts.....

.....brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant.
1 Corinthians 12:1

Understanding spiritual gifts as “power tools” for the Kingdom work helps us see that to get the job done-----they’re a necessity.

Categories of Gifts

v.4 There are different _____, but the same Spirit.

v.5 There are different _____, but the same Lord.

v.6 There are different _____, but the same God works all of them in all men.

1 Corinthians 12: 4-6.

The above passage divides the realm of Spiritual Gifts into three categories: **gifts, service, and working.**

These divisions correspond with the three listings of gifts mentioned in Romans 12:6-8, Ephesians 4:11 and 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, and may be described thus:

1. **Kinds of gifts**, verse 4 (Greek: Charismaton). Meaning: Gifts of grace (graciously given by God).

This category describes **Gifts of Gracious Motivations** listed in Romans 12:6-8. These gifts depict the mark of “Divine motivation”. In this list we are exhorted to recognize that “We all have different gifts.....v.6. (emphasis on **one particular bent or inner motivation.**)

We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is _____, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is _____, let him serve; if it is _____, let him teach; if it is _____, let him encourage; if it is _____ to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is _____, let him govern diligently; if it is showing _____, let him do it cheerfully.
Romans 12:6-8

2. **Kinds of service**, verse 5 (Greek: Diakonion). Meaning: Ministries (appointed by God). This category describes **Gifts of Appointed Ministries** as listed in Ephesians 4:11 and 1 Corinthians 12:28. This list consists of people uniquely called to occupy positions of oversight and equipping to help the body of Christ grow up into maturity and fulfill her calling. (Emphasis on the calling of God and these **servants** as gifts.)

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It was he who gave some to be _____, some to be _____, some to be _____, and some to be _____ and _____,
Ephesians 4:11

Memory Verse:

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

The list of gifts in 1 Corinthians 12:28 seems to be a continuation of specialized and gifted servants and is therefore added here along with the Ephesians 4:11 grouping.

*And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then _____, also **those having** _____, **those able to** _____ others, **those with gifts of** _____, and **those speaking in different kinds of** _____.*
1 Corinthians 12:28

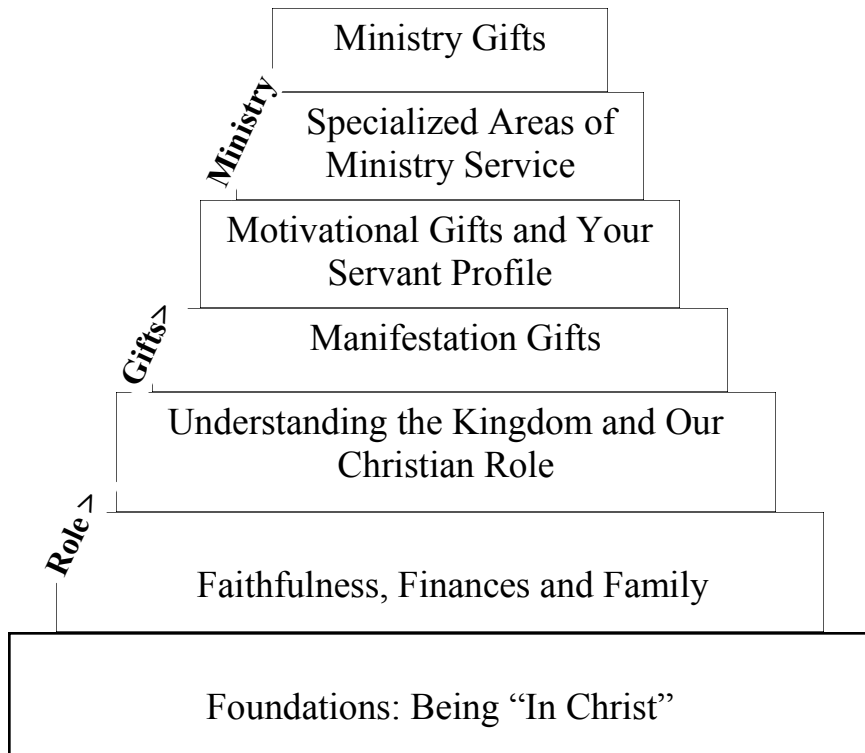
3. Kinds of working, verse 6 (Greek: Energamaton). Meaning: Activities (manifested by God). This category describes **Gifts of Manifested Activities** listed in 1 Corinthians 12:6-8. To this list of gifts we are encouraged to “**earnestly desire**” (1 Corinthians 14:1). The implication is that these are accessible to all Christians. (Would Paul exhort us to earnestly desire something we could not receive?)

*To one there is given through the Spirit the _____, to another the _____ by means of the same Spirit, to another _____ by the same Spirit, to another _____ by that one Spirit, to another _____, to another _____, to another _____, to another **speaking in** _____, and to still another the _____.*

1 Corinthians 12:8-10

Moving Toward Maturity

This graphic is meant to depict the progression from faithfully serving in our Christian role to the experiencing of spiritual gifts to the eventual development of specialized areas of ministry service.



Gifts of the Spirit Three Categories

Manifestation Gifts (1 Corinthians 12:8-10)	Motivational Gifts (Romans 12:6-8)	Ministry Gifts (Ephesians 4:11) (1 Corinthians 12:28)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Word of Wisdom • Word of Knowledge • Faith • Gifts of Healings • Miracles • Prophecy • Discernment of Spirits • Tongues • Interpretation of Tongues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prophesying • Serving • Teaching • Encouraging • Giving • Leadership • Mercy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apostles • Prophets • Evangelists • Pastors • Teachers --- • Workers of Miracles • Those Having Gifts of Healing • Helps • Administration • Tongues

These three groups summarize an overview of the gifts specifically mentioned in the Bible. This may not be exhaustive, that is, there may be genuine gifts of the Spirit that do not appear on these lists. It seems that a case could be made for certain "gifts", such as, hospitality or intercessory prayer that are not specifically mentioned as gifts on these lists, therefore, leaving room for an expandable list approach to spiritual gifts. On the other hand, gifts such as intercession may in fact be a combination of gifts such as 'faith and mercy'.

Manifestation Gifts and the Kingdom of God

Let's take a deeper look at the manifestation gifts of 1 Corinthians 12:8-10. These gifts fit well with the general job description of the Christian or what we might call our 'Christian role'. This term describes the activities of which all Christians are to be involved. These are outlined in various areas of the Bible and include our moral conduct, good works, and the healing ministry of the Kingdom of God.

*Follow the way of love and **eagerly desire** spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy.*

Corinthians 14:1

Our motivation to eagerly desire spiritual gifts can be encouraged in several ways: We may experience the love of God and His compassion for people; we may in desperation acknowledge our total inability in the face of great difficulty, overwhelming need, or painful circumstances; or we may take the command at face value and obey. In any case as we begin to take the kingdom mandate* seriously we recognize both the incredible need of humanity and the great compassion of God for the world He loves. This then becomes the fertile soil for spiritual gifts to be given and received as we earnestly desire and cry out for God to visit his people.

*The term 'Kingdom mandate' is used here to describe the elements of ministry inherently in the message of the gospel of the Kingdom presented in the ministry of Jesus (Luke 4:18), carried on through the ministry of the disciples (Luke 9:1-6, 10:1-12) and commissioned (mandated) to the church in the passage known as the great commission (Matthew 28:19-20, and Mark 16: 16-18). These aspects of Kingdom ministry could be listed to include:

- Good News preachedrepent and believe
- Healing- Physical and emotional
- Expulsion of demons
- Raising the dead
- Declare the year of the Lords favor has come, now!

Outlined, the process may look like this:

1. We Accept the Kingdom mandate >
2. We begin the life of obedience>
3. We persevere in obedience knowing God's will and His love and faithfulness to His people>
4. We grow in wholehearted dependence on God and develop in our intimate relationship with Him>
5. Our confidence in knowing His heart increases and we experience His Kingdom!

Depending on how well this road is traveled, that is, true poorness of spirit developing in our soul (brokenness), we can expect powerful results: God's Kingdom coming! It is God's will that we live in this condition of dependence upon Him.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5:3

"Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom. Luke 12:32 NASB

Motivational Gifts

The next category of spiritual gifts have to do with our inner motivations, our 'bent' toward certain perspectives of service. You can learn more about these gifts in the study, "Your Servant Profile".

We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is _____, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is _____, let him serve; if it is _____, let him teach; if it is _____, let him encourage; if it is _____ to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is _____, let him govern diligently; if it is showing _____, let him do it cheerfully.

Romans 12:6-8

The Motivational Gifts Defined:

1. Prophecy: Declaring truth, insight. The ability to see where people or programs really are. The motivation to make motives right.

2. Serving: The motivation to demonstrate love by meeting practical needs and rendering assistance. The ability to see and do things that need to be done.

3. Teaching: The ability to impart knowledge and lead others into revealed truth. The motivation to search out and validate truth which has been declared.

4. Encouraging: The ability to encourage people to grow and to meet successfully the experiences of life. The motivation to stimulate the faith and personal growth of others.

5. Giving. Special sharing of material assets. The ability to meet needs by giving financial or material assets to encourage and to further the work of the ministry. The motivation to show love through material gifts.

6. Leadership: The ability to set goals in accordance with God's purpose for the future and to communicate these goals to others in such a way that they voluntarily and harmoniously work together to accomplish those goals for the glory of God.

7. Mercy: The ability to feel where people are and to identify with their need. The motivation to identify with and to relieve those who are in distress.

Here is a list of these ministries and a very brief description:

Apostle: Church planter and / or pioneer missionary. The scope of ministry is generally wider than one congregation and they operate with a special demonstration of the Spirit's power (2 Corinthians 12:12) as a foundational ministry to the church (Ephesians 2:20, 3:5).

Prophet: Also a foundational ministry according to Ephesians 2:20, 3:5. Prophets speak with a deep insight regarding Christ's activity in and to His Church.

- Agabus Acts 11:27-29

Evangelist: Focus on equipping the body to win the lost. Evangelists have a profound confidence in the message of the Gospel.

- Phillip Acts 8:5-13, 26-38, 21:8

Pastor: The shepherds of the flock. Pastors are to equip the church to mature and care for one another as they develop their character, gifts and calling.

- 1 and 2 Timothy

Teacher: Teachers have a specific gift to keep the Church Biblically sound. Their emphasis is on equipping in the Word of God.

- Paul was both a teacher and an apostle. 2 Timothy 1:11

Adding to the above list from 1 Corinthians 12:28 we have:

Worker of Miracles: A servant who is so profoundly and consistently used in this gift that he is identified with it in ministry service.

Those Having Gifts of Healing: A servant who is so profoundly and consistently used in this gift that he is identified with it in ministry service.

Those With the Gifts of Helps: The ability to invest the talents they have in the life and ministry of other members of the body of Christ, thus enabling the person helped to increase the effectiveness of his or her ministry.

Those With the Gift of Administration: The ability to understand clearly the immediate and long range goals of a particular unit of the Body of Christ, and to devise and execute effective plans for the accomplishment of those goals.

Those With the Gift of Various Kinds of Tongues: A servant who is so profoundly and consistently used in this gift that he is identified with it in ministry service.

Where do you see yourself in this process of answering the Kingdom mandate?

Yet to begin

Fully committed, no turning back, regularly engaged in it.

_____.

A Word on Faith

So called "faith" in God that does not gender greater and greater dependence on the Person of God and the Word of God and His sovereignty is not biblical faith. Our faith is based upon a dependent and intimate relationship with God. Principles and formulas that circumvent this aspect of Kingdom life undermine true faith and reintroduce a cruel form of legalism that does not reproduce the Spirit of Life in Christ. The true exercising of our faith should be developing humility, dependence and intimacy, not pride, independence and self sufficiency.

As we are faithfully serving in our Christian role, pursuing Christ likeness and the Kingdom of God, we will inevitably experience God's Spirit moving through us. This may not be immediate but as we continue to obey, presenting the good news, praying for the sick and oppressed, and living a lifestyle worthy of our Lord, God's Spirit will move through us!

The emphasis of faithfulness to our Christian role cannot be overstated. If we persevere we will experience the power of these gifts and see His Kingdom come exploding heaven's reality on earth here and now. If we become stalemated or retreat in unbelief and defeat we may not. Much of the church has become frozen in unbelief even developing various doctrinal approaches supporting a position that does not encourage our perseverance in these matters. We must throw off such weights and hindrances and look to Jesus the author and finisher of our faith and run the race he has set before us!!

John Wimber, founder of the Vineyard Christian Fellowship Movement describes this dynamic in dialogue with a discouraged 'novice' disciple.

Young disciple: "John, I've been praying for people to be healed and nothing seems to be happening. I'm discouraged and ready to quit. What should I do?"

John Wimber: "How many people have you prayed for?"

Young Disciple: "Maybe ten"

John Wimber: "Go back and continue to pray until you've prayed for two hundred people. Then come back and we will have something to talk about."

We must be willing to persevere in this arena! This is the bottom line to the above story.

There is enormous spiritual opposition attempting to keep God's people from believing in His power and desire to heal. To the Syro-Phoenician woman Jesus likened this healing power to "the children's bread" (Mark 7:27). And to His disciples and a listening crowd He said it was the Father's good pleasure to give us the Kingdom (Luke 12:32). We must believe and persevere in our believing!

Below is a brief description of these spiritual gifts and some examples of where they can be observed in operation in the Scripture.

Manifestation Gifts Defined

1. Word of Wisdom: Supernatural insight that helps a person see things from God's perspective, relating pieces of information or knowledge into relationally connected solutions.

- I Kings 3:16-28
- Woman caught in adultery John 8:1-11

2. Word of Knowledge: Supernatural, pieces of information given spontaneously by the Spirit to inspire faith, healing or truth.

To reveal sin:

- Woman at the Well John 4:7-25
- Ananias and Sapphira Acts 5:1-6

To reveal thoughts:

- Matthew 9:1-7

To provide healing:

- John 5:6

3. Faith: A supernatural, spontaneous surge of confidence that gives a person certain assurance that God is about to act through a word or action. It is both the irresistible knowledge of intervention at a certain point and the authority to effect this intervention through the power of the Holy Spirit.

- Peter walking on the water Matthew 14:28

4. Gifts of Healing: The supernatural enablement by the Holy Spirit that effects healing to the sick either through a one time event or incrementally in a process.

- Paralytic Luke 5:17-26 (faith and healing)
- Centurion's servant Luke 7:1-10

5. Miracles: The supernatural enablement that visibly and beneficially affects people or things in an extraordinary way.

- Wind and waves Mark 4:35
- Water into wine John 2:1-11

6. Prophecy: The supernatural enablement that allows people to speak the heart of God to His people.

- 1 Corinthians 14:3, 24-25

7. Discernment of Spirits: The spontaneous supernatural enablement that allows a person to know the spiritual origin of a person's actions or words, whether they are humanly, demonically, or divinely inspired.

- Discerning the Holy Spirit Matthew 16:17-20
- Human spirit John 1:43
- Demonic spirit Matthew 16:17-20, Acts 16:16-18

8. Tongues: The supernatural ability to speak to God in a language you have never learned.

- Speaking to God mysteries 1 Corinthians 14:2, Acts 2:11

9. Interpretation of Tongues: The supernatural ability to understand the meaning of a message in tongues.

- Interpretation vs. Translation 1 Corinthians 14:5

Christian Role > Gifts > Ministry

As one perseveres in Kingdom ministry, our 'Christian role', experiencing the flow of His power and gifts it may well be that certain 'gifts' from this group will appear more frequently and be more pronounced in their impact. This may be the indication that a special 'ministry' of service to the body is emerging. (See page 10 for an illustration of this process.)

"Appointed Ministries"

Ephesians 4:11, 1 Corinthians 12:28

The next category of gifts are people who have been uniquely called to a position of oversight for equipping God's people for the work of the ministry. (Ephesians 4:12) They will emerge through the ranks of the local church by:

- 1) Faithfully operating in their Christian 'role'
- 2) Growing in the general service and care of the people of God
- 3) With purity and sincerity of heart desiring this leadership role
(I Timothy 3:1, I Peter 5:2-4)
- 4) A growing recognition of giftedness from the individual, the church and church leaders. They are to grow as overseers of the local church and may be used in a wider scope of ministry as well. Future church planters, missionaries and other roles of servant leadership will emerge from this group of ministers.