

## V. The Gifts Of The Holy Spirit

### A. Definition:

Gift - a supernatural ability given by Christ through the Holy Spirit to the believer at the moment of salvation.

A talent is a natural ability a person is born with (Genesis 4:20-22). It may be in the area of music, speech, organization, etc. But no natural talent, however great it might be, can be used to glorify God until sanctioned by the Holy Spirit (Exodus 31:2-5).

Some talents are rejected by God as useless to the Lord's work and should be discarded by the Christian as dung (Philippians 3:4-9). [For example: A bartender gets saved. His "talent" is mixing drinks. God doesn't want that talent. It should be crucified. God will give him another gift.]

### B. Extent Of Spiritual Gifts

#### 1. Each Believer Possesses at Least One Spiritual Gift.

"For I would that all men were even as I myself. But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that." (1 Corinthians 7:7). See also 1 Corinthians 12:7,11 and 1 Peter 4:10.

But no believer possess all the gifts: "Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?" (1 Corinthians 12:29,30).

#### 2. Types of Gifts

##### a. Revelation gifts

Some gifts were given to the early church as a means of "revealing" truth. This was before the Bible was completed (they did not have the New Testament), so God confirmed the preaching with signs (Mark 16:20).

These revelatory gifts are listed in 1 Corinthians 12:7-11:

1. Word of Wisdom
2. Word of Knowledge (Acts 11:28)
3. Faith
4. Healing
5. Miracle Working
6. Prophecy
7. Discerning of Spirits
8. Tongues
9. Interpretation of tongues

1 Corinthians 13:8-10 tells us that these revelatory gifts shall fail, cease, and vanish away when that which is perfect (the Bible) is come. "Fail" means "to be rendered entirely useless or idle, to abolish." Particularly mentioned are prophecy, word of knowledge, tongues and, obviously, interpretation of tongues).

## **b. Edification gifts**

Edification gifts are used “For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:12). See also Ephesians 4:8, 11. These gifts are used to form the positions in the church. Those positions are:

1. Apostles (“one sent” – missionaries)  
See 1 Corinthians 12:28 and Ephesians 4:11.
2. Prophets/Preachers  
See 1 Corinthians 12:28 and Ephesians 4:11
3. Teachers  
See 1 Corinthians 12:28 and Ephesians 4:11.
4. Evangelists  
See Ephesians 4:11.
5. Deacons  
See 1 Timothy 3:10-13.
6. Elders  
See Acts 14:23, 15:22, 23; 16:4; 1 Timothy 5:17, Titus 1:5, and 1 Peter 5:1-5.

## **c. Ministerial gifts**

Ministerial gifts should be used to build up others and improve the church. These gifts are:

1. Faith  
See 1 Corinthians 12:9 and 13:2. Some have great mountain-moving faith.
2. Helps  
See 1 Corinthians 12:28. This is probably the most prominent gift.
3. Governments  
See Romans 12:8 and 1 Corinthians 12:28. The gift of ruling and organizing.
4. Ministering  
See Romans 12:7. Being a nurse to other’s needs; a servant.
5. Exhortation  
See Romans 12:8. Encouraging and warning others.
6. Giving  
See Romans 12:8. “Over and above” givers.
7. Mercy  
See Romans 12:8. The ability to show compassion and care.
8. Any talent that is sanctioned by the Holy Spirit to be used by the Lord to build His Church. As in the case of Bezaleel in Exodus 31:2-5.

## **3. The Abuse of Spiritual Gifts**

### **a. Neglect**

See 1 Timothy 4:14 and 2 Timothy 1:6.

### **b. Using the gift without love**

See 1 Corinthians 13:1-3.

### **c. Using the gift to put self in front of others**

See 1 Corinthians 14:4, 12, 16, 26.