

Crossroad of Truth

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Last Time

Gifts vs Talents
Spiritual Gifts - Miracles

Gifts vs Talents ¹

Spiritual Gifts

- Result of the Holy Spirit (Romans 12:3,6)
- Who: Christians
- Purpose: Glorify God * (1 Cor 12:7)
- Given graciously by God and cannot be earned

Talents

- Result of God, genetics, and environment
- Who: All
- Purpose: Glorify God, others and self
- Given graciously by God and can be earned

Spiritual Gifts ²

1. Miraculous Gifts

- Apostleship (1 Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 4:11)
- Tongues (1 Corinthians 12:10, 28, 30)
- Interpretation (1 Corinthians 12:10, 30)
- Miracles (1 Corinthians 12:10, 28)
- Healing (1 Corinthians 12:9, 28)

Spiritual Gifts

- Enablement
 - Team

Spiritual Gifts - Enablements

2. Enabling Gifts

- Faith (1 Corinthians 12:9)
- Discernment (1 Corinthians 12:10)
- Wisdom (1 Corinthians 12:8)
- Knowledge (1 Corinthians 12:8)

Spiritual Gifts - Enablements

2. Enabling Gifts

- **Faith (1 Corinthians 12:9)**
- Discernment (1 Corinthians 12:10)
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2. Spiritual Gifts - Enablements

Faith ³

Characterized by a strong, unshakeable confidence in God, His Word, His promises, and the power of prayer.

They are an inspiration and encouragement to fellow believers, exhibiting a confidence in God that shows in all that they say and do.

Often known to be quietly fearless and zealous for God.

Typically confident that all obstacles to the gospel and God's purposes will be conquered.

Can be more successful in promoting God's kingdom than preachers/teachers.

All believers have been given saving faith by God as the only means of salvation (Ephesians 2:8-9), but not all believers are given the spiritual gift of faith.

Spiritual Gifts - Enablements

2. Enabling Gifts

- Faith (1 Corinthians 12:9)
- **Discernment (1 Corinthians 12:10)**
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2. Gifts - Enablements

Discernment ⁴

God-given ability to distinguish between the truth of the Word and the deceptive doctrines propagated by Satan and his demons.

- Jesus said many would come in His name and deceive many (Matthew 24:4-5)

The gift of discernment is given to the Church to protect it.

They do not receive special messages from God. They use the Word of God to “test the spirits” to see which align or oppose with God.

Every born again* believer has a certain amount of discernment, which increases as the believer matures in the Spirit (Hebrews 5:13-14)

Any born-again believer who chooses to focus on the Word of God is spiritually discerning.

Spiritual Gifts - Enablements

2. Enabling Gifts

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- **Wisdom (1 Corinthians 12:8)**
- **Knowledge (1 Corinthians 12:8)**

2. Spiritual Gifts - Enablements

Word of Wisdom/Knowledge

Word of Wisdom

A person who can understand and speak biblical truth in a skillful way that applies it to relevant life situations

Word of Knowledge

Another speaking gift that involves understanding truth with an insight that only comes by revelation from God. They understand the deep things of God and the mysteries of His Word.

3. Spiritual Gifts - Team

3. Team Gifts

- Prophecy (Romans 12:6; Ephesians 4:11; 1 Corinthians 12:10, 28)
- Evangelism (Ephesians 4:11)
- Teaching (Romans 12:7; 1 Corinthians 12:28)
- Exhortation (Romans 12:8)
- Shepherding (Ephesians 4:11)
- Serving:(Romans 12:7; 1 Corinthians 12:28)
- Mercy-showing (Romans 12:8).
- Giving(Romans 12:8)
- Administration (Romans 12:8; 1 Corinthians 12:28)

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3. Spiritual Gifts - Team

Prophecy

The Greek word translates as "one who speaks out."

Boldly and fearlessly proclaiming God's truth.

A gift of proclamation ("forth-telling"), not prediction ("fore-telling").

Their primary functions

1. Share revelations from God to a local group of believers
(Ephesians 3:5)
2. Gave practical advice to the church
3. Spoke for God during foundations years of the church
(Ephesians 2:20)

3. Spiritual Gifts - Team

Prophecy

Whenever a person claims to be speaking for God (the essence of prophecy) the key is to compare what is said with what the Bible says.

If God were to speak through a person today, it would be in 100% complete agreement with what God has already said in the Bible. God does not contradict Himself.

- 1 John 4:1 - “Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”
- 1 Thessalonians 5:20-21- “Do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good.”

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3. Spiritual Gifts - Team

Evangelists

A preacher and teacher of the gospel and of Christ. Typically useful in groups and individuals.

A person given to the church who often travels from place to place to preach the gospel and call for repentance for the purpose of winning people to Jesus Christ.

Work can be carried out in places where Christ is not named or where there is an established group of believers trying to win a city for Christ.

Not all the evangelists were Apostles, but all the Apostles were evangelists.

Ephesians 4:11, Apostles come first and evangelists come third. So, evangelists are always seen in a subordinate role. It is clear that they continue the proclaiming ministry of the Apostles.

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3. Spiritual Gifts - Team

Teacher

Making clear the truth of God's Word with simplicity and accuracy.

Involves the analysis and proclamation of the Word of God, explaining the meaning, context and application to a person's life.

Given to the church to stay in a local congregation and minister to its practical needs by applying doctrine.

A person with natural talent to teach can teach just about anything, but a person with the spiritual gift of teaching teaches the content of the Bible. One without this gift can understand the Bible as they hear or read it, but they cannot explain it as one with the gift can.

Sometimes, in the New Testament, called an elder or overseer.

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3. Gifts - Team **Exhortation**

Also known as “encouragement”

Motivating others to action, application, and purpose

Translated from the Greek word *paraklésis*, which means “a call to one’s side.”

He or she can relate to others, in groups and individually, with understanding, sympathy, and positive guidance.

A person with the gift of encouragement can help another person move from pessimism to optimism.

A person with the spiritual gift of encouragement can use his gift in both public and private settings. Encouragement is useful in counseling, discipleship, mentoring, and preaching.

3. Spiritual Gifts - Team

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3. Spiritual Gifts - Team **Shepherding**

Overseeing, training, feeding, coaching/leading

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3. Spiritual Gifts - Team **Serving**

Providing practical help both physically and spiritually (Romans 12:7; 1 Corinthians 12:28).

Also referred to as “ministering”

The Greek word diakonian, from which we get the English “deacon,” means service of any kind, the broad application of practical help to those in need.

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3. Spiritual Gifts - Team

Mercy-showing ⁵

Closely associated with the gift of encouragement, the gift of mercy is obvious in those who are compassionate toward others who are in distress, showing sympathy and sensitivity coupled with a desire and the resources to lessen their suffering in a kind and cheerful manner.

In Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, one of the Beatitudes is “Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy” (Matthew 5:7). Mercy is what we express when we are led by God to be compassionate in our attitudes, words, and actions.

It is more than feeling sympathy toward someone; it is love in action.

Mercy desires to answer the immediate needs of others and alleviate suffering, loneliness, and grief. Mercy addresses physical, emotional, financial, or spiritual crises with generous, self-sacrificial service. Mercy is a champion of the lowly, poor, exploited, and forgotten and often acts on their behalf.

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3. Spiritual Gifts - Team **Gift**

Gifted givers are those who joyfully share what they have with others: financial, material, or the giving of personal time and attention.

The giver is concerned for the needs of others and seeks opportunities to share their resources with them as the need arises.

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3. Spiritual Gifts - Team Administration⁶

Considered a “team gift” because it thrives when called to organize people to accomplish an objective.

God gives some this gift to organize those with other gifts and keep the church functioning at its best.

Administrators are typically excellent delegators.

They seem to sense who would handle a project well and don't mind calling people and recruiting volunteers for projects they believe in.

Depending on their personalities or leadership styles, administrators tend to gravitate toward either people or programs.

- Extroverted - thrive when working with people (relational)
- Introverted - thrive behind the scenes: planning events and organizing (project oriented)

The Most Important Thing Above Any Gift

LOVE

“..., but have not love, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.” (1 Cor 13:2-3)

Test

Is a gift is from Spirit or not?

1 Cor 12:3

3 Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.

1. If anyone ministers a gift, what do they say about Jesus? What do they say about Christ? Anyone who says that Jesus is accursed is not speaking of the Holy Spirit
2. When someone comes to you and with all of his mind, all of his heart, and all of his being, says, "Jesus is Lord," you know that is of the Holy Spirit.

Why Should I Use My Gifts?

1 Cor 15:58

58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

1 Peter 4:7-11

7 But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers. 8 And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.” 9 Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. 10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11 If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

ALL

All Christians are to play an active part in furthering the gospel of Christ. All are called and equipped to be involved in the “work of the ministry” (Ephesians 4:12). All are gifted so that they can contribute to the cause of Christ out of gratitude for all He has done for them. In doing so, you will find fulfillment in life through your labor for Christ.

There is one thing that is abundantly clear - God commands all Christians to witness and disciple (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8). We are all called to evangelize whether or not we have the spiritual gift of evangelism. A determined Christian who strives to learn the Word and develop his teaching ability may become a better teacher than one who may have the spiritual gift of teaching, but who neglects the gift.

Discussion Questions

1. Do you have a testimony of witnessing a spiritual gift in action?
How did it glorify God?
2. Can you think of someone who has the gift of x, y, z?