
DOCTRINE CLASS

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

I. DEFINITION

*A spiritual gift is any ability that is empowered by the Holy Spirit and used in any ministry of the church.*¹

II. BIBLICAL BACKGROUND

1. Limited OT expressions

2. The Ministry of Jesus – Jesus comes in the greater new covenant power of the Holy Spirit

Luke 3:21-22 ESV

21 Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened,

22 and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

Luke 4:1 ESV

1 And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness

¹Grudem, W. A. (1994). *Systematic theology : An introduction to biblical doctrine* (1016). Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, Mich.: Inter-Varsity Press; Zondervan Pub. House.

Luke 4:14 ESV

14 And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country.

Luke 4:15ff – Jesus teaches with great authority (claiming to be the fulfillment of Isaiah 61) and ministers in the power of the Holy Spirit.

3. Limited Ministry by Immediate Disciples (the 12 and 70)

See Luke 10:1-12

4. Pentecost

Acts 1:8 ESV

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Acts 2:1-4 ESV

1 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.

2 And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.

3 And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 2:28-29 ESV

28 You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

29 “Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.

Acts 2:32-33 ESV

32 This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses.

33 Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.

III. PURPOSE

1. Why the gifts continue...

1 Corinthians 1:7 ESV

7 so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ,

1 Corinthians 13:10 ESV

10 but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away.

1 Corinthians 13:8-9 ESV

8 Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.

9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part,

Acts 1:8 ESV

8 *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*"

Acts 2:38-39 ESV

38 And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

39 For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."

1 Corinthians 14:1 ESV

1 Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.

2. Purpose: To equip the church (that the church might be equipped with power/God given ability)

*Spiritual gifts are given to equip the church to carry out its ministry until Christ returns.*²

1 Corinthians 12:3 ESV

3 Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus is accursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:7 ESV

7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

²Grudem, W. A. (1994). *Systematic theology : An introduction to biblical doctrine* (1018). Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, Mich.: Inter-Varsity Press; Zondervan Pub. House.

1 Corinthians 14:12 ESV

12 So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.

Ephesians 4:12 ESV

12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

3. Purpose: Partial Foretastes

1 Corinthians 13:10 ESV

10 but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away.

2 Corinthians 5:5 ESV

5 He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

2 Corinthians 1:22 ESV

22 and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

Ephesians 1:14 ESV

14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

IV. GIFT LISTS: SIX NT PASSAGES

1 Corinthians 12:28

1. apostle⁸
2. prophet
3. teacher
4. miracles
5. kinds of healings
6. helps
7. administration
8. tongues

⁸Strictly speaking, to be an apostle is an office, not a gift (see Grudem chapter 47, pp. 905–12, on the office of apostle).

1 Corinthians 12:8–10

- 9. word of wisdom
- 10. word of knowledge
- 11. faith
- (5). gifts of healing
- (4). miracles
- (2). prophecy
- 12. distinguishing between spirits
- (8). tongues
- 13. interpretation of tongues

Ephesians 4:11⁷

- (1). apostle
- (2). prophet
- 14. evangelist
- 15. pastor-teacher

Romans 12:6–8

- (2). prophecy
- 16. serving
- (3). teaching
- 17. encouraging
- 18. contributing
- 19. leadership
- 20. mercy

1 Corinthians 7:7

- 21. marriage
- 22. celibacy

1 Peter 4:11

- whoever speaks (covering several gifts)
- whoever renders service (covering several gifts)³

⁷This list gives four kinds of persons in terms of offices or functions, not, strictly speaking, four gifts. For three of the functions on the list, the corresponding gifts would be prophecy, evangelism, and teaching.

³Grudem, W. A. (1994). *Systematic theology : An introduction to biblical doctrine* (1020). Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, Mich.: Inter-Varsity Press; Zondervan Pub. House.