

# Gifts of the Holy Spirit

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## I. Definition

- A. Words used to describe it
  - 1. *Pneumatikon*--Things pertaining to the Spirit
  - 2. *Charismaton*--Gift, that which is given (Rom. 1:11; 5:15-16; 6:23; 11:29; 12:6; 1 Cor. 1:7; 7:7; 12:4, 9, 28, 30-31; 2 Cor. 1:11; 1 Tim. 4:14; 2 Tim. 1:6; 1 Pet. 4:10).
- B. "Extraordinary powers, distinguishing certain Christians and enabling them to serve the church of Christ, the reception of which is due to the power of divine grace operating in their souls by the Holy Spirit," Thayer, *Greek/English Lexicon*, p. 667.

## II. Description

- A. The greatest gift of God is salvation in Jesus (Rom. 5:15-16; 6:23).
- B. Given by God through the Spirit (1 Cor. 12:6-7), and sometimes through the laying on of hands of the Apostles (Acts 6:6 [cf. 6:8 & 8:6]; Acts 8:17-19; 19:6; Rom. 1:11; 2 Tim. 1:6) or even the laying on of the hands of the Elders (1 Tim. 4:14), [Note: The gift in this case was not identified as a gift of the Spirit].
- C. "God's gifts and his call are irrevocable," (Rom. 11:29).
- D. The gifts are like parts of a body; each has a different gift which is to be used for the benefit of the whole (Rom. 12:4-6; 1 Cor. 12:4-31). They are to be used for serving others (1 Cor. 12:7; 14:26; 1 Pet. 4:10), not primarily for pleasing oneself.
- E. There is a hierarchy of gifts (1 Cor. 12:28, 31; 14:5, 19) but all gifts are important (1 Cor. 12:14-26).
- F. We are to seek greater gifts (1 Cor. 12:31). Love is greater than all gifts (1 Cor. 13).
- G. Everyone has some spiritual gift (1 Cor. 12:7, 11, 27).

## III. List of Gifts

[NOTE: Numbers 1-10 do not involve the miraculous in terms of altering natural events. Numbers 11-16 do involve the miraculous and some Christians, therefore, have questioned whether they still exist, based on 1 Cor. 13:8-10 and Eph. 2:20-22.]

- A. **Teaching** (Rom. 12:7; 1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11), the explanation and application of truth.
- B. **Ministering** (Rom. 12:7; 1 Cor. 12:28), helping people by meeting their needs; it is expressed in a multitude of ways.
- C. **Administration** (Rom. 12:8; 1 Cor. 12:28), Oversight and execution of church affairs.
- D. **Evangelist** (Eph. 4:11), special ability at presenting the gospel to the unsaved. It appears to be a leadership office of the church (Acts 21:8; 2 Tim. 4:5). Note: This does not remove each Christian's responsibility to share his faith.
- E. **Pastor** (Eph. 4:11), that is, a shepherd who cares for, protects, leads and feeds the flock.
- F. **Exhortation** (Rom. 12:8), involves encouragement, comfort, admonishment and entreaty. It is "practical preaching" which calls for action.
- G. **Giving** (Rom. 12:8), a special ability and willingness to use temporal means for the good of the church.

- H. **Mercy** (Rom. 12:8), providing comfort for sick, afflicted, outcasts, etc.
- I. **Faith** (1 Cor. 12:9), the ability to take God at his word, to trust him in daily needs and trials.
- J. **Discerning Spirits** (1 Cor. 12:10), this is apparently insight into another's spirit--motives, attitude, purpose. The ability, through the H.S. to distinguish whether a person is honest or deceitful, good or bad, pure or impure.
- K. **Apostle** (1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 2:20; 4:11), one sent out with a commission.
  - 1. Primary reference to the 12 only (Mat. 10:2; Acts 1:20-26), who would sit on 12 thrones and judge the 12 tribes of Israel (Lk. 22:30), and whose names will be written on the 12 foundations of the New Jerusalem (Rev. 22:14).
  - 2. Paul was a special Apostle to the Gentiles (Rom. 11:13).
  - 3. Others are also called apostles who received a special commission from the church--Barnabas (Acts 14:14); James (Gal. 1:19; 1 Cor. 15:7); Apollos (1 Cor. 4:6, 9); Sylvanus and Timothy (1 Thess. 1:1; 2:6); Andronicus and Junia (Rom. 16:7); Epaphroditus (Phil. 2:25, in Gk.); Unnamed brothers (2 Cor. 8:23, in Gk.). These, however, are not likely the gift of Apostleship.
- L. **Prophecy** (Rom. 12:6; 1 Cor. 12:10, 28; 14:1-40), speaking forth a message directly received from God.
- M. **Miracles** (1 Cor. 12:28), the ability to alter natural events. This is the first of the "lesser" gifts according to (a) the word order and (b) the word "then" (*epeita*).
- N. **Healing** (1 Cor. 12:9, 28, 30), the ability to restore health to a person's body.
- O. **Tongues** (1 Cor. 12:28), the ability to speak in a language which one has never studied or learned.
- P. **Interpretation of tongues** (1 Cor. 12:10, 30; 14:26-28), the ability to translate an unlearned language into your native language.