

What are the Spiritual Gifts & their purpose?

Opening

Romans 1:11-12

11 I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong— 12 that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith.

1 Cor 12:1-11

Concerning Spiritual Gifts

12 Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. ²You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. ³Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. ⁵There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

⁷Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues,^[a] and to still another the interpretation of tongues.^[b] ¹¹All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

Looking at:

What does Spiritual Gift mean?

What is the purpose of spiritual gifts?

What are the spiritual gifts?

Natural abilities vs Spiritual Gifts.

What is my gift/s

What if the gifts aren't used?

Cessationism / Continuity v Discontinuity

What gifts do we see at work among us in Creswick?

What does Spiritual Gift mean?

Spiritual.

It is not natural.

Unbeliever can't possess (spiritually dead)

From the holy spirit, therefore they are supernatural.

Gifts.

They are given to us. Like our salvation, they aren't earned.

1 Cor 12:11

¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

A role of the Holy Spirit to distribute. Trinity Jesus = atoning death. Spirit distributes gifts.

Something that a person with the holy **spirit** possesses as a **gift** from the Holy Spirit.

What is the purpose of spiritual gifts?

Some scripture highlighting purpose:

1 Cor 12:7

7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given **for the common good**

1 Cor 14:

3 But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their **strengthening, encouraging and comfort**. 4 Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves, but the one who prophesies **edifies the church**. 5 I would like every one of you to speak in tongues,[b] but I would rather have you prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues,[c] unless someone interprets, so that the **church may be edified**.....
.....12 So it is with you. Since you are eager for gifts of the Spirit, try to excel in those that **build up the church**.

.....26 What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the **church may be built up**.

1 Peter 4:10-11

10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to **serve others**, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

Ephesians 4:11-16

11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip his people for works of service, **so that the body of Christ may be built up** 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Romans 1:11-12

11 I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to **make you**

strong— 12 that is, that **you and I may be mutually encouraged** by each other's faith.

What theme of purpose do we see among these verses?

Spiritual gifts are for strengthening, building, encouraging, serving, edifying the body.

Not primarily for personal benefit.

Let's look again at:

Romans 1:11-12

11 I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong— 12 that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith.

'Impart' here doesn't mean give them a gift, but to give them the benefits of his (Paul's) gift. Share. Exercise his gift.

Q: Why is Paul wanting to impart/share his gift? A: "To make you strong".

Q: What other function do we see here? A: mutual encouragement. Paul & the church.

"Faith to strengthen Faith." (I like this simple concept)

A gift is only something that can come from someone with faith, to strengthen someone's faith.

An expression of your faith which aims to strengthen someone else's faith.

"Faith?" Faith, belief, trust, people who rely on God, walk with God, love God.

Spiritual gifts are coming from someone who believes, trusts, loves, relies on God to strengthen someone else who believes, trusts, loves, relies on God.

What are the spiritual gifts?

Fruit of the spirit – Galatians definitive list.

But the list of Spiritual gifts seems more random and ambiguous.

Gifts among scripture.

1 Cor 12

7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 8 To one there is given through the Spirit a **message of wisdom**, to another a **message of knowledge** by means of the same Spirit, 9 to another **faith** by the same Spirit, to another gifts of **healing** by that one Spirit, 10 to another **miraculous powers**, to another **prophecy**, to another **distinguishing between spirits**, to another speaking in different kinds of **tongues**,^[a] and to still another the **interpretation of tongues**.

27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. 28 And God has placed in the church first of all **apostles**, second **prophets**, third **teachers**, then **miracles**,

then gifts of **healing**, of **helping**, of **guidance**, and of different kinds of **tongues**.

Rom 12

6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is **prophesying**, then prophesy in accordance with your[a]faith; 7 if it is **serving**, then serve; if it is **teaching**, then teach; 8 if it is to **encourage**, then give encouragement; if it is **giving**, then give generously; if it is to **lead**,[b] do it diligently; if it is to show **mercy**, do it cheerfully.

1 Peter 4:

10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 11 If anyone **speaks**, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone **serves**, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 4:11-13

11 Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. 12 Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. 13 This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

Summary:

Message of wisdom

Message of knowledge

Faith

Healing

Miraculous powers

Prophecy

Distinguishing between spirits

Tongues

Interpretation of tongues

Apostles

Teachers

Helping

Guidance

Serving

Encouragement

Giving

Lead

Mercy

Pastors? ('Office' / 'Gift'? Eph 4)

Evangelists?

Bolded are ones that appear multiple times.

Everything is spiritual

Notice that only a few of the spiritual gifts appear 'spiritual' / supernatural / miraculous (healing, prophecy vs helping, encouragement).

Helping and encouragement unbelievers can do – yet these are all equally spiritual activities.

Acts 6

- Wait on tables
- Men full of faith.

Explantion (some)

Healing

- Someone who God uses to supernaturally heal people of disease & sickness.

Teaching

- Gifted at teach the bible.
- The body is encouraged and built up.
- People without this gift can read and understand it, but can't communicate God's word in a powerful way that teachers can.

Encourage

- Someone who is gifted at encouraging people in their faith.
- You may have seen bad examples of this. Someone throws a bible verse at you like a quick fix for your spiritual struggles. She'll be right, God loves you.
- Remember the purpose? Not encouraged, then prob not their gifting.

Exhaustive list?

- I speculate bible exhaustive list?
- Seems a very informal listing scattered throughout.
- If the purpose is to strengthen others faith then there may be others (eg. Song leading).
- Hesitant to make this claim lest I add to the bible!

Accordance with the Holy Spirit.

1 Cor 12

12 Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. 2 You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. 3 Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the

If you are wondering whether a spiritual gift is being exercised it must be in accordance with the spirit. It must be biblical. Eg. "Jesus be cursed".

God told me to tell you it's ok for you to leave your wife for another woman....

A spiritual gift can't contradict the Holy spirit / God's word.

Natural abilities vs Spiritual Gifts.

I'm great at juggling beetroots.

- We all have natural abilities / skills /talents. (Josie dancing, Heather cooks great food, Jacqui's organizer, Ian wood work)
- Drawing / art. Always B4 saved.
- Is it a spiritual gift? No – it's certainly a gift from God.
- Purpose. Faith to faith. Then this is not my spiritual gift, atleast as unsaved.
- However if I use this talent for the benefit of other's faith then maybe it is operating as a spirutal gift. Faith to faith.

Piper:

Many unbelievers have great abilities in teaching and in administration, for example. And these abilities are God-given, whether the people recognize this or not. But these would not be called "spiritual gifts" of teaching or administration because they are not expressions of faith and they are not aiming to strengthen faith. Our faith in the promises of God is the channel through which the Spirit flows on his way to strengthening the faith of others (Galatians 3:5). Therefore, no matter what abilities we have, if we are not relying on God and not aiming to help others rely on him, then our ability is not a "spiritual gift." It is not "spiritual" because the Holy Spirit is not flowing through it from faith to faith.

This has tremendous implications for how we choose church staff and church officers and board members. It means that we will never simply ask, "Who has the skill to be efficient?" We will always go beyond that and ask, "Do they use their skill in such a way that you can tell it is an expression of their hearty reliance on the Lord? And do they exercise their skill with a view to strengthening the faith and joy of others?" A church where the Holy Spirit is alive and powerful will be a church very sensitive to the difference between natural abilities and spiritual gifts.

Invisible gifts.

Although there may be overlap between natural talent, I suspect some spiritual gifts are independent of our natural abilities & would never be realized until we were spiritually alive.

What is my gift/s

You have a gift!

1 Peter 4:10

10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

Everyone has a gift. Prob more than one!

No label no good?

- If you don't know your gift it doesn't mean you're not using it.
- Skateboarding. Amnesia. Forgot my name. I don't stop being Sam.
- If you have encouraged, edified, built up someone in their faith, then you have used a spiritual gift. Even no label.

Helpful to know the label/ title, but more important that we are building each other up.

Don't limit yourself

Don't limit ourselves in serving only that way. I'm a 'teacher', so I don't need to help pack up chairs...

Goal to strengthen other's faith.

How to discover your gift/s?

- How have you strengthened someone else faith?

OR

- Others are probably the best judge of your gift.
- The results of operating spiritual gifts is the strengthening of others faith – so they will know your gift more than you.

Examples:

- Maybe you know someone is having a rough time & you desire to share God's love by making them some food, maybe your gift is serving/ helping/ encouraging.
- Maybe you notice someone struggling & you get alongside them to listen and help. Mercy/ encouragement?
- Maybe you are passionate about sharing God's word & discover people are encouraged when you speak. Gift of teaching.
- Maybe you have a strong sense that God has a message for someone – prophesy / message of wisdom or knowledge?
- Maybe you have a heart to mow someone's lawn, or pack up chairs, or cook someone a meal – 'helps' / service.

Humility

Romans 12:3-6

3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly

than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.....We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.

- We are to be humble with our gift. It's a gift! Not by our own effort.
- Lets not be proud or misuse our gifting.

Cessationism / Continuity v Discontinuity

I don't want to dwell on this, but mention.

Disagreeance among Christians. Unsure of my view.

Signs gifts: Healing, tongues, prophecy

Many think they were for a time. To establish or validate God's people/ work.
Just as Jesus established he was divine by his miracles.

Please note, Cessationists don't doubt God's power, or ability to work these miracles today. They just hold the view that the specific gifting of these to people as gifts has ceased.

What gifts do we see at work among us in Creswick?

Who has strengthened your faith & by what means?
Something said, pray with you, helped you, taught you something?

I personally see the gifts of teaching, serving, helping, worship leading among us.

More personal note.

- Years ago trying to conceive Winter.
- Yol gave us an encouraging word from God. She knew nothing of our infertility or that we were even trying. Purely supernatural. Without a doubt.
- Gift: Probably prophesy, word of knowledge. Wisdom.
- Purpose: Encouraged & perserverance.

Sometime people don't know when they've been an encouragement to you.

Be encouraged to tell someone when they've strengthened your faith – help them discover their gift.

End

Romans 1:11-12

11 I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong— 12 that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith.