

Gifts of the Spirit Part 1

The Spirit within yields fruit: When you get saved the Holy Spirit comes to live within you (1 John 3:24, 4:13). This same Spirit will enable you to produce the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22) love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. These 9 fruits are the result of being full of the spirit and are **attributes** that should characterize every Christian. You don't need gifting or work to yield fruit. Fruit is produced as it develops (Mark 4:28 first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear). Matt 7:16-20 you are known by your fruit. The more you yield to the Holy Spirit the more fruit you will have.

At salvation you are given a spiritual gift. 1 Cor 12:7 says the manifestation (an indication of the existence, reality, or presence of something) of the Spirit is given to **each one** for the benefit of all. Notice the gift is manifested which is an indication of the reality of something. Just as the Spiritual attributes can be seen operation of the Spiritual gifts can be seen!

We notice in verses 1 Cor 12:29-30 that **everyone has their own gift**. It's not like the fruit of the Spirit where everyone has the grace to produce the **same** characteristics.

There are three sections of Scripture that mention or lists gifts given to believers; Eph 4:7-12, 1 Cor 12:4-11 & Rom 12:3-8

Why should we know about Spiritual Gifts? Wouldn't it be easier to pretend they don't exist? 1 Cor 12:1 We are instructed not to be ignorant (not to know or understand) of spiritual gifts.

Scripture says we should covet them! We are told many times in Scripture to not covet things (it is the last of the 10 Commandments) but there is one thing we are told to covet – spiritual gifts! Covet means to earnestly desire. 1 Cor 14:1 tells us to desire spiritual gifts and 1 Cor 12:31 tells us to earnestly desire the best gift. What is the best gift? The one you need in the moment. For example of someone is sick the gift of prophecy won't help.

What is a gift? Something that is bestowed voluntarily and without compensation.

Why do we need the gifts in operation? Mark 16:20, Heb 2:4, 1 Cor 2:4-5

Some gifts are given for the correct operation of the Church. Eph 4:11-12 Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers for the purpose of equipping the saints.

Some gifts are for the ministry of the saints. Rom 12:6-8 prophecy, ministry, teaching, exhortation, giving, leading and mercy.

1 Cor 12:4-6 we see there are diversities of gifts, diversities of ministries (administrations) and diversities of activities (operations). Diversities means different. What is the same? It is the same God that works all in all (vs 6).

The different ministries or administrations are listed in 1 Cor 12:28 apostles, prophets, teachers, miracles, gifts of healings, helps, administrations and varieties of tongues.

The different spiritual gifts are listed in 1 Cor 12:8-10 word of wisdom, word of knowledge, faith, healings, working of miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, tongues and interpretation of tongues. Notice there are 9 spiritual gifts just like there are 9 fruits of the spirit. Isn't God a marvelous God of order?

Are the gifts for today? 1 Cor 13:8-10 shows the gifts will vanish away when that which is perfect comes. The word translated from the Greek means brought to its end, finished, wanting nothing necessary to completeness. It is used in Matt 5:28 to refer to God. The same root work is used in Heb 5:9 and Luke 13:32 referring to Jesus. So 1 Cor 13 is telling us when Jesus comes there will be no need for the gifts. We know knowledge has not passed away. In fact, Daniel 12:4 shows knowledge will increase in the end-times. So if knowledge hasn't passed away yet neither have the Spiritual gifts. Can we expect them to operate? God is the same yesterday today and forever. As evil is waxing stronger and stronger in our day (2 Tim 3:13) I would say the gifts are needed now more than ever!

Remember who gives the gift 1 Cor 12:11 – the Holy Spirit gives as He wills the power (works). So He gives the gift and He gives the power to operate the gift.

The motivation for using the gifts should always be love (1 Cor 13:1-3). Much harm has come when people use their gifts for selfish gain.