**Gifted for Ministry**

**Spiritual Gifts overview**

In the Old Testament only select people were empowered by the Holy Spirit for spiritual service. However, in the New Testament every believer is gifted to serve in the body of Christ, the church.

**Key words related to spiritual gifts**

Charisma – grace gifts – Rom. 12:6, Eph. 4:7, 1 Pet 4:10

Pneumatikos – spiritual gifts – 1 Cor. 12:1; 14:1 – spiritual gifts for a spiritual purpose

Merismos – distribution of gifts from God – Heb. 2:4

**Overview of spiritual gifts in the New Testament**

There are seven lists in the New Testament. No two lists are identical, they are representative not exhaustive lists.

See attached chart

1. Salvation is a charisma gift, an undeserved gift by God’s grace – Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:8; Tit.2:11
2. The Holy Spirit is a charisma gift, an underserved gift by God’s grace given to every believer – Rom. 5:5; 1 John 3:24
3. At salvation believers are baptized with the Holy Spirit and gifted for ministry
4. God determines the gifts of the Spirit given to individual believers
5. Spiritual gifts are not the same as natural talents given at human birth – 1 Cor. 12:11
6. Spiritual gifts do not make believers spiritually mature – 1 Cor. 14:20. Christlikeness is the highest priority – Col. 1:28
7. Every believer is given spiritual gifts without exception
8. The good of the church is based on the individual gifts of believers – 1 Cor. 12:7, 1 Pet.4:10
9. Spiritual gifts are to be used in love – 1 Cor. 13:8,13
10. Believers are to use their spiritual gifts as an obligation and responsibility to the Lord and His church
11. The primary purpose of ministry gifts is for the building up of the church – 1 Cor. 14: 4-5,12,17,26: Eph. 4: 12 -13
12. The believers exercise of their spiritual gifts glorifies God – 1 Pet. 4:11

**Apostolic temporary spiritual gifts – permanent ministry spiritual gifts**

The spiritual gifts of the apostles ceased with the apostles and permanent spiritual gifts continue to the end of the church age.

1. Two lists of gifts focus on temporary gifts – 1 Cor 12:8 -10;13: 8-9
2. Two lists focus on permanent – ministry gifts – Rom. 12:6-8; 1 Pet 4:10 -11
3. Three of the lists mix Apostolic temporary gifts and permanent ministry gifts 1 Cor. 12:28 -30; 13: 1-3; Eph. 4:11
4. Apostolic temporary spiritual gifts were given to confirm God’s messengers as they preached the gospel.
5. Apostolic temporary spiritual gifts were given to authenticate that God’s messengers and the gospel come from God. They use gifts like Jesus in His ministry.

Acts 2:22; 2:43; 5:12; 2 Cor. 12:12; Heb. 2: 3 – 4

**The 8 Apostolic temporary spiritual gifts**

1. Apostle – 1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11
2. Distinguishing between Spirits – 1 Cor. 12:10
3. Healing – 1 Cor. 12:9, 28, 30
4. Miracles – 1 Cor. 12:28
5. Tongues – 1 Cor. 12:10,28; 13:1
6. Interpretation of tongues – 1 Cor. 12:10, 30; 14:26 -28
7. Utterance of knowledge – 1 Cor. 12:8; 13:2,8
8. Utterance of wisdom – 1 Cor. 12:8
9. Prophecy – 1 Cor. 12:20

**Essential Questions to remember**

1. Do believers receive only one gift?

Answer: Most likely each Christian has a unique blend of several gifts not just one exclusive gift

1. What do believers need to know about spiritual giftedness?

Answer:

* Salvation is a spiritual gift - Rom 6:23
* God’s Holy Spirit is a gift of salvation – Rom. 5:5, 1 John 3:24
* Every believer has received spiritual gifts – 1 Pet. 4:10
* God’s will determines the gifts given to each believer – 1 Cor. 12:11,18
* Spiritual gifts are diverse in order to accomplish God’s glory through the church
* Spiritual gifts do not necessarily indicate levels of spiritual maturity

1. How can Christians identify spiritual giftedness?

Answer:

* Believers should focus on the blend of their multifaceted gifts not any one gift
* Believers can accomplish great things when they serve using their spiritual gifts for the church
* Spiritual gifts are given to build, encourage and ministry to the church in her work of evangelism and discipleship
* Other believers can confirm the giftedness of believers in order to put them in the right ministries of the church

1. What should believers do with spiritual giftedness?

Answer: Use their gifts to build up the church & glorify God

1. What should believers avoid as they use their spiritual gifts?

Answer:

* Avoid self – edification rather than edification of others – 1 Pet. 4:10
* Avoid self – exercise rather than being Spirit exercised – 1 Pet 4:10
* Avoid self – exaltation rather than using one’s gits for the Glory of God

1 Pet. 4:10