

It's not our place to frame the Spirit but to be <u>defined</u> by the Spirit.

But Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born from water and the Spirit, you cannot enter God's kingdom. Human life comes from human parents, but spiritual life comes from the Spirit. John 3:5-6 (NCV)

• A spiritual gift is a God-given <u>ability</u> given to <u>all</u> Christians to effectively <u>serve</u> God in serving others.

It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have. 1 Corinthians 12:11

Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant... 1 Corinthians 12:1 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 NIV

A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. 1 Corinthians 12:7 (NLT)

• You have a spiritual gift that God has given you to serve others in the church.

Spiritual gifts are not:

- Natural talents.
- Given to an <u>elite</u> few.
- •Sign of spiritual maturity.

• Fruits of the Spirit.

Four different references in the New Testament that give us the lists of Gifts of the Spirit: Romans 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 12:7-11, Ephesians 4 and 1 Peter 4:10-12.

We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is <u>serving</u>, then serve; if it is <u>teaching</u>, then teach; if it is to <u>encourage</u>, then give encouragement; if it is <u>giving</u>, then give generously; if it is to <u>lead</u>, do it diligently; if it is to show <u>mercy</u>, do it cheerfully. Romans 12:6-8 (NIV)

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of <u>wisdom</u>, to another a message of <u>knowledge</u> by means of the same Spirit, to another <u>faith</u> by the same Spirit, to another gifts of <u>healing</u> by that one Spirit, to another <u>miraculous powers</u>, to another <u>prophecy</u>, to another <u>distinguishing between spirits</u>, to another speaking in different kinds of <u>tongues</u>, and to still another the <u>interpretation of tongues</u>. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines. 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 (NIV)

The gifts of the Spirit are not to be scary but gifts of <u>blessing</u>.

Why these gifts are important:

• Because every gift and everyone in the church is **important** to the church. Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and <u>we all belong to each other</u>. In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. I Corinthians 12:4-6 (NLT)

Because using my gifts keeps me <u>focused</u> on God and others.

Those of us who are strong and able in the faith need to step in and lend a hand to those who falter, and not just do what is most convenient for us. Strength is for service, not status. Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, "How can I help?" Romans 15:1-2 (MSG)

Because using my gifts allow me to glorify God.

God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 4:10-11 (NLT)

Action Steps:

Discover your gift.

"... eagerly desire spiritual gifts..." 1 Corinthians 14:1 (BSB)

• **Develop** your gift.

"... fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you..." 2 Timothy 1:6 (NLT)

Use your gift.

"Each of you should <u>use</u> whatever spiritual gift you have received to <u>serve others</u>, as faithful [managers] of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

"Do not neglect the spiritual gift that is in you..." 1 Timothy 4:14 (GNT)

The Holy Spirit gifted us to live a life of <u>significance</u>.

"Why is it that He gives us these special abilities to do certain things best? It is that God's people <u>will</u> be equipped to do better work for him, building up the church, the Body of Christ to a position of <u>strength and maturity...</u>" Ephesians 4:12 (TLB)



TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE In a growing relationship with Jesus.

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups: These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Why?
- Do you have any Ghost Stories about the Gifts of the Spirit? Do you have any fears of the Gifts of the Spirit?
- Do you know your Spiritual gift(s)?
- Do you think we have a tendency to frame the Spirit rather than being defined by the Spirit? Why?.
- · How are Spiritual Gifts designed to be a blessing?
- Why is every gift important to the church? How is your gift important?
- · How does using our gifts keep us focused on God and others?
- · How does using our gifts bring glory to God?
- If you haven't discovered your spiritual Gift what is holding you up? Come On!!
- How do you develop your Spiritual gift?
- How does using our spiritual gift allow us to live a life of significance?

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Discovering the Gifts of the Spirit



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