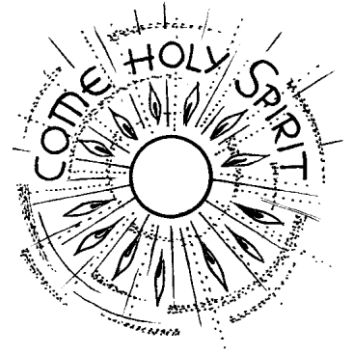




The Holy Spirit's Gifts for Service

1 Gifts are Gifts of Grace

- ❑ Romans 6:6; Ephesians 4:7
- ❑ Given to *each* one -God who decides! HE is Lord!
- ❑ Love is supreme - 1Cor 14:1, and 1Cor 13:2,3
- ❑ Unity is paramount Eph 4:3-6; 1 Cor 12:7



2 Gifts are for Service not status

- ❑ To build up the body - for the common good
- ❑ Definitely not just for clergy - thank God 😊
- ❑ To embody Jesus to the world
- ❑ But we have to find out what they are and then use them!

3 Gifts are God working – ‘manifestations’ of the Spirit

- ❑ No wedge between natural talents and spiritual gifts, but...
- ❑ Natural abilities given to each human become Spiritual gifts only when we use them under God's calling and anointing.
- ❑ The more 'supernatural' gifts only work well in a natural person!
- ❑ We may use them in the church and/or in the secular world.

4 Gifts are for everyone -what are yours?

Different gifts for different people *1Cor 12:7*

5 Gifts what sorts of things?

Various lists in the New Testament, they do not seem to be exhaustive. Some we often consider to be more 'natural' - like administration, music, hospitality, and craftsmanship - and some more 'supernatural' like speaking in tongues.

Many of those listed in the New Testament we also see in Jesus' own life and Spirit-filled ministry:

Remember

- They are to be used in love and to build people up, and in unity.
- They are an expected part of our church's life - St Paul says in 1 Cor 14:26- *"when you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church"*
- Always test words or pictures - do they honour Jesus? Are they in keeping with biblical teaching? Is order maintained?
- We can refuse to ask for these gifts or refuse to use them
– see 1 Peter 4:10; 1Thess 5:19

How do we find out what our gift(s) are?

Are we using them?

Look up Ask to be filled with the Holy Spirit
Ask for gifts (1 Cor 14:1).
Ask for 'Prayer ministry'.

Look in look at the bible, read the passages where it talks about gifts (there is a list at the bottom of this leaflet)
Try one of the 'gifts questionnaires' to help you – see overleaf

Look out ask others, see gifts in others and encourage them. House groups are a great place to ask

Look around try out gifts you think you have been given
House groups are a great place to try them out

Particular bible passages about the Holy Spirit:

- John chapters 14-16; Romans 8; Romans 12;
- 1 Corinthians chapters 12-14
- Acts of the Apostles, Luke 4

**Here are some of the Gifts of the Spirit mentioned in the bible.
Remember these are not exhaustive lists.**

From Romans 12

Prophecy
Service
Teaching
Encouraging
Giving/Sharing
Leadership
Administration
Showing kindness/mercy

From 1 Corinthians 12

Wisdom
Knowledge
Faith
Healings i.e. power to heal
Work miracles
Ability to distinguish between spirits
Tongues(a particular prayer language)
Interpretation of tongues
Helping

From Ephesians 4

Apostle
Evangelist
Pastor
Teacher

And some others:

1 Corinthians 7.7 - Celibacy
1 Peter 4.9- Hospitality
Matthew 10.1 - Exorcism
Exodus 31.6 - Crafts
- Music
1 Chronicles 26.1-7 - Art forms
Daniel 1.17;6.3 – Political leadership

Some comments about some gifts that may be less familiar.

Prophecy:

Sometimes hard to define, but includes:

- Forth telling speaking out about something often something that is wrong - classically in the bible, people like Amos or Isaiah. - But today too, perhaps social justice issue, usually using the bible's words.
- Foretelling as we see in Acts 11:28 - Agabus forecast about a famine and asks for money to be sent to another church to help them.
Or classically in the bible, the book of Revelation

The New Testament teaches that we may all prophesy, but some are specially called to be prophets. Prophecy can be to encourage, console, but it always needs testing, and always to be done in an orderly way.

Wisdom and knowledge

Sensed in the mind, it may be a word, or a picture that is often meant for a particular person or situation.

Biblical example: Jesus speaking to Nathaniel (John 2:47 ff) , or to the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4)

Modern day examples are very common where this gift is encouraged, and can be immensely helpful for guidance.

Healing

The Gospels and the New Testament are full of examples, and miraculous healing, (alongside all that is good in 'human' medicine) still goes on in UK churches, and especially across the world in China and Africa for example.

Tongues

St Paul teaches that this is a good gift for each of us to have, though by no means essential - Jesus did not appear to pray this way!

Basically it is a Prayer language; speaker in full control. Helps us pray to God from a deeper place than words alone can manage.

Also, tongues are occasionally used to express a prophecy or word from God, which then is only any use if someone else can interpret that tongue. Sometimes it comes out as a prayer in another language - as at Pentecost Day, and in modern day examples too.

Have a go at one or both of these short questionnaires

Gifting Exercise 1

Looking at the questions overleaf,
give yourself a mark on a scale 0-2 for each statement :

0 - If the statement does not apply to you.

1 - Sometimes applies to you.

2 - Usually applies to you.

Material from Diocese of Guildford

1. I enjoy explaining things to others.
2. I am a good listener.
3. I enjoy being with other people.
4. I worry about being treated unfairly.
5. I am a practical person.
6. I like to express myself artistically.
7. I enjoy being quiet.
8. I am able to get people to see things in a new light.
9. I am sensitive to other people's pain.
10. I spend time on service in the community.
11. I spend time working for justice.
12. I enjoy paying attention to detail.
13. I enjoy discovering how things work.
14. I like to spend time regularly just thinking about things.
15. I can communicate easily in public.
16. I often help people in need.
17. In groups, I often become a leader.
18. I have to speak about injustice in social, political or economic affairs.
19. I am good at administration.
20. I often have original ideas.
21. Meditation is important for me.
22. I believe God has called me to share what I believe with others.

23. I would like God to use me to bring healing to others.
24. I believe God is calling me to work with others towards peace and understanding.
25. I believe God is calling me to work for a more just society.
26. My part in making-things work is important to God's plan for the world.
27. I believe I am called to co-operate in God's creative work.
28. God makes himself known to me in silence.

Fill in score against each question number													
1		2		3		4		5		6		7	
8		9		10		11		12		13		14	
15		16		17		18		19		20		21	
22		23		24		25		26		27		28	
Total													
	A		B		C		D		E		F		G

Fill in your scores against each number, then add up the totals as they appear-at the bottom of each column. The highest score indicates, where your best gifts lie, and the lowest the areas in which you are probably not very competent!

The key to the various groups or types of gifts is below

- A TEACHING
- B CARING
- C BUILDING-COMMUNITY
- D SEEKING JUSTICE
- E MAKING THINGS WORK
- F CREATING
- G REFLECTING

Then look through the gifts mentioned previously...

Write down what you believe your gifts are and how you are using them in the church and in the world?

2 SPIRITUAL GIFTS SURVEY

- Choose one of the following responses and place the number next to the statement.
- Then add up the 4 questions in each section and put the total next to the spiritual gift.
- After you have finished the test, circle the top scores to give some clues towards finding your spiritual gifts.

- (1) Not me
 - (2) Rarely like me
 - (3) Sometime like me
 - (4) Usually like me
 - (5) That's ME every time!
-

___ I have dreamed things that have come true.

___ I am open and honest with others.

___ I recognize God speaking to me in different ways.

___ Sometimes I see visions from God when I am praying for a person.

Prophecy- able to hear God and deliver a message to others (Add the totals)

Total= _____

___ I love to work with my hands and help others out.

___ I love to help others, even with things like dishes or mowing.

___ I like to keep my room clean and organized.

___ It's hard for me to say no when people ask for my help.

Serving- Loves to support a cause through helping others (Add the totals)

Total= _____

___ I love to learn new facts and study different themes on my own.

___ I love to teach people about things they may have never heard about.

___ It's easy for me to speak and express my thoughts clearly.

___ I love explaining the whole story to people.

Teaching- Desires to learn and teach others what they have learned

Total = _____

People say I am a very happy person and I love to talk.

___ I like to tell people “good job”.

___ I have a very positive outlook on life.

___ I notice what people can do well and I tell them.

Encouraging- one who encourages and guides others towards the right path

Total=_____

___ Giving money or things to others make me feel very happy.

___ I like to create interesting gifts to give to people.

___ I like to plan ways to give to people in need.

___ I am good at making money and I don't mind giving it away.

Giving- you save and create in order to give to those who need (Add the totals)

Total=_____

___ I get a lot of joy from accomplishing a task.

___ I always want to be the best at everything I do.

___ I enjoy telling others what to do.

___ I love leading and organizing when I'm in a group.

Leadership- you are able to see a goal and direct others towards that goal

Total=_____

___ I get super sad when bad things happen to people.

___ I look for the good in people and ignore the bad parts about a person.

___ I enjoy peace and try to avoid conflict.

___ I love helping people know how to solve their problems.

Mercy- one who feels the compassionate heart of God towards others

Total=_____
