

Spiritual Gifts Definition:

Spiritual gifts are special abilities given by Christ through the Holy Spirit to empower believer to do ministries in the church and outside of it.

Special Abilities: “Special” here means out of the ordinary, or above normal. Gifts can take on many different forms. These “abilities” could also be called a strength, an enablement, an empowerment or a competency. People can have more than one spiritual gift. People often disagree about how many “special abilities” are referred to in the Bible because there are a different passages that talk about spiritual gifts. Some special abilities like teaching or administration seem to be mainly natural abilities. On the other hand, gifts like healing or miracles seem more supernatural. The truth is that all gifts have a natural and supernatural (spiritual) dimension. However, the balance in each case they are used may be different -things may shift toward the natural or toward the supernatural.

Given by Christ Through the Holy Spirit: Faith in Christ is required to get a spiritual gift. The Holy Spirit is working in you to hone and develop these gifts. This is important to remember so we can't get cocky or disappointed about the gifts that God gave us. We were given what we were given and are responsible for using them.

To empower the believer: Non-believers have God-given abilities as well. God provides all the abilities talents and skills that humans have. However, the Bible doesn't call the abilities of non-believers spiritual gifts. Probably because they aren't used for the work of ministry, the building of the church or to honor God.

To do ministries in the church and outside of it: Spiritual gifts are given to believers to help build up other believers. This may help make a church larger, but most often it refers to helping people realize who God created them to be. Spiritual Gifts can also be used to serve those outside of the church.

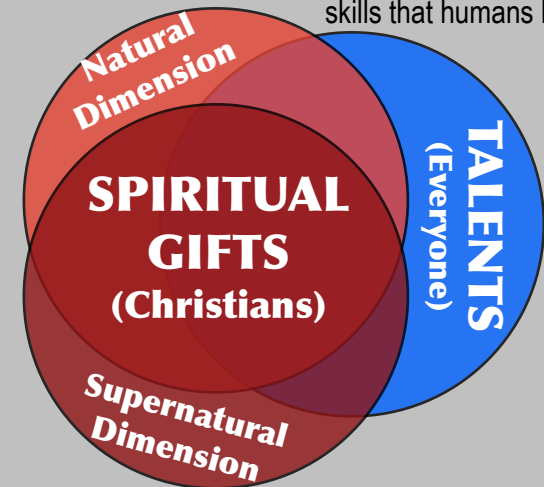
Spiritual Gifts Listed in Scripture:

- 1) Hospitality pg 88 (1 Pet. 4:8-11)
- 2) Serving (Service, Helping) pg 104 (1 Pet. 4:8-11 & Rom 12:4-8)
- 3) Teaching (Teachers) pg 108 (1 Pet. 4:8-11, Rom. 12:4-8 & Eph. 4:11-13)
- 4) Prophecy pg 101 (Rom. 12:4-8 Eph. 4:11-13 & 1 Cor. 13:4,)
- 5) Encouraging (Exhorting) pg 78 (Rom. 12:4-8)
- 6) Giving pg 83 (Rom. 12:4-8)
- 7) Leadership pg 94 (Rom. 12:4-8)
- 8) Mercy pg 97 (Rom. 12:4-8)
- 9) Evangelists pg 79 (Eph. 4:11-13)
- 10) Pastors / Shepherd pg 106 (Eph. 4:11-13)
- 11) Apostles (Brad's handout) (Eph. 4:11-13)
- 12) Creative Ability pg 73 (Exod 35:30-35)
- 13) Intercession pg 90 (Romans 8:26-27, James 5:16-18)
- 14) Message of Wisdom pg 114 (1 Cor 12:8)
- 15) Message of Knowledge pg 92 (1 Cor 12:8)
- 16) Faith pg 81 (1 Cor 12:9)
- 17) Healing pg 86 (1 Cor 12:9)
- 18) Discernment / Distinguishing b/w Spirits pg 75 (1 Cor 12:10)
- 19) Miraculous Powers pg 99 (1 Cor 12:10)
- 20) Speaking in / Interpretation of Tongues pg 111 (1 Cor 12:10)
- 21) Administration pg 71 (1 Cor 12:28)

Spiritual Gifts & Talents Overlap:

SPIRITUAL GIFT DIMENSIONS:

Some gifts seem to be mainly natural abilities or talents; others more supernatural. The truth is that all gifts have a natural and supernatural dimension. The balance of natural / supernatural in may be different in each case.



TALENTS: God provides all the abilities, talents & skills that humans have.