



Lesson 2-4: **The Equipment—Spiritual Gifts_____**

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

Mark 9:33-37

2 Timothy 2:20-21

At the moment of our salvation, the Holy Spirit equips each of us with a unique spiritual gift. Hidden in this gift are treasures God wants to give us in time and eternity. It is through our gift that we come to know God most intimately and that the world sees most clearly the evidence of God in us. God wants us to know, to understand, and to exercise our gift, because it is only through this that we can achieve the greatness for which He designed us.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. And there are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. (1 Cor. 12:4-6)

The Greek word translated "gift" is charisma, the root of which is *charis*, "grace." Spiritual gifts proceed from the grace of God. Each gift is as unique as the person to whom it is given, yet all gifts bear the stamp of the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit is the giver of the gifts and the power behind the exercise of the gifts, but He always works in the background, never bringing attention to Himself. His work is always to glorify the Son (John 16:14).

In the same way that the gifts are as unique as the recipients, so the outworkings of the gifts are as unique as the lives of the recipients. That outworking or "ministry" is from the word diakonos, "one who executes the commands of another." The

word was used for a servant or tablewaiter. In the exercise of our gift, we are the hands and feet of the Son of Man, who "came not to be served, but to serve" (Mark 10:45). The function of every gift is ministry, **servitude**—not forced labor, but willing service to the Lord Jesus Christ and for His glory.

When we serve in the filling of the Holy Spirit, there will be results, we will affect people. "Effects" here is from the Greek word for operational power. **Energeia**—from which we get the word "energy"^u—is used in the New Testament only of super-human power. It is a power that makes us efficient and effective in life, and when we are effective, God the Father is glorified.

But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Cor. 12:7)

Spiritual Gifts



“The Gift of the Spirit” and “Spiritual Gifts”

1. The phrase, “the gift of the Holy Spirit,” relates to salvation and has to do with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the believer’s relationship in God’s family (Acts 2:38-39).
2. The phrase “the gifts of the Holy Spirit” relates to service and has to do with the energizing or enabling power of the Holy Spirit and fellowship with God (1 Cor. 12:7, 11).
3. There can be no spiritual gifts until one possesses the gift of salvation and indwelling of the Holy Spirit. No one has a spiritual gift before salvation.

Each person's spiritual gift is a manifestation of something invisible—the power of the Holy Spirit. Though the power itself is invisible, the evidences of the power will be clearly seen. As Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3, we cannot see the wind, but when it blows, we can see its effects. The Spirit is the wind; we are the effects of the wind.

Spiritual Gifts and Unity

1. There is one Spirit who bestows all spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 12:4,7,11).
2. There is one Lord over all the gifts (1 Cor. 12:5). Out of the gift bestowed on each believer should come service, ministry. Because believers are the body of Christ, all service on the part of Christians is a continuation of the things that Jesus "began to do and to teach" when He was in the flesh on the earth (Acts 1:1).
3. There is one God who supplies the power and makes the gifts effective (1 Cor. 12:6). Ministry will produce results, effects. The Greek *energeo* is the root of two words used in 1 Corinthians 12:6: "effects" and "works." God is the power behind both.



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4. All gifts have one goal: to edify or build up the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:7; Eph. 4:12-13).
 5. All gifts work by one power and motivation, love (1 Cor. 13:1-3).

Description of the Gifts

1. A spiritual gift is divine enablement or capacity given to each believer for accomplishing some area of service for the edification of the body of Christ (Eph. 4:7-16).
2. Spiritual gifts are sovereignly bestowed at salvation by the Holy Spirit; in this way His ministry to each believer is personalized (1 Cor. 12:7, 11).
3. The believer can never lose his spiritual gift or have it taken away from him (Rom. 11:29).

4. Spiritual gifts are distinct from natural talents. Talents are related to physical birth; spiritual gifts are related to spiritual birth. Spiritual gifts are supernatural (1 Cor. 1:26-29, 2:12-14).
5. The gifts of the Spirit are different from the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23). The presence of a gift is evidence of the indwelling of the Spirit, but the presence of fruit is evidence of the filling of the Spirit. Spiritual gifts can be imitated; the fruit of the Spirit cannot. Unless the fruit is present, the exercise of the gifts is unacceptable to God (1 Cor. 13:1-4). The Corinthians exhibited every spiritual gift (1 Cor. 1:7) and placed great emphasis on the exercise of spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 12-14), yet were totally carnal (1 Cor. 3:1). It is far better to pursue the fruit than the gift. Where the fruit exists, the gift will surely function. Paul calls this "a still more excellent way" (1 Cor. 12:31).

6. Twenty different categories of spiritual gifts are mentioned in Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, and Ephesians 4. In 1 Peter 4:11, Peter breaks all gifts into two types: communication and service. Scripture also distinguishes between temporary and permanent gifts (1 Cor. 13:8-10; Heb. 2:1-4). The three categories of temporary gifts were: prophecy, which was the means of completion of the canon of Scripture; knowledge, which was the ability to know a truth before it was recorded in Scripture; and tongues, the ability to speak in languages not known to the speaker. Tongues was given specifically as a warning to the nation of Israel (Isa. 28:11).



7. Spiritual gifts must be developed or “stirred up” (2 Tim. 1:6). This implies preparation and practice. Romans 12:6-8 emphasizes that each believer is to minister in his own gift and should not attempt to intrude into work that he is not gifted for. The day will come when God will ask each of us: “What have you done with what I gave you?” (Eph. 4:7-16; 1 Cor. 12:7,11,18).

Humility

1. Humility must be sought (Zeph. 2:3).
2. Humility is displayed through restraint (Luke 6:28-29).
3. Humility is produced by the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23).
4. Humility is absolutely essential in teaching (2 Tim 2:25; 2 Cor. 10:1).
5. Humility is absolutely essential in learning (James 1:21).
6. Humility is priceless in the sight of God (James 4:6; 1 Pet. 5:5).
7. Humility is the path to divine promotion (1 Pet. 5:6).
8. Humility is the basis of self-esteem (Rom. 12:3).
9. Humility is perfectly exemplified in the Lord Jesus Christ (Isa. 53:7; Matt. 11:29, 21:5; Phil. 2:5).