

Church Leadership Training for Men
Spiritual Gifts: Definitions and Purpose

1 Corinthians 12:1-31; Romans 12:6-8; Ephesians 4:11; 1 Timothy 2:7; 5:17; 1 Peter 4:11

Questions to Stimulate Thinking for Discussion

1) Examine the Scripture passages listed above and on a separate sheet of paper list the spiritual gifts mentioned in each one.

2) What conclusions can you draw from the fact that each list of spiritual gifts varies from the lists in the other passages? (Notice that each list includes at least one spiritual gift not mentioned in any of the other passages)

3) What conclusion can you draw from the fact that the two lists in 1 Corinthians 12 also vary greatly from each other? What is Paul's purpose(s) for each list?

4) According to 1 Corinthians 12:4, what is the origin of each variety of spiritual gift?

5) According to 1 Corinthians 12:5, what is the origin of each variety ministry?

6) According to 1 Corinthians 12:6, what is the origin of each variety of empowerment (effects)?

7) According to 1 Corinthians 12:7, what is "*the manifestation of the spirit*"?

8) According to 1 Corinthians 12:7, what is the purpose of each of these manifestations of the Spirit?

9) How does Paul's analogy of the body of Christ to the physical body illustrate the purpose of each of the various manifestations of the spirit within the body?

10) According to 1 Corinthians 12, are there any manifestations of the spirit within the body that are more important than others? Explain.

11) According to 1 Corinthians 13, what is the true sign of spiritual maturity?

12) How important do you think it is to know your spiritual gift(s)?

13) How can you identify spiritual gift(s) in yourself or someone else?

14) What spiritual gifts do you think you have and how have you seen God use them in the lives of other believers?

Spiritual Gifts List

Romans 12:6-8 1 Cor 12:8-10 1 Cor. 12:28 Eph. 4:11 1 Tim 2:7 1Pet. 4:11

Prophecy/ προφητεία prophecy / προφητεία

Service / διακονία

Service /
διακονία

Teaches / διδάσκω

Exhortation
παρακαλέω

Giving / μεταδίδωμι

Leading / προϊστημι

Mercy / ἐλεάω

Word of Wisdom
λόγος σοφίας

Word of Knowledge
λόγος γνώσεως

Faith / πίστις

Gifts of healings
χαρίσματα ἰαμάτων

Gifts of healings
χαρίσματα
ἰαμάτων

Effecting of Miracles
ἐνεργήματα δυνάμεων

Miracles
δυνάμεις

Distinguishing of spirits
διακρίσεις πνευμάτων

Kinds of tongues
γένη γλωσσῶν

Kinds of tongues
γένη γλωσσῶν

Interpretation of tongues
ἐρμηνεία γλωσσῶν

Apostles /
ἀποστόλους

Apostles /
ἀποστόλους

Apostles /
ἀποστόλους

Prophets / προφήτα
προφήτα

Teachers /
διδασκάλους

Pastor/teachers
ποιμένας και
διδασκάλους

Helps /
ἀντιλήψεις

Administrations
κυβερνήσεις

Evangelists
εὐαγγελιστάς

Preacher
κῆρυξ

Speaks
λαλέω

1 Tim. 5:17 - elders who rule (προϊστημι) well

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Questions to Stimulate Thinking for Discussion

- 1) Examine the Scripture passages listed above and on a separate sheet of paper list the spiritual gifts mentioned in each one.
- 2) What conclusions can you draw from the fact that each list of spiritual gifts varies from the lists in the other passages? (Notice that each list includes at least one spiritual gift not mentioned in any of the other passages)

There was no intention of giving a comprehensive list of spiritual gifts. Each list fits with the particular purpose of the author in that particular passage (most easily seen in the two lists in 1 Cor. 12). We do not know all the various spiritual gifts God gives to His people. From the list we have some general categories

- 3) What conclusion can you draw from the fact that the two lists in 1 Corinthians 12 also vary greatly from each other? What is Paul's purpose(s) for each list?

The first list includes those gifts that were "showy" - i.e., very desirable as evidence that the person was "spiritual" - they are all also common gifts among the apostles. The second list at the end of the chapter includes gifts that were not usually visible publically and therefore do not call attention to a person's supposed "spirituality" - yet gifts such as helps and administration are indispensable to the health of any local body of believers and accomplishing ministry for God's glory.

- 4) According to 1 Corinthians 12:4, what is the origin of each variety of spiritual gift?

The same Spirit

- 5) According to 1 Corinthians 12:5, what is the origin of each variety ministry?

The same Lord

- 6) According to 1 Corinthians 12:6, what is the origin of each variety of empowerment (effects)?

The same God

- 7) According to 1 Corinthians 12:7, what is "the manifestation of the spirit"?

Any gift given by the Spirit, any ministry given by the Lord, and empowerment given by God

- 8) According to 1 Corinthians 12:7, what is the purpose of each of these manifestations of the Spirit?

The common good - of the whole church

- 9) How does Paul's analogy of the body of Christ to the physical body illustrate the purpose of each of the various manifestations of the spirit within the body?

Just as the physical body has different parts to it and each part is needed in order for the body to be health and function properly, so every Christian is a part of the whole body of Christ and each member and the gift/ministry/empowerment they have been equipped with by God is needed for the health and proper functioning of the church

- 10) According to 1 Corinthians 12, are there any manifestations of the spirit within the body that are more important than others? Explain.

While there is a hierarchy listed in verse 28, this not an order of importance since the point of verses 12-27 is that each member of the body, regardless of its particular position/function is needed for the health and proper functioning of the whole body with verse 22 even stating that the members that are usually considered weaker are necessary - and if necessary, then of vital importance!

11) According to 1 Corinthians 13, what is the true sign of spiritual maturity?

The true sign of spiritual maturity is agape love for one another - using your gifts /ministry / empowerment for the good of the entire body unto the glory of Christ at the sacrifice of yourself.

12) How important do you think it is to know your spiritual gift(s)?

Yes and no. Yes, it is important from the standpoint that it may help you focus your efforts and activities on those areas in which you will be most effective and not trying to force yourself in to areas in which you do not function well -but NO - you do not even know your spiritual gift(s) until you have been using them and therefore knowing them is not important in being used by God. Also, every Christian is to grow in every area - which is why all the gifts are needed in order to mature the whole body - therefore there is a danger in making an identification which is then used to limit you in what you do - and your greatest spiritual gift may be something else - and you may (probably) have additional spiritual gifts that also need to be used.

13) How can you identify spiritual gift(s) in yourself or someone else?

Primarily by trying different areas of ministry in which there is some interest (or at least enough to try it out - respond to a challenge to try it out) and then seeing how God uses you. If God blesses it and others are motivated by it to greater Christlikeness / Christian maturity and / or praise of God for it, then it is probably an area in which you are gifted. Secondary to this is your own personal response of joy / satisfaction in that area of ministry. Example: I can do administration and more often than not it is helpful and people can praise God for it - but this is an area I have learned to function in, because it often lacks what should be there and I do not like doing it and my dislike of doing it has only grown. At the same time, I have been used of God in teaching others in many different situations, and usually I am told that God has used it in the lives of others, and though I was afraid of it and tried hard to stay away from it at first, it is something I have come to enjoy doing.

14) What spiritual gifts do you think you have and how have you seen God use them in the lives of other believers?

I believe that Christians are multi-gifted for various ministries and God varies the empowerment of those as needed to accomplish His will. For myself, I believe I have many different gifts to various degrees which are manifested in various ministries and in empowerment. Following the listings on the Spiritual Gifts List, my strongest gifts are teaching, exhortation and serving / helps followed by prophecy / preaching / speaking (public speaking), then leading . My least is administration - I do not believe I have any of the sign / apostolic gifts.