

Grace Gatherings

APPLYING TRUTH TO LIFE

FEBRUARY 26, MARCH 5, MARCH 12, 2025





SPIRITUAL GIFTS

1 Cor. 12:8-10	1 Cor. 12:28-30	1 Cor. 13:1-3	1 Cor. 13:8-9	Rom. 12:6-8	Eph. 4:11
Utterance of wisdom (v8)	Apostles (v28-29)	Tongues (v1)	Prophecy	Prophecy (v6)	Apostles
Utterance of knowledge (v8)	Prophets (v28-29)	Prophecy (v2)	Tongues	Serving (v7)	Prophets
Faith (v9)	Teachers (v28-29)	Knowledge (v2)	Knowledge	Teaching (v7)	Evangelists
Gifts of healing (v9)	Miracles (v28-29)	Faith (v2)		Exhorting (v8)	Shepherds / Teachers
Working of miracles (v10)	Gifts of healing (v28, 30)	Giving (v3)		Giving (generous contributions; v8)	
Prophecy (v10)	Helping (v28)			Leading (v8)	
Distinguishing between spirits (v10)	Administrating (v28)			Mercy (v8)	
Spiritual discernment (10)					
Various kinds of tongues (v10)	Various kinds of tongues (v28, 30)				
Interpretation of tongues (v10)	Interpretation of tongues (v28, 30)				

Spiritual Gifts

Temporary, Miraculous Gifts (Apostolic sign gifts, Revelatory gifts)

- Acts 2:22. **Certified** Jesus' claims to deity and messiahship.
- 2 Cor. 12:12. **Authenticated** the messenger (apostle) and thus validated his message.
- Hebrews 2:3-4. **Bore witness** to the true salvation message through the apostles.

Authenticated God's messengers as bearing a true revelation from God.

Permanent, Ministering Gifts (Speaking gifts, Serving gifts)

1 Peter 4:10-11

*As each has received a gift, use it to **serve one another**, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever **speaks**, as one who **speaks** oracles of God; whoever **serves**, as one who **serves** by the strength that God supplies – in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To Him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

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Blue shading:
Temporary gifts

Green shading:
Permanent gifts

Adapted from: *Biblical Doctrine*, Table 5.10 Spiritual Gifts, p. 380

CHURCH DOCUMENTS

StatementOfFaith_GCW.pdf

Thes. 5:19), assurance (Rom. 8:16), and the sealing of believers (2 Cor. 5:5; Eph. 1:13-14; 4:30).

The unique work of the Holy Spirit for this age began at Pentecost when the church was born (Acts 2:1-36) just as Jesus had prophesied (John 14:16-17; 15:26). Jesus baptizes believers in the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:13). The Holy Spirit indwells believers (Ezek. 36:26; John 14:16-17; Rom. 8:9-11; 1 Cor. 3:16; 6:19), teaches them the Truth (1 Cor. 2:10-13; 1 John 2:27), fills them (Eph. 5:18), and gives gifts to the Body of Christ (Rom. 12:6-8; 1 Cor. 12-14; Eph. 4:7-12; 1 Peter 4:10-11). The "sign gifts" (e.g., speaking in tongues, prophecy, healing, performing miracles) were given to the prophets, apostles, and those in the apostolic circle, to **authenticate their message** before Scripture was canonized (1 Kings 17:24; 2 Kings 5:8; John 3:2; Acts 2:22; 1 Cor. 12-14; 2 Cor. 12:12; Heb. 2:2-4). Having accomplished their purposes, these "sign gifts" **ceased** historically, apparently, not being intended for the church to practice after the Scriptures were completed.

Authenticating Purpose of the Temporary Gifts

Acts 2:22

- “**Miracles**” (*dynamis*) = power, strength — to show power as residing within a thing by virtue of its nature.
- “**Wonders**” (*teras*) = wonder, sign, marvel, portent — “a marvelous event manifesting a supernatural act of a divine agent.”
- “**Signs**” (*semeion*) = a sign or sign-miracle “by which a person or a thing is **distinguished from others and is known.**”

Authenticating Purpose of the Temporary Gifts

2 Corinthians 12:12

- “**Miracles**” (*dynamis*) = power, strength — to show power as residing within a thing by virtue of its nature.
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Authenticating Purpose of the Temporary Gifts

Hebrews 2:3-4

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Spiritual Gifts

Permanent, Ministering Gifts

(Speaking gifts, Serving gifts – 1 Peter 4:10-11)

Speaking

- Prophecy
- Teaching
- Shepherd / Teaching
- Exhortation
- Evangelist

Serving

- Leading / Administrating
- Serving / Helping
- Giving
- Mercy
- Faith
- Discernment

Spiritual Gift	Prophecy	Reference(s)	Romans 12:6
Definition and Origin	<p>The proclamation to others of divinely revealed truth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Revelatory) Involved the reception and declaration of new revelation from God. • (Reiteration) Proclaiming and reiterating that which had previously been revealed <p>Greek verb <i>prophēteuō</i> (“to prophesy”) literally means “to proclaim” or “to speak forth”.</p> <p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the close of the canon of Scripture (Rev. 22:18), there is no longer any “new” divinely revealed truth. We live by Scripture alone – <i>Sola Scriptura</i>. • Similarly, the office of prophet ceased shortly after the canon of the New Testament was complete and the doctrinal foundation of the church was established. There are no prophets (defined biblically) in the church today. 		
What does it look like in the local church?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pulpit ministry - preaching (or, “proclaiming”, “heralding”) God’s truth • Others who are gifted by the Holy Spirit to proclaim God’s Word 		

Spiritual Gift	Teaching	Reference(s)	1 Cor. 12:28; Rom. 12:7; Eph. 4:11
Definition and Origin	<p>The Spirit-endowed ability to interpret and articulate the truth of God’s Word clearly and accurately so that others can understand, learn, and implement it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greek word <i>didaskalos</i> literally means “instructor”; “teacher”; “one who is fitted to teach” • Root meaning of this Greek word is “systematic training”; used to refer to a choir director who trains a choir over a long period of rehearsals until they can perform. <p>A teacher is one who rightly divides the Word of God and imparts its truth to others. Sound, systematic instruction/teaching of God’s truth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although a qualification for elders/pastors, teaching is not reserved exclusively to them • A necessary part of disciple-making! 		
What does it look like in the local church?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching when the church (the whole or in part) is gathered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday mornings; Wednesday nights • Men’s and women’s ministries; nursery, children, and youth ministries • Other small group gatherings • Filling-in for the elders/pastors on a Sunday morning • One-on-one discipleship meetings; biblical counseling <p>Prophecy (or, preaching) proclaims the truth of God’s Word, while teaching explains it.</p>		

Spiritual Gift	Shepherding/Teaching	Reference(s)	Ephesians 4:11
Definition and Origin	<p>Involves the divine enablement to pastor by leading, teaching, feeding, protecting, and otherwise caring for believers in local churches.</p> <p>“... <i>shepherds and teachers</i> ...”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greek word <i>poimēn</i> – “shepherd”; “pastor” • Greek word <i>kai</i> – “and”, which often means “that is” or “in particular” • Greek word <i>didaskalos</i> literally means “instructor”; “teacher”; “one who is fitted to teach” <p>This phrase is best understood in context as a single office of leadership in the church.</p> <p>1 Timothy 5:17 – <i>Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.</i></p> <p>Paul’s letter to Titus – contains the kinds of instructions one would expect him to receive in order to be a fruitful pastor (or, shepherd-teacher).</p> <p>1 Peter 5:1-3 – <i>So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you, not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.</i></p>		
What does it look like in the local church?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastor; elder; shepherd; shepherd-teacher; overseer 		

Spiritual Gift	Exhortation	Reference(s)	Romans 12:8
Definition and Origin	<p>The Spirit-endowed ability to come alongside fellow believers to help and encourage them in the way of godliness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greek words <i>parakaleō</i> (“exhorts”) and <i>paraklēsis</i> (“exhortation”) refer to one “who comes along to help” – to comfort, help, advise, strengthen. • Greek word <i>paraklētos</i> (“paraclete”, “advocate”, “comforter”, “helper”) is a title used in reference to both the Lord Jesus Christ (1 John 2:1) and the Holy Spirit (John 14:16, 26). <p>To be done in love (Eph. 4:15) and with encouragement from the Scriptures (2 Tim. 3:16)</p>		
What does it look like in the local church?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admonishing those caught in (or pursuing) sin and encouraging them in the way of godliness • Correcting those tempted by error • Comforting the hurting • Strengthening the weak • Showing care to the afflicted and distressed • Biblical counseling <p>Prophecy (or, preaching) proclaims the truth of God’s Word, teaching explains it, and exhortation calls fellow Christians to do it (i.e., be doers of the Word and not just hearers – James 1:22).</p> <p>“Teaching is directed to the ignorant; exhortation to those who know better.” – Martin Luther</p>		

Spiritual Gift	Evangelist	Reference(s)	Ephesians 4:11
Definition and Origin	<p>The divine enablement to explain, exhort, and apply the gospel to non-Christians.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greek verb <i>euangelizō</i> means "to preach the gospel" • Used by the Apostle Paul 21 times in his epistles. Paul urged Timothy to "do the work of an evangelist" (2 Tim. 4:5) both in general and in Ephesus in particular (Acts 21:8). <p>Based on Paul's usage of the term, an evangelist appears to be primarily a church planter whose duty it is to establish new churches through gospel preaching.</p> <p>Once a congregation is birthed, the church would then be led by a shepherd/teacher, while the evangelist would move on to a new work in a fresh location.</p>		
What does it look like in the local church?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church planters • Missionaries – local, national, international • Every believer should be prepared to share the hope that is in them (1 Peter 3:15), but some have this special gift of doing so – evangelizing. 		

Spiritual Gifts: Speaking Gifts

The **divine enablement** to ...

Prophecy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “To speak before”; to publicly proclaim• Content: Revelatory vs. Reiteration• Reiteration: “the faith”; the Word of God; God’s truth
Teaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Instructing; interpreting and articulating the truth of God’s Word so that others can understand, learn, and implement it• Sound, systematic training
Shepherding / Teaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To pastor by leading, teaching, feeding, protecting, and caring for believers in the local church• Elder, pastor, shepherd, overseer
Exhortation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One who comes alongside to help in the way of godliness• To help, comfort, advise, admonish, strengthen, encourage – all done in love
Evangelist	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To explain, exhort, and apply the gospel to non-Christians

Spiritual Gifts

Permanent, Ministering Gifts

(Speaking gifts, Serving gifts – 1 Peter 4:10-11)



Speaking

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- Faith
- Discernment

Spiritual Gift	Leading and Administrating	Reference(s)	Romans 12:8; 1 Cor. 12:28
Definition and Origin	<p>Divine enablement in guiding the church (congregation), both spiritually and in everyday decision making</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>the one who leads</i>. Greek word <i>proistēmi</i> – “to stand before”; to lead, rule, manage, have charge of. Used in the New Testament to describe headship in both the home and the church. 1 Timothy 3:4-5, 12; 5:17. • <i>administrating</i>. Greek word <i>kubernēsis</i> – “to guide”. Used in the New Testament to refer to one who steers a ship. Acts 27:11; Revelation 18:17. <p>These two words/ideas are nearly synonymous, both having to do with leadership – i.e., direction and decision making. OT examples – Jethro (Exodus 18), Nehemiah.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to see an objective, formalize that objective, rally a group of people, and get them to that objective • To make a decision, determine direction, and mobilize people to move in that direction <p>“<i>with zeal</i>” (Rom. 12:8) – marked not by laziness, apathy, or pride, but rather lead with zeal, diligence, dispatch (haste), earnestness, eagerness, humility, and selflessness</p>		
What does it look like in the local church?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly belongs to pastors/elders whom God has ordained to shepherd, feed, and lead the flock of God. 1 Peter 5:2-4. (But this gift is not limited to pastors/elders.) • Other gifted church leaders who help others navigate through life and ministry by guiding them with wisdom and good counsel. 		

Spiritual Gift	Serving and Helping	Reference(s)	Romans 12:7; 1 Cor. 12:28
Definition and Origin	<p>Gifted from the Holy Spirit with a supernatural desire and ability to help and to serve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>service</i>. Derived from the same Greek word translated “deacon” - <i>diakonia</i>. To take a burden off of somebody else to place it on yourself. Any kind of practical assistance, help, or support. Acts 20:35. • <i>helping</i>. Greek word <i>antilēmpsis</i> refers to any kind of assistance rendered on behalf of others. <p>These two terms are virtually synonymous. Often these acts of service involve completing mundane and unglamorous tasks, yet they are essential to the life and ongoing effectiveness of the church. By gladly performing such tasks, those helpers gifted in areas of service free up those gifted in other areas to do what the Spirit has specially equipped them to do. Acts 6:3-4. Romans 16:3, 9.</p> <p>Usually expressed as sacrificial service to others</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phil. 2:25-30 - ... <i>Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need ... for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me.</i> 		
What does it look like in the local church?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deacons • Working in the nursery, cleaning the church, setting up tables/chairs, repairing stuff, delivering food, mowing lawns, shoveling snow off of driveways, etc. • Typically, the first ones to help serve in the church – to meet others’ needs, to take work upon themselves without asking, etc. 		

Spiritual Gift	Giving	Reference(s)	Romans 12:8; 1 Cor. 13:3
Definition and Origin	<p>Sacrificial generosity in giving for the sake of meeting another’s need</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>contributes</i>. Greek word <i>metadidōmi</i> – to give, impart, contribute • <i>generosity</i>. Greek word <i>haplotēs</i> – “simplicity”; also translated liberality, generosity “Simplicity” speaks to how one gives – i.e., with one simple motive: to meet a need. Singleness of mind. <p>Those with this gift are particularly equipped with a strong, genuine, single-minded desire and eagerness to contribute sacrificially (i.e., beyond the normal giving) to meet a need.</p> <p>Sincere giving; not fueled by an ulterior motive but out of genuine love for others and for the Lord</p>		
What does it look like in the local church?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Believers who provide food, clothing, money, or shelter for those in need • Those who give above-and-beyond to meet their church’s needs • The gift of giving is not something typically done in public. Giving with pretension and public display is not a gift; it’s hypocrisy. • Does not relate to how much one has; some with this gift are the poorest members of the church <p>Note: All believers are called upon to be generous and give, but those with this gift give in remarkable and unusual ways.</p>		

Spiritual Gift	Mercy	Reference(s)	Romans 12:8
Definition and Origin	<p>The divine ability to be sensitive to sorrow and suffering; specially equipped by the Holy Spirit to comfort and console the downcast.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>mercy</i>. Greek word <i>eleōn</i> – pity, mercy, compassion. Conveys both an attitude of sympathy toward those who are hurting and an ability to comfort and encourage them effectively. • <i>cheerfulness</i>. Greek word <i>hilarotēs</i> – cheerfulness, joy <p>Joyously offering sympathy to the sufferer. Taking delight (versus considering it drudgery or mere duty) to reach out with lovingkindness in the name of the God of mercy.</p> <p>Mercy is extended in relation to those in misery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prov. 14:21, 31; Hosea 14:3; Luke 10:36-37; Matt. 9:27; 15:22; 17:15; Mark 10:47; Luke 17:13 <p>Going beyond simply “feeling sorry” for people by springing into action to find ways to lift up others</p> <p>Graciously responding with compassion toward the suffering and needy</p>		
What does it look like in the local church?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acts of kindness to the homeless, the elderly, the sick, the handicapped, the suffering, and the sorrowful • Being “present” – hospital visits, visiting shut-in’s, sitting with another • Basically, someone doing whatever needs to be done to extend compassion and pity to someone in misery 		

Spiritual Gift	Faith	Reference(s)	1 Cor. 12:9; 13:2
Definition and Origin	<p>A supernatural capacity from the Holy Spirit for believing God, connected with prayer and God’s response to prayer as we see Him work today.</p> <p>Note that this is not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • saving faith, for all true Christians possess saving faith • general faith, by which we all live <p>The gift of faith has to do with an intensive ability to trust God, an unusual capacity to believe God in the face of a storm, in the face of enormous obstacles.</p> <p><i>D.A. Carson: This special faith enables a believer to trust God to bring about certain things for which he or she cannot claim some divine promise recorded in Scripture, or some state of affairs grounded in the very structure of the gospel.</i></p> <p>Matthew 17:20; 21:21-22; 1 Cor. 13:2 – faith to move mountains</p> <p>Acts 27:25 – Paul speaking, “<i>So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told.</i>”</p> <p>Examples: Hebrews 11 heroes of faith (<i>By faith, Abel ... Enoch ... Noah ... Abraham ... Issac ... Jacob ... Joseph ... Moses ...</i>); Hudson Taylor, George Müller, etc.</p>		
What does it look like in the local church?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those with faith beyond obstacles • Prayer warriors 		

Spiritual Gift	Discernment	Reference(s)	1 Cor. 12:10
Definition and Origin	<p>Two aspects of this gift:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary gift – divine enablement to discern true from false statements made by people who deceptively claimed that their words were prophetic revelations from God. Acts 16:16-18 (slave girl with spirit of divination). Acts 5 (Ananias/deception). • Permanent gift – Spirit-empowered capacity to identify forms of doctrinal error and religious deception by comparing those forms to biblical truth. • <i>discern</i>. Greek word <i>diakrinō</i> – to judge through, to see through something to the truth that is there, to truly evaluate something. <p>D.A. Carson: <i>Spectacular displays often attest the power of the spirit world; they do not in themselves attest the power of the Holy Spirit ... There is ever a need to distinguish demonic forces from the Holy Spirit. This gift is apparently designed to meet that need.</i></p> <p>In view of the father of lies (i.e., Satan; John 8:44) continually seeking to counterfeit the true work of God by (1) disguising himself as an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14) and (2) working through false teachers to dispense the doctrines of demons (1 Tim. 4:1), there are those in the church today who have been given a significant ability to identify falsehood by comparing it to biblical truth.</p>		
What does it look like in the local church?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Believers with a significant ability to identify falsehood by comparing it to biblical truth. <p>Reminder: all Christians should develop discernment in spiritual matters!</p>		

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Permanent, Ministering Gifts

(Speaking gifts, Serving gifts – 1 Peter 4:10-11)



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Final Thoughts

- God assigns each believer a **function** in the church
- He **equips** each believer to fulfill that function through **spiritual gifts**
- Spiritual gifts are used to **serve others** and **glorify God**
- God sovereignly bestows every Christian with one or more gifts, and every gift is important

*John MacArthur: The Holy Spirit has a palette and on that palette are some primary gifts, some primary colors. Those are the ones listed in the Scriptures, but by the time it gets spread all over you, it's a mixture. **And each one of you becomes a very stylized, individualized, particular, peculiar – in a good sense – portrait. Very unique!** So, what we're studying when we study the five speaking gifts and the six serving gifts that make up the permanent edifying gifts are simply primary colors, and **leave it to the Holy Spirit to put His brush and mix it and put it on you like it has never been put on anybody else.** The combination is unique.*

- All gifts must be **developed** and **exercised**, used in conscious **dependence on Christ**, and done in **love**.

References

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