

Spiritual Gifts 1—View Definitions

I. Introduction.

- A. **Why important** to study?
- B. Agree or disagree with this **brief definition** of “the Spiritual Gift(s).”
Miraculous ability, given to equip Church believers, to serve God and others, to build up the Church.
- C. **How do you define** “the Spiritual Gifts.”

II. Scripture.

- A. **What type of gift(s)** has God given? **Who gets** these gifts? **When do they get** these gifts?
 1. **Natural gifts, talents, or abilities**—Gifts that are **genetic** (physical traits like gender, size, body-type, and the corresponding natural leanings and predispositions) and **environmentally** shaped, chosen, educated, rewarded, and trained (through parents, diet, exercise, school, hard-work, coaching/mentoring, and discipline). The unsaved recognize these gifts from either nature or nurture. These gifts, talents, and abilities are expressed through the framework of their personality. **All** (both saved and unsaved) get these gifts. God gives these gifts **at conception and a person develops them throughout their life.**
 2. **Supernatural gifts, talents, or abilities**—Those gifts that are given supernaturally by God. Someone (with a low or a least not a high-functioning natural gift or training) immediately exhibits a high-functioning gift that is only explained by supernatural intervention. In the OT, these may have been temporary supernatural gifts like those evidenced by prophets to receive and reveal God’s Word and perform healings, and even in a few cases temporarily raise someone from the dead.
- B. **Purpose** of “the spiritual **G**ifts?”
 1. **sGs**—miraculously confirmed **God’s Word** and **Apostles**. **Mar. 16:20**—“*And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the Word with signs following. Amen.*”
 2. **sGs**—miraculously confirmed **the Church Start.**
 3. **sGs**—miraculous **sign to believers** and **unbelievers**. **1Co. 14:21-22**—“²¹*In the law it is written, ‘With men of other tongues*

- and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me,' saith the Lord. ²²Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not; but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe." Isa. 28:11—"For with stammering lips and another tongue will He speak to this people."*
4. **sGs**—miraculous ability **to profit/edify/build up the Church.** *1Co. 12:7—"But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal." 1Co. 14:3-5, 12, 17, 26—"But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort. ⁴He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church. ⁵I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying. ¹²Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church. ¹⁷For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified. ²⁶How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying."*
 5. **sGs**—miraculous ability **to unite diversely gifted members to care for the Church.** *1Co. 12:25-27—"That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. ²⁶And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honored, all the members rejoice with it. ²⁷Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular."*

III. Application.

- A. **Why** is it **important** to study about Spiritual Gifts?
- B. **Discuss** (with a classmate) your current **definition** of Spiritual Gifts?
- C. What are some of the **key purposes** of spiritual gifts?
- D. Ask and answer: **"Do I have a hidden talent, or a talent I hide?"**