

What Is a Spiritual Gift?

- ✓ The Greek word translated “gift” is *χάρισμα (charisma)*. It is related to the Greek word for “grace:” *χάρις (charis)*. In fact, in Eph. 4:7 spiritual gifts are called “grace” (*charis*), or are a manifestation of God’s grace . Very simply stated, a spiritual gift is “a special ability for service that is a gift of God’s grace.”
- ✓ A spiritual gift must be differentiated from a talent, a natural ability, or a place of service or a ministry to a certain age group (e.g., “Gary really has a gift for working with youth”).



How Do We Identify the Spiritual Gifts, and What Do They Mean?

Temporary (First Century) Gifts

GIFT	PASSAGES	DESCRIPTION
Apostle	1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11	Generally, men who saw the Lord and were an eyewitness to His resurrection, invested with “sign gifts,” and chosen by the Lord or the Holy Spirit. They had special authority in the early church before the Word was completed.
Prophecy	Rom. 12:6; 1 Cor. 12:10; 14:1-40; Eph. 4:11	The ability to receive a message directly from God and deliver it free from error.
Miracles	1 Cor. 12:28	The ability to perform certain miraculous signs (Acts 19:11-12).
Healing	1 Cor. 12:9, 28, 30	A specific “miracle” (or “sign”). The ability to heal others from specific physical ailments.
Tongues	1 Cor. 12:10; 13:8	The God-given ability to speak in a foreign language without having learned it.

Interpretation of Tongues	1 Cor. 12:10; 14:26-28	The ability to interpret “tongues” (without knowing the “tongue”) in a language understood by the hearers.
Wisdom	1 Cor. 12:8	The communication of wisdom given directly to an individual by God.
Knowledge	1 Cor. 12:8	The communication of practical truth given directly to an individual by God.
Discerning Spirits	1 Cor. 12:10	The ability to distinguish between true and false sources of supernatural revelation when it was given in oral form.

Permanent Gifts (Given Today)

GIFT	PASSAGES	DESCRIPTION
Pastor	Eph. 4:11	The ability to shepherd, provide for, care for, and protect the flock committed to his care.
Evangelism	Eph. 4:11	The ability to effectively, and with exceptional clarity preach the gospel to the unsaved.
Serving	Rom. 12:7; 1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:12	The extraordinary ability to help or to serve.
Teaching	Rom. 12:7; 1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11	The supernatural ability to explain and apply God’s Word to people.
Faith	1 Cor. 12:9	The extraordinary, God-given ability to believe God for the supply of specific needs.
Exhortation	Rom. 12:8	The extraordinary ability to encourage, comfort, and admonish people.
Mercy	Rom. 12:8	Related to the gift of ministering. Specifically, it involves an unusual ability to help, assist, and relieve those who are sick and afflicted.

Giving	Rom. 12:8	The extraordinary ability to use one's means to help others.
Administration	Rom. 12:8; 1 Cor. 12:8	The ability to rule over God's people.

How Do We Know That Some Spiritual Gifts Have Passed Away, and How Do We Identify Which Ones?

- ✓ The text teaches that some gifts were temporary, and when they had served their purpose, the gifts ceased.

The Temporary Gifts

ESTABLISHING (EPH. 2:20)	EVIDENTIAL (HEB. 2:3-4)
Wisdom (1 Cor. 12:8)	Miracles (1 Cor. 12:28)
Knowledge (1 Cor. 12:8)	Healing (1 Cor. 12:9, 28, 30)
Apostle (Eph. 4:11)	Tongues (1 Cor. 12:10)
Prophecy (Rom. 12:6)	Interpretation of Tongues (1 Cor. 12:10)
Discerning Spirits (1 Cor. 12:10)	

