

# Spiritual Gifts

How many are there and how many can you have?

# Key Questions to answer

- What's the purpose of the gifts?
- How many gifts are there in scripture?
- Does scripture indicate we will have only one gift?
- Can we/should we seek after the gifts?
- Can we practice and improve them?
- Do the gifts mean we are more mature and do they define us?
- What guidelines for the gifts?

# The Fullness of God lives in me and you!

- The fullness was in Christ and Christ lives in us!
  - **Col 2:9-10** **9** For in him **the whole fullness of deity dwells** bodily,**10** and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.
  - **Eph 3:17-19** **17** so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, **18** may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, **19** and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, **that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.**
  - **John 14:23** "Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and **We will come to him, and make Our abode with him.**"
  - **I Corinthians 3:16**, *"Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that **the Spirit of God dwells in you?**"*
  - **John 17:20-23** **20** "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, **21** that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.**22 The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, 23** I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

# Only One Holy Spirit!

- 1 Cor 12:4-7 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 activities, but **the same God**, who works all things in all people. But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for what is beneficial to all.
- Eph 4:4-6 <sup>4</sup> There is **one body and one Spirit**—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— <sup>5</sup> **one Lord, one faith, one baptism,** <sup>6</sup> **one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.**

# What's the purpose of the gifts?

- To build up and equip the church
  - But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for what is **beneficial to all**. 1 Cor 12:7
  - Each one should use whatever gift he has received **to serve others**, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. ([1 Pet. 4:10](#))
  - Build up the body...to reach maturity...and knowledge of the Son of God...achieve fullness of Christ. Eph 4:12-14
- To build up the individual
  - The one who speaks in a tongue **edifies (build or confirms) himself**, but the one who prophesies edifies the church. 1 Cor 14:4
  - The disciples and the 72's faith increased when they saw the power of God working through them directly. Luke 10:17
  - Equipping of the saints Eph 4:12
- Testify to non believers
  - But if all prophesy, and **some unbeliever or outsider enters**, he is convicted by all, he is judged by all, the secret things of his heart become evident, and so, falling on his face, **he will worship God, proclaiming, "God is truly among you!"** 1 Cor 14:25-26

# How Many Spiritual Gifts are there?

- The Holy Spirit itself is a gift!
- And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive **the gift of the Holy Spirit.** [Acts 2:38](#)
- Most only know the 9 mentioned in 1 Cor 12:8-10
- There are more! [Romans 12](#); [1 Corinthians 12](#); [Ephesians 4](#) and [1 Peter 4](#) shows that the lists are only examples. No list is exhaustive. They are all suggestive.
- **The Spirit is not limited by a list!** "He is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think!" ([Eph 3:20](#)).

# How Many Spiritual Gifts...9, 20 or more??

Romans 12 (7)	1 Corinthians 12 (13)	Ephesians 4 (5)	Misc. Passages (5)
Prophecy	Prophecy	Prophecy	Celibacy ( <a href="#">1 Cor. 7:7</a> )
Teaching	Teaching	Teaching	Hospitality ( <a href="#">1 Pet. 4:9-10</a> )
Exhortation	Apostle	Apostle	Martyrdom ( <a href="#">1 Cor. 13:3</a> )
Giving	Wisdom	Evangelism	Missionary ( <a href="#">Eph. 3:6-8</a> )
Leadership	knowledge	Pastor	Voluntary Poverty ( <a href="#">1 Cor. 13:3</a> )
Mercy	Faith		
Service	Healing		
	Miracles		
	Discerning of Spirits		
	Tongues		
	Interpretation of Tongues		
	Helping		
	Administration		

How Many?

- 20 Unique Gifts
- 3 Overlapping
- 5 potential gifts
- 20-25 Total

What does this mean?

- No exhaustive or complete list!
- Not intended to be prescriptive!
- Could be more!
- Don't limit the Holy Spirit!

# Does scripture indicate we will have only one gift?

## What did Jesus say?

- “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also **do the works that I do**; and **greater works than these will he do**, because I am going to the Father.<sup>13</sup> Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> If you ask me<sup>[a]</sup> anything in my name, I will do it. John 14:12-14

## What did Paul say?

- So that you may **not lack in any spiritual gift**...1 Cor 1:7
- Gives everyman **SEVERALLY** 1 Cor 12:11 (KJV).
- vs 11 also suggest the Spirit gives them at will...not just one
- Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing** in the heavenly places, Eph 1:3
- Strive for spiritual **gifts**...gifts is plural! 1 Cor 14:1
- "For this reason the one who speaks in a tongue **should pray** that they may interpret what they say." **1 Cor 14:13**
  - That means it's possible to have both, the gift of speaking in tongues and interpreting tongues!
- but the same God, who **works all things in all people**. But to each one is given the **manifestation of the Spirit** for what is beneficial to all. 1 Cor 12:6-7
- Why would Paul tell us we only have one gift, but also say to strive tongues, prophecy and gifts (plural)?

# Can we/should we seek after the gifts?

- Yes...eagerly desire and seek after them!
  - But **strive** for the greater gifts. (Plural) 1 Cor 12:31
  - Pursue love, and **strive** for spiritual gifts, (Plural) 1 Cor 14:1
  - Now **I want** you all to speak with tongues, but **even more** that you may prophesy. 1 Cor 14:5
  - In this way also you, **since you are zealous of spiritual gifts**, seek for the edification of the church, in order that you may abound 1 Cor 14:12
  - "For this reason the one who speaks in a tongue **should pray** that they may interpret what they say." **1 Cor 14:13**

# Can we practice and improve them?

- YES!
- Let two or three prophets speak, and the **others evaluate**. 1 Cor 14:29
- Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, **let us use them**: if prophecy, **in proportion to our faith**...Rom 6:12-18
- Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. **Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress.** [1 Tim 4:14-16](#)
- For this reason I remind you to **fan into flame the gift of God**, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, [2 Tim 1:6](#)

# Do the gifts mean we are more mature?

- No...Operating in them doesn't mean you are mature or superior!
- The Corinthian church was a mess in many ways, but they operated in many of the gifts!
  - Divisions, factions, Quarrels, Fleshly, immature, Jealousy, Strife, Sexual immorality, Suing one another, only able to drink spiritual milk and not solid food.
- Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, <sup>2</sup> and of instruction about washings, <sup>[a]</sup> the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. Heb 6:1-2
- It appears you can even operate in some of them and not be saved!
  - On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not **prophecy** in your name, and **expel demons** in your name, and **perform many miracles** in your name?' And then I will say to them plainly, '**I never knew you.** Depart from me, you who practice lawlessness!' Matt 7:22-23,

# Guidelines for the Gifts

- Our value and identity is in Christ alone...He defines us!
- Healthy and mature Christians operate and flow from identity in Christ...Not gifts!
  - When healthy, it doesn't matter if we operate in none, one or all of the gifts
  - This allows the Spirit to move, change, pause, reduce or increase what gifts I operate in with out an identity crisis!
  - No need to pretend to look more spiritual or mature!
- While we may or may not operate or see any of the gifts, I believe we have the capacity to operate in and should strive for all the gifts because we have the same Holy Spirit and the FULLNESS of God living inside of us!
- The gifts are **abusive** if we do not operate in **LOVE** and **IDENTITY** in Christ!
- Do NOT think of yourself more highly because you operate in one, many or none of the gifts.
- The gifts should bring us into a deeper relationship with and love for Christ and others...if not, you are not operating out of identity!