

The 7 Spirits of God

*Rev 1:4: John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from Him who is, and who was, and who is to come; and from **the seven Spirits which are before his throne.***

*Rev 3:1: And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things says He that has the **seven Spirits of God**, and the seven stars...*

*Rev 4:5: And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are **the seven Spirits of God.***

*Rev 5:6: And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are **the seven Spirits of God** sent forth into all the earth.*

The 7 Spirits of God are the perfect completeness of the Holy Spirit. They are:

1. Spirit of the Lord
2. Spirit of wisdom
3. Spirit of understanding
4. Spirit of counsel
5. Spirit of power
6. Spirit of knowledge
7. Spirit of fear of the Lord

Isa 11:2: And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and power, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.

The Nine Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The following Spiritual Gifts are often referred to as, "The Nine Gifts of the Holy Spirit." These are supernatural gifts and, according to scripture, are available to all Christians.

The Apostle Paul said: "Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant:

...for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills." (1 Cor 12:1; 8-11)

The Nine Gifts of the Spirit Fall into three Divisions: The Gifts of Revelation - The Gifts of Inspiration - The Gifts of Power.

Gifts of Revelation:

1-The Word of Wisdom:

A supernatural revelation, or insight into the divine will and purpose, often given by the Spirit to solve perplexing problems and situations.

2-The Word of Knowledge:

The Word of Knowledge is a supernatural revelation of Divine knowledge or insight in the Divine mind, will or plan, to know things that could not be known of oneself.

3-Discerning of Spirits:

This is a supernatural revelation or insight into the realm of spirits to detect them and their plans and to read the minds of men.

Gifts of Inspiration:

4-Prophecy:

Prophecy is the supernatural utterance in the native tongue. It is a miracle of divine

utterance, not conceived by human thought or reasoning. It includes speaking unto men to edification, exhortation, and comfort.

5-Divers Kinds of Tongues:

The supernatural utterance in other languages that are not known to the speaker.

6-The Interpretation of Tongues:

The supernatural ability to interpret in the native tongue what is uttered in other languages not known by the one who interprets by the Spirit.

Gifts of Power:

7-Gift of Faith:

This is a supernatural ability to believe God without human doubt, unbelief, and reasonings.

8-The Gift of Healing:

The healing of all manner of sickness by supernatural power, without human aid or medicine.

9-The Working of Miracles:

Is supernatural power to intervene in the ordinary course of nature and to counteract natural laws if necessary.

According to Scripture, the Gifts of the Spirit are to continue to work through the Followers of Christ until His return.

Beware of Hyper-Spiritual, Lone Ranger Christians

I'm unapologetically a charismatic Christian, and I believe all the gifts of the Holy Spirit are available to us today. It's tragic that so many churches in this country limit or even deny the validity of the Holy Spirit's power.

Yet in my years of ministry in the charismatic movement, I've learned that if the devil can't convince a church to reject the Holy Spirit's work, he will push people to the opposite extreme so that they misuse or abuse the gifts of the Spirit and drift into deception. Our critics call us "charismaniacs" when this happens—and too often we deserve the label.

In my recent travels I've noticed an upsurge in hyper-spiritual "super prophets" who make wild claims and attract fans based on their fascinating revelations. These people claim to be on a higher plane than everyone else, but the fruit of their ministry is never good in the end. They may say they have secret biblical knowledge; they may claim to be in communication with angels; they may simply exude an attitude of spiritual superiority—and people are gullible enough to fall for it.

Nothing is more dangerous to genuine revival than a hyper-spiritual charismaniac who flaunts his gifts while displaying a lack of character. These elitists are slick; they can get sincere Christians to say "Ooooh" and "Aahhh" when they minister. But in the end, they bring division in the church.

In the book of Jude, these renegade imposters are compared to comets because they aren't accountable to anyone in the church. False prophets, Jude said, are "*wandering stars for whom the gloom of darkness has been kept forever*" (see v. 13).

Here are seven indicators of a hyper-spiritual person. Heed the warning signals!

1. Their feet rarely touch the earth. Super-spiritual people live in the ozone layer. They are not in touch with normal life. They may spend lots of time in prayer (or claim to), and they may even fast or impose severe discipline on themselves, but their relationships are dysfunctional. Remember: Jesus did not live His life like a guru, floating around while dispensing spooky wisdom. He lived in the real world and interacted in a practical way with people. So should we.

2. They place too much emphasis on spiritual manifestations. God speaks to us through His Spirit, and He can use dreams, visions or prophetic words. Yet His message always flows with love and brings peace. On the contrary, a spirit of weirdness usually follows hyper-spiritual people who claim to receive constant revelations. Paul warned the Colossians about people like this when he said: "*Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by*

delighting in self-abasement and the worship of angels, taking his stand on visions he has seen" (Col. 2:18a, NASB).

3. They find it difficult to submit to authority. Hyper-spiritual people are usually full of pride and believe they are more gifted than pastors or other spiritual leaders. Therefore they find it impossible to receive instruction or correction from anyone. They have no mentors because they feel they are spiritually superior. They become renegades, and they separate themselves from the body of Christ.

4. They crave attention. A super-spiritual person often lacks affirmation and love. Their emotional deficit pushes them to seek attention from people, and they find it by impressing others. Some people who seek to serve as intercessors or counselors, or even as members of the worship team, may actually need inner healing before they can be effective in these roles. If you give these people a microphone before they are healed, you will regret it!

5. They develop a victim mentality. Most of the hyper-spiritual people I know believe they are constantly being attacked by the devil—as if they are his biggest threat. The slightest problem in life—from a traffic ticket to a hangnail—becomes evidence of a demonic conspiracy against them. We need to remind them they are not the center of the universe.

6. They become harsh and judgmental. Charismaniacs who don't find a receptive audience for their visions and prophecies sometimes become bitter and resentful—and they end up condemning everyone to hell for rejecting them. I am aware of situations in which angry Christians ended up splitting a church because they became convinced the pastor was evil or the whole congregation was in sin. People who are full of bitterness will become instruments of the devil. Deal with them before they hurt others!

7. They often end up in deception. Super-spiritual people who reject correction or spiritual covering are headed toward disaster. Joseph Smith, the founder of Mormonism, started that cult after he declared that all Christian denominations were false churches. He cut himself off from the body of Christ and started the biggest heresy of the 19th century. People who become so focused on their spiritual superiority end up denying Jesus and justifying their own sinful behavior.

Church should be a healthy place. Don't let hyper-spiritual people take you or your congregation down the wrong road.

--Lee Grady, Charisma

Getting the Weirdness Out of the Prophetic Movement

Let's reclaim the simple, profound purpose of prophecy—and reject all sensational substitutes.

When I was a college student, a visiting minister regularly came to preach at our campus meetings. At the end of his messages he would often point at someone in the room, smile and say something like, “You in the blue shirt, I believe the Lord has a word of encouragement for you.” Then he would prophesy.

This freaked me out! How could this man know what God was saying to someone else? What if he was wrong? I loved the gift of prophecy because I had benefitted from it myself. But I remember telling the Lord back in those days that I would never, ever stand in front of a group and prophesy to an individual like that. Way too scary!

“If we focus on spiritual gifts as an end in themselves, our distraction will lead us into deception of the weirdest kind. Let’s get our eyes back on Jesus.”

Then, during a trip to China in 2000, an underground church leader asked me to come to a room in the hotel to meet with a group of ministers. When I arrived, the leader told my translator that she wanted me to prophesy over 14 ministers who were already seated around a table. I was cornered! I prayed a desperate prayer—“*Help!*”—and 90 minutes later I finished praying and prophesying over all those people. The Lord used a scared and insecure American guy to encourage those brave warriors—and I have prophesied to many people since then.

I believe prophecy is a powerful spiritual gift when it is used correctly. Paul told the Corinthians (who had been abusing charismatic gifts) that genuine prophecy has three important functions: (1) *edification*, (2) *exhortation* and (3) *consolation* (see 1 Cor. 14:3). When we give a word from God, it comforts the weary, encourages the fainthearted, propels them toward God’s purpose or breaks spiritual obstacles.

Genuine prophecy is one of the most potent weapons in God’s arsenal. But if we are not careful, the gift can be hijacked—either by devious spiritual con artists or by gullible Christians who don’t have proven character or a solid foundation in God’s Word. This is why the gift of discernment should operate alongside prophecy at all times.

Several people have recently asked my opinion about some of the “prophetic buzz” circulating in churches these days. I’m not the only one who is becoming increasingly concerned about the weirdness that is evident in some charismatic camps. My alarm bells often go off when I read some of the prophetic messages people are claiming to be from God. These messages usually have one or more of these characteristics:

1. Preoccupation with end-time predictions. No prominent prophet in the United States issued a clear warning about the recent earthquake in Japan. But in the aftermath of that disaster, many began to release dire predictions of subsequent quakes—stirring up doom and gloom among the saints. Now some are predicting explosions on the sun that will knock out all electrical power on earth. God never intended prophecy to cripple His church with fear. His word brings comfort, not foreboding.

2. Obsession with numbers. There is certainly a place for symbolic numbers in the Bible. But many prophets today seem to think that every number they see on a clock or a billboard is a message from God. God is not cryptic with His sons and daughters—He wants to speak to us plainly. His will is not a secret code to be deciphered.

3. Overemphasis on dreams. Of course we know God can speak through dreams. But the apostle Paul (whom we are called to imitate) received most of his guidance from the Holy Spirit while he was awake. Some ministers today are spending too much time in the pulpit describing their technicolor dreams—and this could actually lead people into error if the dream has more to do with pepperoni than biblical revelation. Stay focused on the Word!

4. Fascination with exotic visions and manifestations. Our movement has been invaded in recent years by many questionable influences—from New Age spirits to stigmata to a bizarre fixation on gold dust, gems, “angel” feathers and “manna.” In most cases those who claim the substances are real won’t have them verified. In Illinois, a church drew crowds because of reports that giant red and blue gems were falling from the ceiling. The people stopped coming after the guy in charge of the supposed supernatural display ran off with a woman who was not his wife. Please remember that everything that glitters is not gold.

5. Worship of elite prophets. It has become fashionable in parts of our movement today to drop the names of certain prophets in order to establish credibility. After all, if Prophet So-and-So said it, it must be true. Some of these prophets are quoted more often than Scripture—and such glorification of people borders on blasphemy. Groups that focus their attention on hyper-spiritual personalities and their prophecies can quickly drift into cultic behavior.

How do we avoid being deceived by false prophecy and unhealthy spiritual phenomena? The best way I know is to get our priorities in line with God’s Word.

The purpose of any genuine spiritual gift is to edify the church so we can fulfill the Great Commission. If our main goal is to win souls, plant healthy churches, make disciples and advance the gospel around the world, then prophecy can help us do those things. But if we focus on spiritual gifts as an end in themselves, our distraction will lead us into deception of the weirdest kind. Let’s get our eyes back on Jesus.

--Lee Grady

What are the different spiritual gifts?

There are different kinds of gifts but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. (1 Cor. 12:4-5)

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)

Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. (Romans 12:4-6a)
Although opinions differ on the actual number of spiritual gifts, God's Word clearly indicates a variety of gifts. You will find twenty different Greek words used for the gifts listed in the key passages on spiritual gifting. Herein you will find definitions for those possibilities.

Romans 12

Exhortation

giving

leadership

mercy

prophecy

service

teaching

1 Corinthians 12

administration

apostle

discernment

faith

healings

helps

knowledge

miracles

prophecy

teaching

tongues

tongues interpretation

wisdom

Ephesians 4

apostle

evangelism

pastor

prophecy

teaching

Misc. Passages

celibacy

hospitality

martyrdom

missionary

voluntary poverty

What are the seven motivational gifts?

Motivational Gifts in a Nutshell— *quick facts about seven spiritual gifts*

In his letter to the Roman Christians, the Apostle Paul challenges them to use their spiritual gifts:

“For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

*“Having then **gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us**, whether **prophecy**, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; or **ministry**, let us wait on our ministering; or he that **teacheth**, on teaching; or he that **exhorteth** on exhortation: he that **giveth**, let him do it with simplicity; he that **ruleth**, with diligence; he that **showeth mercy**, with cheerfulness” (Romans 12:4–8).*

The gifts mentioned here are **seven motivational spiritual gifts**. Each Christian receives one at the time of salvation, and it is the tool through which God works in him or her to see needs and to do something to meet them. These gifts equip believers to take a vital role in the Church.

Below are details about each of the seven motivational gifts, including Biblical examples of those who had the gifts, exhortations from Romans 12 about properly exercising the gifts, and the life principles that best complement the strengths and weaknesses of the gifts.

Prophecy

A person with the motivational gift of prophecy applies the Word of God to a situation so that **sin is exposed and relationships are restored**. He or she has a strong sense of right and wrong and speaks out against compromise and evil.

- **Biblical Example**

The Apostle Peter played a significant role in the establishment of the early Church. Through his preaching, ministry, and writing, Peter encouraged men and women to believe in Christ, repent, and live according to the truth of God’s Word. *“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord” (Acts 3:19).*

- **Guidelines in Romans 12**

The exhortation of Romans 12:9 particularly relates to the gift of prophecy: *“Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good” (ESV).*

- **Life Principle to Apply**

It is especially important for a prophet to apply the principle of responsibility and maintain a clear conscience. This discipline equips the prophet to speak the truth boldly with love.

Serving

A person with the motivational gift of serving is **driven to demonstrate love by meeting practical needs**. The server is available to see a project through to the end and enjoys doing physical work.

- **Biblical Example**

Timothy had a great desire to serve the Church of God, and he ministered to the Apostle Paul in many ways. Paul said: *"I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy shortly unto you . . . I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state. For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's. But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel"* (Philippians 2:19–22).

- **Guidelines in Romans 12**

The exhortation of Romans 12:10 particularly relates to the gift of serving: *"Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor"*(ESV).

- **Life Principle to Apply**

A server needs to diligently apply the principle of authority. As he honors the directions and wishes of authority figures, the server is better equipped to maintain proper priorities in time management and is often protected from individuals who might take advantage of his eagerness to help meet physical needs.

Teaching

A person with the motivational gift of teaching is **passionate about discovering and validating truth**. A teacher is particularly concerned with the accuracy of information, especially church doctrine, and is often gifted with research abilities.

- **Biblical Example**

Luke's work in writing Scriptural accounts was driven by a desire to verify and preserve the truth about both Jesus' life and the formation of the Church so that the faith of believers would be strengthened. *"It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus, that thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed"* (Luke 1:3–4).

- **Guidelines in Romans 12**

The exhortation of Romans 12:11 particularly relates to the gift of serving: *"Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord"*(ESV).

- **Life Principle to Apply**

A teacher should faithfully apply the principle of success and invest time in meditation on Scripture. The discipline of meditation helps the teacher stay focused on the truth of God's Word instead of on the strength of his own mind.

Exhorting

A person with the motivational gift of exhortation **wants to see believers grow to spiritual maturity**. An exhorter is an encourager at heart and is often involved in the ministries of counseling, teaching, and discipleship.

- **Biblical Example**

The epistles of the Apostle Paul demonstrate his love for the Church and his concern that believers all over the world grow to spiritual maturity. Paul addressed the questions and concerns of the early believers and challenged them to be faithful in their walks with God. “. . . *Christ in you, the hope of glory: whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: whereunto I also labor, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily*” (Colossians 1:27–29).

- **Guidelines in Romans 12**

The exhortation of Romans 12:12 particularly relates to the gift of exhortation: “*Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer*”(ESV).

- **Life Principle to Apply**

It is essential for an exhorter to understand the principle of God's design and to accept God's design in his own life. An understanding of this principle establishes a firm foundation for understanding and accepting the sovereignty of God, which is a key to the exhorter's ministry.

Giving

A person with the motivational gift of giving **wants to use financial resources wisely in order to give to meet the needs of others**. A giver is usually good at finding the best buy, noticing overlooked needs, and maintaining a budget.

- **Biblical Example**

When Jesus called Matthew to become a disciple, Matthew immediately gave up his lucrative job, that of being a tax collector for the Romans. “*As Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose and followed him*” (Matthew 9:9). Givers often avoid the limelight, so it is not surprising that even in the Gospel written by Matthew we find very little personal information about him.

- **Guidelines in Romans 12**

The exhortation of Romans 12:13 particularly relates to the gift of giving: “*Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality*”(ESV).

- **Life Principle to Apply**

A giver must learn to wisely apply the principle of ownership. When a giver understands that all things belong to God and should be used to bring glory to Him, he is ready to share his resources as God directs him to give.

Organizing

A person with the motivational gift of organizing is **able to accomplish tasks and solve problems through analysis and delegation**. An organizer often discerns the talents and abilities of others and knows how those individuals can best serve within a ministry or on a particular project.

- **Biblical Example**

When the Apostle Paul and his fellow missionaries brought the Gospel to Philippi, a woman named Lydia heard them preach and responded with faith in God. As a business owner and persuasive woman of faith, Lydia used her resources to help meet Paul's needs and she welcomed the missionaries into her home. *"When she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us"* (Acts 16:15).

- **Guidelines in Romans 12**

The exhortation of Romans 12:14 particularly relates to the gift of organization and the life principle of suffering: *"Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them"*(ESV).

- **Life Principle to Apply**

A person with the gift of organization needs to understand the principle of suffering. Trusting God to use the tests and trials of life to develop his character and strengthen his faith helps an organizer respond to unexpected events with patience and wisdom and increases his sensitivity to the needs of others.

Mercy

A person with the motivational gift of mercy is **sensitive to the emotional and spiritual needs of others**. A mercy-giver is drawn to people in need and seeks to demonstrate compassion, understanding, and love to them.

- **Biblical Example**

The Apostle John had the gift of mercy. The Gospel of John and the epistles I, II, and III John share a unique perspective of Jesus' ministry and include many insights into the love of God and His work in the heart of a believer. *"A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another"* (John 13:34-35).

- **Guidelines in Romans 12**

The exhortation of Romans 12:15 particularly relates to the gift of mercy: *“Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep”*(ESV).

- **Life Principle to Apply**

It is important for a mercy-motivated person to apply the principle of moral freedom. An understanding of this principle will protect the mercy-giver from developing improper relationships or giving false impressions to those to whom they minister.