

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

TRUE OR FALSE

- Everyone in the world has at least one spiritual gift.

False.

Spiritual gifts are abilities that the Holy Spirit gives to people who believe in Jesus (see FUN-da-Mental #5).

- Spiritual gifts help the church accomplish its mission.

True. They're tools to do the jobs that God needs us to do for Him.

- Spiritual gifts are talents, like being able to play the piano or solve tough math problems.

False. All our abilities come from God and should be used for Him, but spiritual gifts are supernatural skills that go beyond our natural talents.

- Some Christians don't have any spiritual gifts.

False. The Holy Spirit "gives them to each person" in the church (1 Corinthians 12:11).

- Some people have more spiritual gifts than others.

True. Like the servants in the parable of the talents, each person receives gifts based on their ability to use them (Matthew 25:15).



IT'S BIGGER THAN CHRISTMAS!

The Holy Spirit has plenty of gifts to go around. Here are a few of the things He enables people to do (1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 28; Romans 12:6-8; Ephesians 4:11).

- prophecy (share messages from God)
- teach
- work miracles
- help people in need
- speak in different languages
- give money or belongings
- lead
- encourage
- spread the gospel to people who haven't heard it
- care for the spiritual needs of believers
- give wise advice

We don't get to pick our gifts—the Holy Spirit does that because He knows just what we need.



GOD LOVES VARIETY

The Holy Spirit doesn't give everybody the same gift. That would be boring, not to mention pointless—like a computer keyboard with all "N" keys.

"There are different ways to serve. But they all come from the same Lord" (1 Corinthians 12:5).

Since everyone has different gifts, we shouldn't

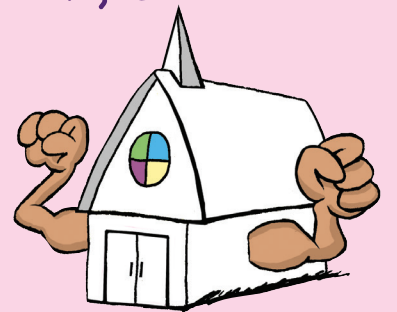
- wish we had someone else's gifts
- act like someone else's gift isn't important
- expect everyone else to do the same things we do for God

That also means we should use the gift (or gifts!) we have. Otherwise something important will be missing from the church, like a computer keyboard with no "N" key.

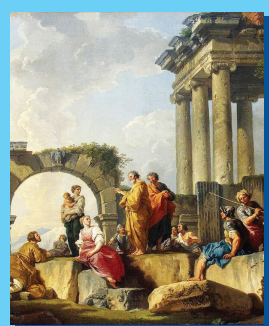


MANY GIFTS, ONE MISSION

Spiritual gifts strengthen the church, making it bigger and better. When we use our gifts, exciting things happen (Ephesians 4:12-16)!



- New people join the church.
- Church members learn more about Jesus and grow more like Him.
- We become more united in our faith.
- We aren't fooled by false teachings about God.
- We learn how to use our gifts more effectively.
- We love God and others more.



GIFTED PEOPLE IN THE BIBLE

We can see different spiritual gifts at work in the early church.

- Paul eagerly spread the gospel far and wide.
- Barnabas encouraged others.
- Dorcas showed compassion by helping the poor.
- Peter miraculously healed people.

These Christians were all very different, but God used each one.

TEAM PLAYERS NEEDED



God wants all of us to work together in the church (see FUN-da-Mental #12). If everyone does their part, using their specific gifts, the church will do a great job of showing God's love to the whole world.

Ministry isn't just for pastors. Everyone in the church has a job to do—even kids! Why be a spectator when you can be part of the team?

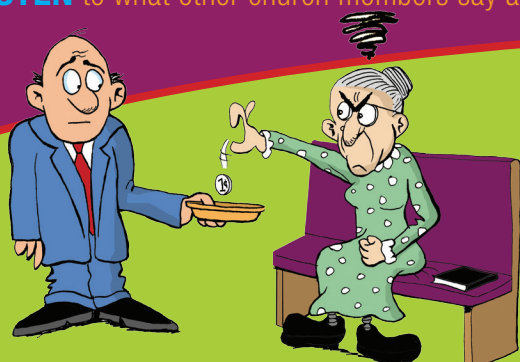
HOW TO DISCOVER YOUR GIFTS

LEARN what the Bible says about spiritual gifts.

PRAY for the Holy Spirit to give you His power.

WORK for God whenever you have a chance! Try different kinds of ministry.

LISTEN to what other church members say about your gifts.



THIS GIFT IS FOR EVERYBODY

Imagine a church full of proud preachers, grumpy givers, and envious encouragers. It just wouldn't attract people to Jesus, would it?

That's why Paul says that LOVE is the most important gift (1 Corinthians 13:1-3). Without love the other gifts are useless. Every Christian can have this gift, along with the other fruits of the Spirit (Ephesians 5:22, 23).

Love never wears out or needs to be taken back for a refund. It's a gift you can use forever!