

PEOPLE OF THE SPIRIT

SPIRITUAL GIFTS INVENTORY

PASSAGES TO STUDY

ROMANS 12: 3-8

1 CORINTHIANS 12: 7-11

EPHESIANS 4:7-16

Over these past few weeks, we've considered what it means to be People of the Spirit. We traced the Holy Spirit's work from the Old to New Testament and present day and studied the different fruit and gifts of the Holy Spirit. Why all the fuss over gifts? Well, wholeness beyond justification is vital, and any Christian should want to see actualized wholeness in him/herself and in the lives of others. Why not, then, avail ourselves of every tool (gift) available to get the job done? It's true you can cut a lawn with a pair of scissors, but why not use a lawn mower instead? Why unnecessarily handicap ourselves? A fully equipped person certainly gets the job done better! Today, let's review a few specific passages in the Bible that describe the gifts each member of the Trinity gives to His people. For many, clarification of the distinct role each member of the Godhead plays in giving gifts to mankind is helpful.



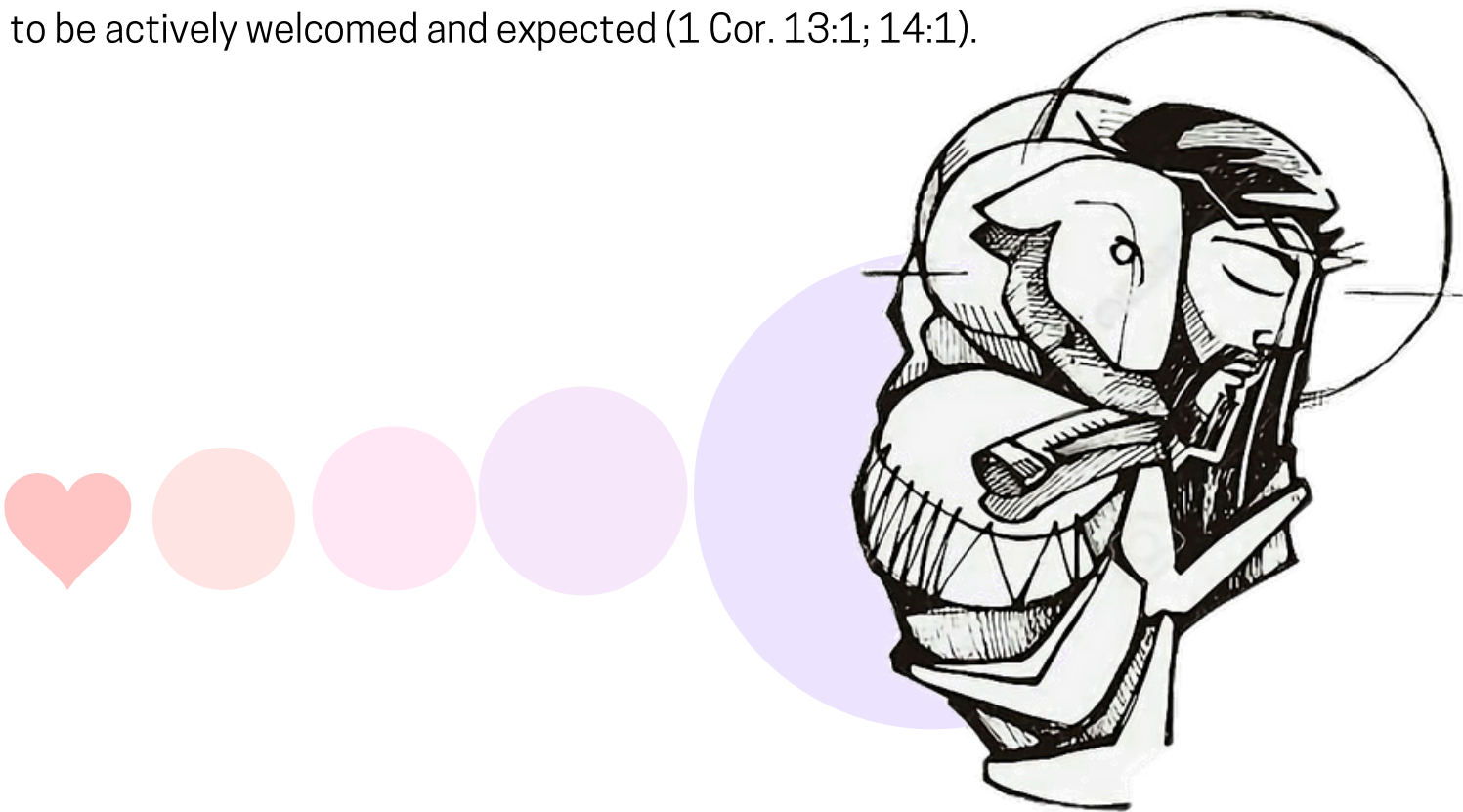
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Foundationally, our course, our existence—human life—is given by the Father (Gen. 2:7; Heb. 12:9), who also gave His only begotten Son as the Redeemer for mankind (John 3:16). Redemptively, Jesus is the giver of eternal life (John 5:38–40; 10:27, 28); He gave His life and shed His blood to gain that privilege (John 10:17, 18; Eph. 5:25–27). Further, the Father and Son have jointly sent the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:17, 33) to advance the work of redemption through the church’s ministry of worship, growth, and evangelism.

In sequence, then, we find Romans 12:3–8 describing gifts given by God as Father. They seem to characterize basic “motivations,” that is, inherent tendencies that characterize each different person by reason of the Creator’s unique workmanship in their initial gifting .

Second, in 1 Corinthians 12:7–11, the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit are listed. Their purpose is specific—to “profit” the body of the church. These nine gifts are specifically available to every believer as the Holy Spirit distributes them (1 Cor. 12:11). They are not to be merely acknowledged in a passive way, but rather are to be actively welcomed and expected (1 Cor. 13:1; 14:1).



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Furthermore, these nine specific Holy Spirit manifestations (“flashes, disclosures, immediate movings, spontaneously granted aids to effective ministry”) are made available to every believer to more effectively carry out kingdom ministry. No one individual will be able to get the entire job done; no one individual will manifest all the gifts. We need each other and we need all the diverse gifts. Together they aid in giving instruction (“word of wisdom, word of knowledge”), in ministering to people’s needs (“faith, gifts of healings, working of miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits”) and in worshiping God (“different kinds of tongues, the interpretation of tongues”). They are not “resident” gifts like the Romans 12 and Ephesians 4 gifts, but rather spontaneously granted tools given as the need arises and the Spirit determines (1 Cor. 12:11). Our concern should always be the release of the gift most needed to meet the needs of individuals or groups of individuals, even if that manifestation flows through someone else.

Third, the gifts which the Son of God has given are pivotal in assuring that the first two categories of gifts are applied in the body of the church. Ephesians 4:7–16 indicates the “office gifts” Christ has placed in the church along with their purpose. The Model for each of the gifts is Jesus Himself. He’s the “Apostle ... of our confession” (Heb. 3:1), “a Prophet” like Moses (Acts 3:22), an evangelist “anointed ... to preach the gospel” (Luke 4:18, 19), “the Shepherd ... of your souls” (1 Pet. 2:25) and the “Teacher” (John 13:13). As the Model, He intends His multifaceted ministry to be carried on in the church by the various Office Gifts. They are invaluable to the kingdom of God. We need, therefore, to truly understand and appreciate these gifts, as well as the tasks to which they’re called.



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In this light, let's examine these clearly designated categories of giftings: the Father's (Rom. 12:3-8), the Son's (Eph. 4:7-16) and the Holy Spirit's (1 Cor. 12:7-11).

The gifts in italics are repeated in one of the other passages.

Romans 12:3-8	1 Corinthians 12:7-11	Ephesians 4:7-16
Motivational Gifts from the Father	Gifts from the Holy Spirit	Office gifts from the Son of God
Exhortation	Administration	<i>Apostle</i>
Giving	Apostle	Evangelism
Leadership	Discernment	Pastor
Mercy	Faith	<i>Prophecy</i>
Prophecy	Healings	<i>Teaching</i>
Service	Helps	
Teaching	Knowledge	
	Miracles	
	<i>Prophecy</i>	
	<i>Teaching</i>	
	Tongues	
	Tongues – Interpretation	
	Wisdom	

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One other helpful way of seeing how the gifts work together is to divide the gifts between gifts of certain people to the church and gifts to many people in the church. Eph 4.11 lists four or five classes of people given to the church for the equipping of the saints. Their role would include training people in using their spiritual gifts.

We could also further divide the gifts to many people in the church between supernatural manifestations and internal capabilities. 1 Cor 12.28-30 seems to mix all the types of gifts, gifts of men to the church and gifts to many men in the church, both the 'manifestation' gifts and the internal capabilities gifts. It might be better to list them all like this:

Supernatural Manifestations	Internal Capabilities	Individual person
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Word of wisdom▪ Word of knowledge▪ Healing▪ Miracles▪ Distinguishing Spirits▪ Tongues and Interpreting Tongues	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Helps / service / mercy▪ Faith▪ Administrations▪ Prophecy▪ Teaching▪ Exhortation▪ Giving▪ Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Apostles▪ Prophets▪ Evangelists▪ Pastors▪ Teachers

If you have completed the previous study on the different motivational gifts, you should have an idea of which gift(s) you may have been given. After reading the passages at the beginning of this study for yourself, the following might help you see more clearly the areas of ministry that you may be called to.

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ADMINISTRATION

1 Cor. 12:28 - to steer the body toward the accomplishment of God-given goals and directives by planning, organizing, and supervising others (Greek Word: kubernesis - to steer, guide, helmsmen)

Areas of ministry:

Christian Education

Leadership

Staff Support

APOSTLE

Eph. 4:11; 1 Cor. 12:28 - to be sent forth to new frontiers with the gospel, providing leadership over church bodies and maintaining authority over spiritual matters pertaining to the church (Greek Word: apostolos - 'apo'=from 'stello'=send; one sent forth)

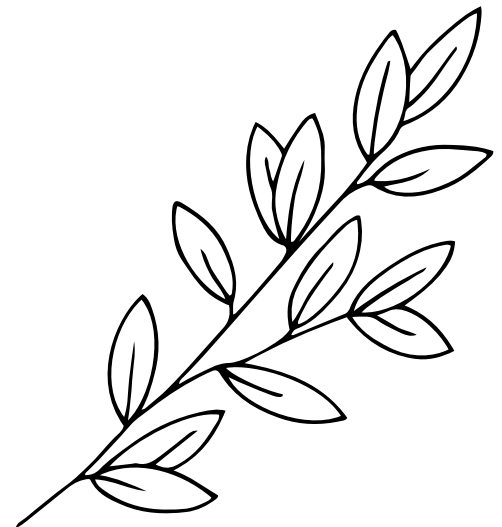
Areas of ministry:

Cross-Cultural Ministries

Missions

Outreach Ministries

Visionary Leadership



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DISCERNMENT

1 Cor. 12:10 - to clearly distinguish truth from error by judging whether the behavior or teaching is from God, Satan, human error, or human power

Areas of Ministry:

Apologetics

Spiritual Warfare

EVANGELISM

Eph. 4:11 - to be a messenger of the good news of the Gospel (Greek Word: euaggelistes - preacher of gospel; eu=well, angelos=message - messenger of good)

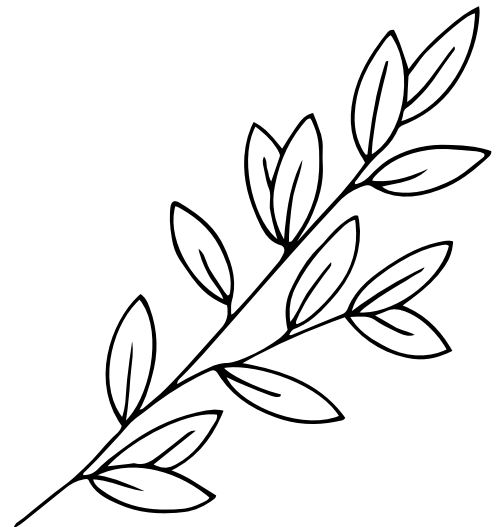
Areas of Ministry:

Cross-Cultural

Missions

Other Local or Community Outreach

Witnessing



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EXHORTATION

Rom. 12:8 - to come along side of someone with words of encouragement, comfort, consolation, and counsel to help them be all God wants them to be
(Greek Word: paraklesis - calling to one's side)

Areas of Ministry:

Counseling

Discipleship Ministry

Training of Church Volunteers for Ministry

Small Group or Support Groups

Teaching Worship

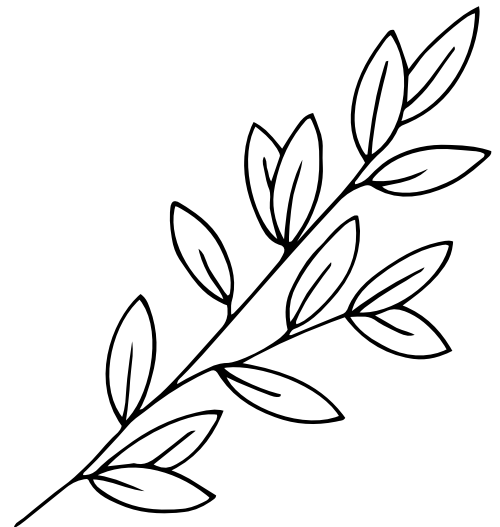
FAITH

1 Cor. 12:8-10 - to be firmly persuaded of God's power and promises to accomplish His will and purpose and to display such a confidence in Him and His Word that circumstances and obstacles do not shake that conviction

Areas of Ministry:

Prayer Ministry

Visionary Leadership



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GIVING

Rom. 12:8 - to share what material resources you have with liberality and cheerfulness without thought of return

Areas of Ministry:

Benevolence Ministry
Biblical Stewardship
Practical Assistance

HEALING

1 Cor. 12:9,28,30 - to be used as a means through which God makes people whole either physically, emotionally, mentally, or spiritually

Areas of Ministry:

Counseling
Prayer Ministry
Shepherding Ministry

HELPING

1 Cor. 12:28 - to render support or assistance to others in the body so as to free them up for their areas of ministry

Areas of Ministry:

Clerical
Communications
Practical Service
Staff Support



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KNOWLEDGE

1 Cor. 12:8 - to seek to learn as much about the Bible as possible through the gathering of much information and the analyzing of that data

Areas of Ministry:

Christian Education

Preaching & Speaking

Teaching

LEADERSHIP

Rom. 12:8 - to stand before the people in such a way as to attend to the direction of the body with such care and diligence so as to motivate others to get involved in the accomplishment of these goals

Areas of Ministry:

Administration

Leadership/ Pastoring Roles

MERCY

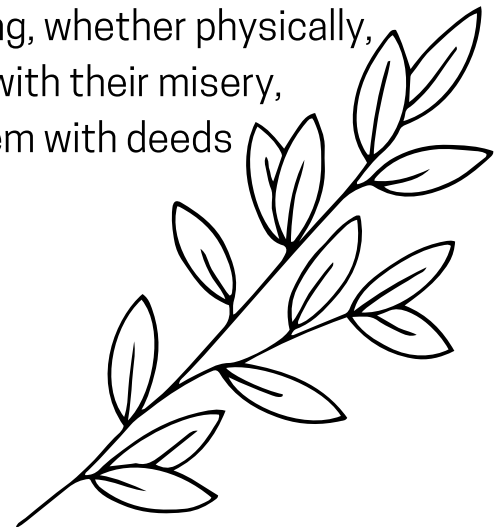
Rom. 12:8 - to be sensitive toward those who are suffering, whether physically, mentally, or emotionally, so as to feel genuine sympathy with their misery, speaking words of compassion but more so caring for them with deeds of love to help alleviate their distress

Areas of Ministry:

Benevolence / Caring

People Helping Ministry

Visitation Ministry



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MIRACLES

1 Cor. 12:10,28 - to be enabled by God to perform mighty deeds which witnesses acknowledge to be of supernatural origin and means

Areas of Ministry:

Prayer & Intercessory Ministry

PASTOR

Eph. 4:11 - to be responsible for spiritually caring for, protecting, guiding, and feeding a group of believers entrusted to one's care

Areas of Ministry:

Shepherding

PROPHECY

Rom. 12:6; 1 Cor. 12:10; Eph. 4:11 - to speak forth the message of God to His people (Greek Word: prophetes - the forth-telling of the will of God; 'pro'=forth; 'phemi'=to speak)

Areas of Ministry:

Speaking



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SERVICE

Rom. 12:7 - to identify undone tasks in God's work, however menial, and use available resources to get the job done (Greek Word: diakonia - deacon, attendant 'diako'=to run errands)

Areas of Ministry:

Clerical & Communications

Service-Oriented/ Practical Assistance

TEACHING

Rom. 12:7; 1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11 - to instruct others in the Bible in a logical, systematic way so as to communicate pertinent information for true understanding and growth

Areas of Ministry:

Christian Education & Nurturing

Equipping Ministry

Teaching Ministry

Developing training materials or assessing teaching materials

Training of Church Volunteers for Ministry

TONGUES

1 Cor. 12:10; 14:27-28 - to speak in a language not previously learned so unbelievers can hear God's message in their own language or the body be edified

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INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES

1 Cor. 12:10; 14:27, 28 - to translate the message of someone who has spoken in tongues

Areas of Ministry:

Outreach, local and global

WISDOM

1 Cor. 12:8 - to apply knowledge to life in such a way as to make spiritual truths quite relevant and practical in proper decision-making and daily life situations; to help a group arrive at ways to implement ideas when leading in ministry.

Areas of Ministry:

Counseling Ministry

Crisis Intervention

Discipleship and Mentorship Ministry

Committee and planning



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Although the following are not found in the main three passages we've studied about spiritual gifts, you may find a special calling in your life in the following areas. Celibacy, hospitality, martyrdom, missions, and voluntary poverty, are just some of the ways which your spiritual gift may be extended or alternately expressed.

CELIBACY

1 Cor. 7:7,8 - to voluntarily remain single without regret and with the ability to maintain controlled sexual impulses so as to serve the Lord without distraction

HOSPITALITY

1 Pet. 4:9,10 - to warmly welcome people, even strangers, into one's home or church as a means of serving those in need of food or lodging (Greek Word: philoxenos - love of strangers; 'philos'=love; 'xenos'=stranger)

Areas of Ministry:

Visitation ministry

Hosting or facilitating small groups or care groups

Serving as a greeter or usher

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MARTYRDOM

1 Cor. 13:3 - to give over one's life to suffer or to be put to death for the cause of Christ.

If you are suffering for Jesus, even if it seems insignificant in comparison to others, here are some promises or realities to grab hold of:

You are an overcomer because He is. Have hope in Him. (Jn. 16:33)

You are secure in His love. Hold on to it. (Rom. 8:35)

You are considered blessed. Be at peace. (Matt. 5:10-11)

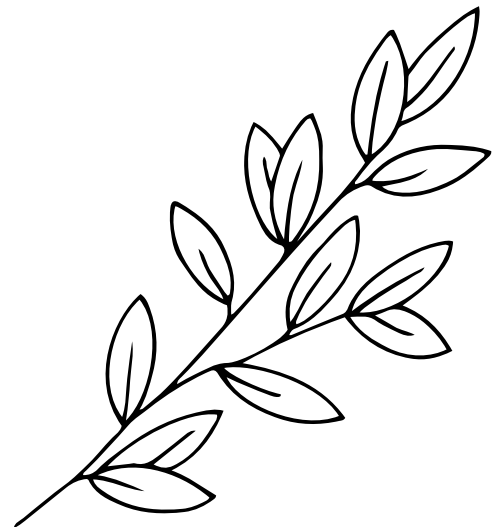
You will be rewarded because of it. Hang in there. (Matt. 5:11-12)

You will be restored. Stand firm. (1 Pet. 5:8-10)

With these realities comes a sense of purpose in suffering for Him, knowing that we will be okay no matter what happens which then results in:

> an ability to take heart (Jn. 16:33) and rejoice and be glad even in persecution (Matt. 5:12).

> a sense of security (Rom. 8:35-36) which in turn enables us to look beyond ourselves and care about the one who is persecuting us (Matt. 5:44-45; Rom. 12:14).



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MISSIONARY

Eph. 3:6-8 - to be able to minister in another culture

Areas of Ministry:

Cross-Cultural Outreach

Missions

Outreach by expressing love

Empowerment: Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8); prayer (for ourselves - Eph. 6:18-20; Col. 4:4 for opportunities - Col. 4:2-3; 2 Thess. 3:1; for the lost - Rom. 10:1; for more workers - Matt. 9:37-38); some have gift of evangelism (Eph. 4:11)

Energy: moved by love (2 Cor. 5:14); a passion toward the lost (Rom. 9:3; Ps. 126:5-6); place value on individuals (Lk. 15:1-10)



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PASSAGE TO STUDY

ISAIAH 61:1-2

LUKE 4: 17-21

Having stated the belief that these manifestations are vital in bringing people into the fullness of kingdom life, we need to take a moment and concentrate on just what we mean by “kingdom life.” Kingdom life refers to the quality of life God’s kingdom brings to individuals. “The Kingdom of God” was Jesus’ central message and the focus of His ministry (cf. Mark 1:15). “Kingdom” (Greek, *basileia*) is more accurately “reign” or “royal rule.” It refers to the rulership of God in our lives and circumstances, rulership afforded us through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. We’re dealing with “God’s sovereign rule and the entry of the Messiah, which means an end to the rule of death and deadening human systems [It] is a spiritual reality that is in one’s life, over one’s affairs, and expressed through one’s life, love, and service.”

(Hayford, J. W., & Matsdorf, G. (1993). People of the Spirit: gifts, fruit and fullness of the Holy Spirit. (p. 103)



ARE YOU TAKING PART IN KINGDOM BUILDING?

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Jesus made this focus on kingdom building clear from early in His ministry by applying Isaiah 61:1, 2 to His ministry (Luke 4:17–21). Read that passage and note the following from verses 18, 19.

Who made possible this ministry in Jesus' life?

How did He do it?

What six things was Jesus to do/proclaim as a result of this Holy Spirit anointing.



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Hopefully, this has been a prosperous journey, or rather, the beginning of a journey. The Spirit-filled life, including the growth of His fruit and manifestations, is a daily, ongoing pursuit, as Paul reminds us in Ephesians 5:18. Though in your experience and theology Spirit fullness may have a definite starting point, may it never have an ending point this side of heaven!

May you seek His face in diligent, fervent prayer for the proper attitude and availability to be the salt and light Jesus needs in a hurting, sin-controlled world. May your lifelong ambition be to obey 1 Corinthians 14:1: "Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts."

