

GIFTS AND GIFTINGS

PART I----PERSPECTIVE

There are three categories of gifts enumerated in the New Testament. Each group is unique and distinct from the others.

One of these groups of God-given gifts holds the key to understanding many things about yourself

Why you think and act the way you do

How you relate to other people and circumstance around you

What makes you the special individual you are.

This group of gifts will be the focus of this study

- 10 As each of you has received a gift (a particular spiritual talent, a gracious divine endowment), employ it for one another as [befits] good trustees of God's many-sided grace [faithful stewards of the extremely diverse powers and gifts granted to Christians by unmerited favor]. **1 Peter 4:10, TAB**

This verse states that every believer has been given a gift. We are also commanded to employ it for the benefit of others. We can be confident that God would not command us to use something we do not possess—but how do we get it?

Charisma is the Greek word for “gift”

A divine gratuity

A spiritual endowment

A free gift.

So this is not something we can earn, the command is not to try to deserve it, but to *use* it. This kind of gift is a possession, something already given to each one of us by God at our creation.

This is only one of the groups of gifts found in the New Testament.

I. THE MANIFESTATION GIFTS

7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the [Holy] Spirit [the evidence, the spiritual illumination of the Spirit] for good *and* profit.

8 To one is given in *and* through the [Holy] Spirit [the power to speak] a message of wisdom, and to another [the power to express] a word of knowledge *and* understanding according to the same [Holy] Spirit;

9 To another [^bwonder-working] faith by the same [Holy] Spirit, to another the extraordinary powers of healing by the one Spirit;

10 To another the working of miracles, to another prophetic insight (^cthe gift of interpreting the divine will and purpose); to another the ability to discern *and* distinguish between [the utterances of true] spirits [and false ones], to another various kinds of

[unknown] tongues, to another the ability to interpret [such] tongues. 1 Cor 12: 7-10
TAB

There are nine gifts listed here:

1. *The word of wisdom*, a revelation of wisdom beyond natural human wisdom that enables a person to know what to do or say.
2. *The word of knowledge*, a revelation of information for a person, group, or situation that could not have been known by any natural means.
3. *Faith*, the kind of wonder-working faith that moves mountains and waits expectantly for results.
4. *Gifts of healing*, the many different ways and varieties of degrees which God manifests healing.
5. *Working of miracles*, the demonstration of the power and action of God that goes beyond natural laws.
6. *Prophecy*, an anointed proclamation of God through an individual to encourage, exhort or comfort
7. *Discerning of spirits*, a person's ability to perceive what type of spirit is in operation in a given situation.
8. *Various kinds of tongues*, the language given to believers by the Holy Spirit but not learned or understood by the speaker.
9. *Interpretation of tongues*, the supernatural ability to express the content of what has been spoken in tongues.

These are called manifestation gifts because Paul used the Greek word *phanerosis* meaning an exhibition, expression, or manifestation. Paul defined these as supernatural manifestation of the Holy Spirit at work through a believer.

II. THE MINISTRY GIFTS

11 And His gifts were [varied; He Himself appointed and gave men to us] some to be apostles (special messengers), some prophets (inspired preachers and expounders), some evangelists (preachers of the Gospel, traveling missionaries), some pastors (shepherds of His flock) and teachers.

12 His intention was the perfecting *and* the full equipping of the saints (His consecrated people), [that they should do] the work of ministering toward building up Christ's body (the church). Eph. 4:11-12 TAB

The word for gift here is *doma* meaning a present. After Jesus ascended to the father He presented gifts of people who were called and gifted to lead and train the rest of the Body of Christ

There are five ministry gifts listed in this passage:

1. The *apostle*, one who establishes and strengthens churches.
2. The *prophet*, one who speaks forth the message of God.
3. The *evangelist*, one who is called to preach the Gospel.

4. The *pastor*, one who feeds and shepherds the believers.
5. The *teacher*, one who instructs believers in the Word of God.

These five ministry gifts might equally be called equipping gifts, enabling the saints (believers) to do the work of the ministry so that Christ's Body on earth (the Church) can function as His true representative.

III. THE MOTIVATIONAL GIFTS

6 Having gifts (faculties, talents, qualities) that differ according to the grace given us, let us use them: [He whose gift is] prophecy, [let him prophesy] according to the proportion of his faith;

7 [He whose gift is] practical service, let him give himself to serving; he who teaches, to his teaching;

8 He who exhorts (encourages), to his exhortation; he who contributes, let him do it in simplicity *and* liberality; he who gives aid *and* superintends, with zeal *and* singleness of mind; he who does acts of mercy, with genuine cheerfulness *and* joyful eagerness.

Romans 12:6-8 TAB

Charisma is the Greek word used here meaning gracious joy gift.

1. *Perceiver*, one who clearly perceives the will of God.
2. *Server*, one who lives to serve others. Another appropriate word is "*doer*."
3. *Teacher*, one who loves to research and communicate truth.
4. *Exhorter*, one who loves to encourage others to live a victorious life. These are extremely positive people who can equally well be called encourages.
5. *Giver*, one who lives to give time, talent, energy, and means to benefit others and advance the Gospel. Another word would be "*contributor*."
6. *Administrator*, one who loves to organize, lead or direct. Other words could be "*facilitator*" and "*leader*."
7. *Compassion person*, one who shows compassion, love and care to those in need. We say "compassion instead of "mercy" since this word is more comprehensive in today's usage.

Always remember that whether or not you are operating in the motivation gifts, the ministry gifts, or the manifestation gifts, if you don't do it in love—God's agape love—you are doing nothing!