

# GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

A Basic Introduction and Study Guide



## A Basic Study of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

This study guide is provided to help you in the study of God's word. My prayer is that you will not just look for *the right answer*, but that you will take time to think about the passages and give thoughtful answers to each question.

Its design is such that it can be used for individual study or in a group setting. Take your time. Look up and read each scripture and hide it in your heart. His word is our protection. *Thy word have I hidden in my heart that I might not sin against You.* (Psalm 119:11) One translation says, *Your word have I **treasured** in my heart.* Throughout this study treat each scripture as a treasure and each revelation as a capture. I hope you have hours of treasure hunting explorations!

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I pray your life is enriched and strengthened by the time spent in His word.

Jeanie Olinger



## Introduction to the Gifts of the Spirit

One of the things the new church had to deal with in Acts was learning about the indwelling of Holy Spirit. In the Old Testament, He had overshadowed them, or come upon them but as Jesus promised, He sent Holy Spirit to *indwell* or live in believers. We have read passages many times and forget sometimes that this was all new to them. They hadn't understood the gifts and weren't aware of the way He could manifest in and through them. The Apostle Paul did quite a bit of teaching on the gifts and lists them out at least 3 times. He mentions them in 1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12 and in Ephesians 4. There are a variety of gifts, he says, but just one Holy Spirit who distributes them. Over the years, there has been great misunderstandings about the gifts and many have discounted them or said they do not exist. Just because we ignore them, doesn't mean they are not there. Many times, we operate in a gift or gifts and are not aware of it. The Holy Spirit works it through us. This is one reason Paul was writing about the gifts to the early church, he wanted them to understand how Holy Spirit was working and living through them.

It must be important to learn how the gifts work in the body today since Paul spent time explaining it to the congregations. In this first lesson, you will compile a list of the gifts mentioned in the New Testament and develop a working definition of each one. This will make it easier to identify what God is doing in and around you.

1. We find lists of the gifts in three passages: 1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12 and Ephesians 4. Some of the gifts are listed in more than one passage. Generate a list of the gifts, listing each one only one time. Then write a brief description of each gift. You may use any resource you have available to create a working definition of each gift. (Dictionary, Bible dictionary, teacher, concordance, etc.)

2. While the gifts are all equally important, they do have different roles. We can generally classify them into three groups. This simply helps us identify them and how they function in the body. Some are *utterance* gifts, some are *leadership* gifts, and others are *demonstration* gifts. Place each gift under the title that best describes its classification. Utterance gifts are those that are spoken out or where speaking is involved. Demonstration gifts are an action, or demonstration. And leadership gifts are those in leadership roles, commonly called the 5-fold ministry or offices.

Leadership Gifts	Utterance Gifts	Demonstration Gifts

3. Each of the passages we've been discussing gives a general reason for **why** the gifts are in operation in the body of Christ, or His church. Although they may be stated a little differently in each passage, there are ultimate goals for Holy Spirit's working in and among us. Briefly state what the general goal, or purpose is for the gifts operating in the Body of Christ. (In other words, **why** do we need them?)

## Leadership Gifts

Ephesians was written by the apostle Paul to the young church. They were in the process of learning this new way of worshipping and living. Part of his instructions included leadership. In Ephesians 4:11 he lists what is commonly called the “five-fold” ministry gifts, or the leadership gifts. The five leadership gifts include: *apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor* and *teacher*. These all work together for the building up of the body of Christ. No one is greater than the other, and the body needs **all** of them, or each of them. They are gifts to the body, not a title for a person to wear. Here are some brief definitions of the five leadership gifts:

- **Apostle** – The term apostle means “to send” or “sent one” not only are they often sent to an area to oversee a work, they should be sending out. Apostles may exhibit any of the gifts, and yet may be predominant in one or two but their primary responsibility is to send forth. Their passion is to equip and send.
- **Prophet** – Prophets like order and can often see what is out of order and what needs to be fixed. They may also be a seer and able to foresee things that are coming. The prophet is a mouthpiece for God and often inspired to speak His words to the body. Their passion is to distinguish between the holy and the profane and bring order.
- **Evangelist** – Evangelists are focused on community, they are a gatherer. They typically have a global view and desire to always be bringing people into the fold of God. You’ll see them sharing the gospel with anyone who will listen, whether it’s in their own backyard or on the other side of the world. Their passion is sharing.
- **Pastor** – A good analogy for a pastor is a shepherd. Their heart beats for the sheep. They nurture, feed, care for and protect those in their charge. Their passion is to nurture.
- **Teacher** – Teachers are likely to know the Word backwards and forwards. They can lay it out line upon line and help others learn more about God and His word. Their passion is to share the Word of Truth.

These are very brief overviews of how these leadership gifts perform. A person may function in one or more of them. For instance, a pastor may also be very apostolic, or a prophet may be pastoral in nature. Holy Spirit is in charge and He can distribute and display them any way He sees fit. It’s up to the vessels to yield to the Holy Spirit and follow Him. These do not make up a *special class* they are in position for the benefit of the body, not for their own. It’s important to know how each one functions to receive from them. You don’t go to a dentist to get a broken arm fixed, nor do you ask a doctor how to manage your money. But if you do have a broken limb, you know who to go to for help. It’s the same way with the gifts. When a person needs pastoring – they should inquire of a pastor etc. As we learn to recognize the unique giftings we will be able to receive from Him through them.

1. Read Ephesians 4. In verse 11, you will see the list of these gifts given to people by God. In verses 12 through 16, you'll see the *why*. In your own words explain why the gifts were given to the church and what should happen as a result. In other words, how do you know these gifts are working in the body?

2. Each of the passages listed below contains stories of lead Bible characters. They also give us a glimpse of the overall view of each of the leadership gifts. Preview these stories before completing the table in the following question. This is not an exhaustive list, only a few examples to help form a picture of the gifts and how they operate. Please note also, that the examples are for the characteristics of the gifts and may or may not be each person's primary gift.

- Nehemiah – Apostle – Book of Nehemiah
- Samuel – Prophet/Judge – 1 Samuel 3-16
- Ezra – Teacher – Nehemiah 8
- Gideon – Evangelist/Gatherer – Judges 6-7
- David – Pastor/Shepherd – 1 Samuel 17, Psalm 23

3. With these examples in mind, think about the following scriptures. In each of the scripture references listed below there is at least one person who is demonstrating a leadership gift. List each person and the gift they exhibit.

Exodus 18	Acts 11:27-30 & Acts 21:10-14
Acts 18:24-28	2 Chronicles 34
Matthew 3:1-12	Genesis 41:38-57
Acts 2:14-36	Acts 15:13-21
Ezra 7:27-8:31	1 Kings 4:29-34 & 1 Kings 10:1-10

Scripture	Person	Leadership Gift

## Gifts of Utterance

Look back at the previous lessons to form your answers for these questions. The *utterance gifts* are those which are uttered, or spoken. These include prophecy, a word of wisdom, a word of knowledge, gifts of tongues, and interpretation of tongues. How do you know if someone is giving you a word of wisdom, a word of knowledge or a prophecy? These can be a bit confusing, so let's give them some definitions to make them easier to identify.

- *Word of Wisdom* – When this gift is operating, the Holy Spirit will speak through a person with something to **do**. It'll be like a little taste of God's divine wisdom and it will enlighten the one receiving it and they will know what to do in a certain situation.
  - *Word of Knowledge* – This gift shares a bit of God's knowledge about a person or a situation. The person with the gift may just **know** someone is suffering from depression or an ailment, then God can bring healing. God basically downloads information to a person. Oftentimes, it will be followed with a word of wisdom, a prophecy or a healing.
  - *Prophecy* – The prophetic gifting can be two-fold. Many times, prophecy is foretelling, or declaring what is to come. Prophecy is to *edify, exhort* and *comfort*. It is a super-natural utterance given by Holy Spirit for those purposes. (1 Corinthians 14:3)
  - *Different types of tongues* – The supernatural ability to speak in a language you do not know naturally. The one who speaks in tongues – speaks to God. 1 Corinthians 14:14 says *my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful*. There are two kinds of "tongues." Those spoken out publicly and interpreted so all present know what Holy Spirit is saying, and those tongues prayed in private as your spirit communicates directly to God.
  - *Interpretation of tongues* – The ability to understand what was said in tongues and give the interpretation of what was said by Holy Spirit.
1. Using your working definitions from lesson 1, and the above explanations, distinguish between these gifts: *word of wisdom, word of knowledge and prophecy*.



5. In the chart below, each of the scripture references contain at least one person who demonstrated an utterance gift. List the verse, the person and the gift they exhibit. The number of gifts shown in the passage is in parentheses after the scripture listing.

Scripture Passage	Person/Verse	Utterance Gift they Demonstrated
2 Kings 5:20-27 (2)		
Acts 11:27-30 (1)		
Acts 2: 1-6 (2)		
Genesis 41:14-36 (2)		
Nehemiah 6:10-24 (1)		
Acts 13:43 (1)		
2 Kings 4:1-7 (1)		
Acts 15:6-35 (1)		

## Gifts of Demonstration

Each of these lessons build on the information shared in earlier lessons. We just discussed the gifts of utterance, or spoken gifts. Now we will look at the demonstration gifts. You'll find these listed in 1 Corinthians 12:9-10. The demonstration gifts are something you can see, unlike the utterance gifts which are heard, but not seen. Gifts of healing, faith and the effecting of miracles are demonstrating the power of God. We'll also discuss discerning of spirits in this lesson. Here are some brief definitions to work with:

- *Gifts of Healing* – The body heals itself, but a *healing* is beyond the natural processes. While Jesus walked among us He healed blind eyes, deaf ears and people with diseases like leprosy.
- *Effecting of Miracles* – This again, is beyond the natural such as the crossing of the Red Sea on dry land, or the sun standing still so Joshua could fight his battle.
- *The Gift of Faith* – We all have a measure of faith, but the gift of faith goes beyond simply believing. A person with the gift of faith sees huge obstacles and knows God has made a way. They believe way past what is considered *possible*.
- *Discerning of Spirits* – A person exhibiting this gift will be able to *discern* or tell what spirit is operating. They will be able to sense demonic activity and angelic activity.

1. Discuss the difference in the gifts of utterance covered in the previous lesson and the demonstration gifts.
2. In 1 Corinthians 2: 1-5, the apostle Paul speaks of the *demonstration of the Spirit and power*. Then while he was discussing another topic in chapter 4, verse 20, he states that the *kingdom of God does not consist of words but in power*. What connection, if any, could there be between these scriptures and the “demonstration” gifts? (In other words, what are the “demonstration gifts” demonstrating?)



6. In the table below, the first column contains an Old Testament scripture and the second column lists a New Testament scripture. Both contain examples of the same demonstration gift. In the third column, write the demonstration gift found in the two passages.

OT Scripture	NT Scripture	Demonstration Gift(s)
2 Kings 20:1-11	Mark 2:1-12	
Exodus 36:1-7	Acts 4:32-37	
Joshua 10:6-14	Matthew 8:5-10	
2 Kings 4:42-44	John 2:1-11	
2 Kings 4:8-10	Luke 8:1-3	
Exodus 32:11-14	Luke 10: 30-37	
1 Kings 22:19-23	Acts 16:16-18	
2 Kings 5:8-14	Luke 17:11-19	

## Purpose of the Gifts

Paul's emphasis on the gifts clue us in to their importance in the New Testament church. It's good to be able to identify which gifts Holy Spirit is using. It makes it a bit easier for us to receive from Him.

Remember two things. One, when we *have* a gift – it's not for us; it's for the body. Two, we are receiving from Holy Spirit, not the person. The gifts were not distributed to be idolized, but to be respected and used for the building of the body. Let's explore the purpose(s) of the gifts so we better understand how Holy Spirit uses them in the church today.

1. The gifts listed in Ephesians 4:11, we call *leadership gifts*. Read verses 7 to 16 of this same chapter. Notice that Paul just listed them without elaborating on their definition or their function. He does however, explain what their goal is collectively. What are the desired results of these five gifts?
  
2. Romans 12:5 states we are *all* members of one another. 1 Corinthians 12:12 says we are all part of *one* body even though we are many members making up the whole. Ephesians 4:16 explains that each individual part works together so the *whole* body grows and builds itself up in love. It would seem then, that the point is not the individual and their gift isolated from the rest, but rather their contribution to the whole that is the benefit. Read 1 Peter 4:7-11. Peter gives brief mention of gifts here, but gives another purpose. Discuss that purpose and how it takes *all* the members, and gifts, working together to accomplish this.

3. Read 1 Timothy 4:11-16 and 2 Timothy 1:3-7. What encouragement did Paul offer to Timothy concerning the gifts he had received from Holy Spirit?

4. Because we house the Holy Spirit of God, we are not limited to operating in only one of the gifts all the time. One may operate in a particular gift only one time and no more. When Holy Spirit gives a gift, you'll find yourself operating in it freely and frequently. Please remember the gift is not **your** gift. It is a gift through you to the body. It is **their** gift, placed inside of you.

A. Write down any gift(s) Holy Spirit put in you for the body.

B. For the purpose of study, select a character in scriptures who exhibited that gift(s).

C. Select two scriptures that speak of or give examples of the gift(s) you listed above.

5. The gifts are not *proof* Holy Spirit lives in you. The gift is in the person whether or not they acknowledge it is from God. Galatians 5:22-23 gives a list of qualities seen when Holy Spirit is given full rights of residency. Jesus did not tell His disciples that prophecy, teaching or any *gift* is evidence of discipleship. (John 13:35) 2 Peter 1:4-11 discusses another perspective of the fruits of Christian living. For the gifts to have fluency and effectiveness in the believer's life, the fruits of Holy Spirit's residency must be evident. Maintaining relationship with Father is key to both operating in one's life. In the modern church, we tend to glamorize and glitterize the gifts and lay aside the fruit. How can you cultivate the fruit of Holy Spirit in your life so the gifts have free course?