

## Spiritual Gifts listed in the New Testament.

Ephesians 1:3 - Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

Romans 12:6 - We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.

<b>Romans 12:6-8</b>	<b>1 Corinthians 12:7-10</b>	<b>1 Corinthians 12:28</b>	<b>Ephesians 4:11</b>
gifts given...	To each is given	God has appointed	And He (Jesus) gave
prophecy	prophecy	prophets	prophets
service		helping	
teachers		teachers	teachers
exhortation			
giving			
leaders			
mercy			
	wisdom		
	words of knowledge		
	faith		
	healing	healing	
	miracles	miracles	
	distinguish between spirits		
	various kinds of tongues	various kinds of tongues	
	the interpretation of tongues		
		apostles	apostles
		administrating	
			evangelists
			shepherds

Common themes from these sections of scripture:

- One body with many parts – specifically, see Romans 12:4-6; 1 Corinthians 12:8-25; Ephesians 4:1-4, 16; Colossians 3:15
- Call to unity and oneness– see Romans 12:9-21; Eph 4:3, 13; Colossians 3:14
- The mandate of Love – Romans 12:9-21; Romans 13:8; 1 Corinthians 13; Eph 4:2
- A call to maturity in the Lord – Eph 4:12-13

This is not an exhaustive list – and many gifts exist that God has given to people. Musical and artistic ability. Also, intellectual, technical, computers and software, healthcare, mechanical ability, construction and craftsmanship, and countless others. Many are passions people have and a love of what they do. If we limit ourselves to things listed in the Bible, we limit God, putting Him in a box. But God is infinite, very creative from the foundation of the world, and will not be limited. He never seems to do the things twice in the same way.

## Scriptures to Consider

- Romans 12:1-2 - Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.  
*We offer ourselves as a “living sacrifice” – which God, who has made us holy, is pleased with and see as worship to Him.*
- Romans 14:17-19 - For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval. Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.  
*We serve Christ Jesus, and God our Father, through the peace and joy of the Holy Spirit, and the giftings given us through that same Spirit. In doing so, we please God, but we are also approved my people, especially when we build others up (edification).*
- 1 Corinthians 14:3 – But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort.  
*Too often, prophesy is seen as a judgmental gift, calling out sins and errors. But in the New Testament it is never used in this manner. Whenever a prophet speaks in the New Testament, it is either encouraging, or cautionary (there is going to be a famine, so prepare – Acts 11:28).*
- 1 Corinthians 14:12 – So it is with you. Since you are eager for gifts of the Spirit, try to excel in those that build up the church.  
*Notice, it does not say what gifts, just as long as it builds up the church.*
- Ephesians 2: 10 - For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.  
*God has wired you to be a certain way, with certain talents and giftings.*
- Philippians 2:13 - ...for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill His good purpose.
- Colossians 1:10 - ...so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, ...
- 1 Timothy 1:5 - The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.
- 2 Timothy 2:20-21 - In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for special purposes and some for common use. Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.

Note Romans 11: 29 – “... for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.” This means He will not take them away from you, ever. This is the way God wired you, how he made you, and these things helps to define what He wanted you to be.

Starting in 1 Corinthians 7:1 – “Now for the matters you wrote about...” Paul starts to address specific questions the Corinthians had for Paul. This is followed by several sections which answer their questions pretty much for the remainder of the letter.

So, in 1 Corinthians 12:1 – 14:40 he starts with “Now about the spiritual (or Gift of the Spirit)...” Paul begins to address questions about various spiritual gifts and spiritual offices. Paul talks about how everyone has different talents, abilities, and functions, but that this is needed in the church and the Body of Christ as a whole for the next three chapters. However, notice what is in the middle of this section. 1 Corinthians 13 is the chapter on Love. Love must be the center of how we use all our gifts and talents. After listing various gifts in vs.1-3, he says, “...but do not have love, I am nothing (vs. 2) / I gain nothing. (vs. 3)”

The First Letter of John frequently states that God is Love and that love is the motivation we are supposed to have in all we do. 1 John 3:1 – “See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!” In Romans 8:16-17, Paul says, “The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ...” Now if we are heirs of God and co-heirs with Jesus Christ, then we should have the same blessings and giftings that Jesus had (each to his or her level of faith). And thus, we, who are in Christ, are blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms (Ephesians 1:3).

So, who are your giftings for? In Latin there is a saying: Cui Bono? Who benefits? Are they for ourselves only, or for the church? The answer is simple: Others – in the church and outside the church. God looks to us to share our gifts, to give them away. I have heard some say that the more they use the gifts given them for the Lord’s sake, the more the Lord give them more. Remember that parable in Matthew 25:14-30 of the man who goes on a journey and gives bags of gold to his servants, according to their ability. The word for bag of gold is the Greek word Talanton, which is about 60-80 lbs. or 180,000 days wage in gold (500 years wages at the time). At the end of the parable Jesus says, “For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance.” Talanton is the origin of the English word “talent” – having an ability to do something. This does not seem to be a coincidence. I believe that the talents and abilities the Lord has given us are very valuable in God’s eyes for work in the Kingdom.

The Kingdom of Heaven is an upside-down Kingdom. When we serve, we are considered greatest (Mark 9:35). When we are hated, we are to love in return (Luke 6:29). And when we give, we get more in return. This is often true with the spiritual as well. The more we give, the more our faith grows, the more our gift grows, and the more we are used by God. And the more we are used, the more we give... and the circle continues.

So, practice your gifts, first on those you can trust, who are safe, and who can give you honest and loving feedback. Learn from your mistakes and go into this ministry knowing you will make mistakes. We all do. Remember that the Lord is loving and compassionate with others, of course, but with you and me as well. He does not demand of us more than we are able. Once

we start to practice, start to learn how to minister in our gifts and talents, then take them out to the world. Remember that the goal is to encourage others, exhort and lift them up, and above all, do all this in love.

In 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 it says, "There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work." Therefore, remember that often those who we minister to have the same Holy Spirit that we have. And the Holy Spirit is an excellent translator and interpreter of our gifts, which He gave us in the first place. He can make up for our shortcomings when we are seeking to do His will. We are not called to be perfect, just obedient.

If you feel your gifts and passions do not fall in the classifications defined in the list above, don't worry about it. If you have a passion for something and find you can do that well especially for the Kingdom of God, then it is likely what you have is what God has blessed you to do. Do not put God in a box. He is infinitely creative in His works, and also in the gifts He gives us.

Colossians 4:5-6 - Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Please note: It says, "Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders;" , not "Be weird in the way you act." There is an old saying, "Don't be so heavenly minded that you are no Earthly good." All things should be done in balance, in wisdom, with grace, and always, in love.