

SPIRITUAL GIFTS  
Part 1  
What Is A Spiritual Gift

Eph. 4:8-11

INTRODUCTION

Spiritual gifts are one of the unique facets of the Church. God provided a gift to each believer, no matter the age, in order to participate in the building up of the Body of Christ. A spiritual gift is a thing of grace given to believers by the Holy Spirit for the building up of the Body. The bestowing of gifts are unique to this dispensation. Only, one Old Testament office, prophet, is remotely similar to the spiritual gifts given to the church. Even still, prophecy is not in existence today.

In the study on gifts, we will see that the importance of each believer using and knowing their spiritual gift is essential to the proper function of the Body.

*“Each of us has one spiritual gift, a blend of the different gifts the Spirit has put together for each of us. Like a painter who is able to create an infinite number of colors by mixing any combination of the ten or so colors he carries in his palette, so the Spirit of God blends a little of one gift with a little of another to create the perfect combination within you. As a result, you have a unique position in the Body of Christ, with an ability to minister as no one else can.” -- John MacArthur*

*God has given you a spiritual gift, and it is not the same as a natural ability. That natural talent, rightly sanctified for God’s use, often points toward the identity of your spiritual gift. But you should find out the special gift God has given you while you’re serving as diligently as you can without that definite information. In fact, in addition to the study of Scripture, the best way to discover and confirm which spiritual gift is yours is through serving. -- Donald Whitney, Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*

In this series, we will also study the Scriptural evidence for spiritual gifts. We will see the evidence that some temporary gifts existed early in the church. Those temporary gifts are now extinct. The purpose of the temporary gifts was to validate the message of the messenger until which time the canon of Scripture was complete.

All spiritual gifts are listed in Scripture -- though there are many believers who assert differently.

*It's not listed in the Bible, but my spiritual gift, my specific calling from God, is to be a television talk-show host. -- Jim Bakker*

There are currently 11 spiritual gifts in operation today. The presumption in Scripture is that each believer would know what their spiritual gift is. The goal of this series is to inform you of those gifts in the hope that you can recognize how God has placed you in the Body to accomplish His plan and purposes.

I. SPIRITUAL GIFTS WERE NOT AVAILABLE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

A. There are several prominent words used for gifts in the Old Testament

1. Mattanah

- a. Gifts used for appeasement. cf. Gen. 25:6 (of those offered to concubines)

- b. “Heave” offerings were gifts offered by Israel. Num. 18:29
    - c. Mattanah is used for gifts given to the poor. Est. 9:22
  - 2. Nathan
  - 3. Minchah -- is used of gifts of appreciation. 2 Sam. 8:2 (of the survivors of the Moabites who offered to David); 2 Sam. 8:6 (of the Syrians)
- B. The characteristics of the gifts/offices given in the Old Testament differ from those given in the New Testament.
  - 1. There were three prominent Old Testament offices used by God among His people.
    - a. Prophets were used in the Old Testament for foretelling future events. cf. Num. 11;29 (only some in the Nation Israel were); Lk. 11:50-51 (Able was); Jude 14 (Enoch was)
    - b. Priests were used in Scripture to provide spiritual direction to the Nation Israel. cf. Heb. 5:1 (used of God to offer up gifts and sacrifices for men pertaining to God)
    - c. Kings were used as the political leaders of the Nation Israel. Gen. 10:8-10 (Nimrod the first king over mankind); 1st Sam. 10:1: (Saul the first king over Israel)
  - 2. There are 11 New Testament gifts in existence today.
  - 3. Only the “prophet” had any bearing upon the New Testament gifts, early.
  - 4. Judges were used in the Nation Israel to guide the nation when they were leaderless between the death of Joshua and the kings.

## II. THE ARE SEVERAL WORDS USED FOR “GIFT/GIFTS” IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

- A. Talanton is not translated “gift” but is commonly seen as such in Christendom as given to the Church today.
  - 1. Talanton is used eight times in the gospels for money given to those who were expected to increase their amount, though it is considered by some to be gifts. Matt. 18:24; 25:15,16,20,22,28
  - 2. Talanton is that which given during the Tribulation Period before the Lord’s return
- B. “Doron” – is *a gift given apart from any indebtedness owed on the part of the receiver of the gift; the motivation for giving is wholly based upon the discretion of the giver. It is used of gifts given by man to God and God to man.* – K.D.J.
  - 1. Gifts were offered by man to God.
    - a. Gifts were offered before law. Heb. 11:4
    - b. Gifts were offered under law. Heb. 8:3,4; 9:9; Matt. 5:23
    - c. The wise men brought gifts. Matt. 2:11
  - 2. God gave gifts to men in the New Testament.
    - a. He gave the gift of salvation. John 4:10; Rom. 5:15
    - b. He gave the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 10:45; Heb. 6:4
    - c. Justification is by a gift from grace. Rom., 3:24
    - d. Christ gave Himself on behalf of the believer. Gal. 2:20
    - e. Financial provisions. 2 Co. 9:15 cf. Phil. 4:17

- C. “Charisma” – is the word predominantly translated “gifts” in the epistles; it is only used in the epistles; never before the book of Roman.
1. “Charisma” is a combination of:
    - a. Charis – grace
    - b. Ma – the thing resulting from grace.”
    - c. The word “charisma” is used
    - d. The gifts given believers in this dispensation to be used within the Body .  
*is a thing resulting from grace*
  2. The word is used for spiritual gifts several times in the New Testament. Rom. 12:6; 1st Co. 12:4 (are the two prominent places used to note spiritual gifts)

### III. THE EPISTLES ARE CHARACTERIZED BY GOD GIVING GIFTS TO MEN.

#### A. God gave gifts to men. Eph. 4:8

1. The giving of gifts was prophesied in the Old Testament. Ps. 68:18
  - a. *“When you ascended on high, you took many captive; you received gifts from people, even from the rebellious – that you, Lord God, might dwell there.”* -- NIV
  - b. *“Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive; thou hast received gifts in man, and even (for) the rebellious, for the dwelling (there) of Jah Elohim.”* – Darby Bible Translation
  - c. *“Thou hast ascended on high, Thou hast taken captive captivity, Thou hast taken gifts for men, that even the refractory may rest, O Jah God.”* – Young’s literal translation
2. The New Testament application of Ps. 68:18 is much more specific.
  - a. The Old Testament translation used the word “received” -- “laqach” in the Hebrew which means to receive something that is being given to you. cf. Gen. 4:11 (of Abel’s blood); Deut. 9:9 (of Moses receiving the tablets of stone);
  - b. Instead of “receive” the New Testament word for “received” is the Greek word domata (to give) used in the Gospels. Matt.7:11; Lk. 11:13
    - i. It is from didomi which means to give.
    - ii. It is used of *“a gift which is also a gratuity, hence, of the benefactions of a sovereign; is what God confers as possessor of all things.”*—Strong’s Lexicon

#### B. The timing of the giving of gifts is when He “led captivity captive.” Eph. 4:8-9

1. He gave gifts after He “ascended”.
  - a. Christ “ascended” is the Greek word “anabos” which means to “rise up”. Acts 25:9 (to go up to Jerusalem)
  - b. The place of His ascension was from the “lower parts of the earth”.
    - a. “Lower parts” is from katotera

- i. Kato is from the kata preposition and it means ***that which is down, downward, against***. cf. John 8:23 (used in comparison of earth to heaven)
    - ii. Teros is the comparative used to denote ***the furthest region going downward*** -- Hades. cf. Matt. 2:16 (used of descending age)
  - 2. Paul describe the lower parts that the Lord descended to as being the earth. cf. 1st Pet. 3:20
- C. Two things were accomplished after His ascension. vs. 8
1. "He led captivity captive" "led" is the verb aichmaloteouo -- a spectacular victory celebration parade which is used in the Roman world of "***a spectacular victory celebration parade held in the city of Rome for a military commander who had won an important victory on the battlefield. Granted by the Senate, it was a lavish and entertaining propaganda spectacle which reminded the people of the glory of Rome and its military superiority above all other nations. of the open display in which prisoners of war are marched through the town to display the triumph won over them.***"-- Ancient History Encyclopedia cf. 2 Tim. 3:6
    - a. "Captivity" -- aichmalosia -- ***of those who are held against their will***. cf. Lk. 21:24 (of Israel); Rom. 7:23 (of Paul by the sin nature)
    - b. Believers before Pentecost were held captive in Hades. Heb. 2:15 (He delivered --apallasso-- released those that feared death); Matt. 16:18 (It enclosed them)
  2. "He gave" -- gave is the word "domata" which is from didomi which

## CONCLUSION