

## **SPIRITUAL GIFTS (I Corinthians 12:4-7)**

### **Facts About Spiritual Gifts**

1. **Romans 12:6-8; I Cor. 12:4-11; I Cor. 12:28** Temporary and Permanent Spiritual gifts.
2. **Romans 12:6** Spiritual gifts are given to us by the grace of God freely without merit.
3. **I Peter 4:10** Spiritual gifts are given to believers as a means for us to serve other believers. Having received our gift or gifts from God makes us 'stewards' of the gifts given to us.
4. **Galatians 6:9-10** Spiritual gifts always necessitate action from the possessor of a particular gift. Gods church cannot be everything He intended if His people do not utilize their Spiritual gifts.

### **Problems With Spiritual Gifts**

1. **I Corinthians 12:7** We must all except the fact that if you are a child of God you have at least one Spiritual gift. In most cases believers do not know what their gift is, therefore the first problem with Spiritual gifts is that they usually end up not used for their proper purpose.
2. **I Corinthians 12:1** Because of Paul's lengthy reply to the Spiritual gift issue we can assume that these church members had problems with dealing with the gifts. The second problem with Spiritual gifts is when they are abused in the church. We often forget that Spiritual gifts are for the edification of others and not to promote ourselves. No gift is more important than another.

### **Permanent Spiritual Gifts**

1. **Teaching - Romans 12:6-8** This gift enables one to effectively communicate the truths of Gods word to others in such places as : Sunday school, seminars, from church pulpits, colleges, etc. An example of this gift is found where Paul directs Timothy to be a good teacher (**I Tim.6:1-5**).
2. **Helps – Philippians 2:25-30** This word in the bible means- to relieve, succor, participate in/ or support. Those with this gift will render assistance to those in need and do so with compassion and grace. 'Helpers' will labor in obscurity not looking for accolades. 'Helpers' assist widows, invalids, elderly and any of the brethren who need some kind of assistance.
3. **Administration/ Governments – I Corinthians 12:28** This gift is for those delegated to authority by the pastor **Acts 6:1-3**. This gift is held by trustees, deacons and those who hold leadership positions on mission boards, Christian organizations, etc. and must be Spirit filled.
4. **Evangelism – Acts 8:5-12** Evangelists are given the unique ability to clearly and boldly preach the gospel to others. They are burdened for the lost and will go anywhere to win them to Christ.
5. **Pastor/Teacher – Titus 1:6-9; Acts 20:17, 28** A pastor is the church shepherd. A shepherd is responsible for the flock in every way. He watches out for their every need. He feeds, exhorts, teaches, heals wounds, warns and protects them with his life if necessary.
6. **Exhortation – Titus 2:11-15** This gift is given to those who can strengthen and encourage believers. They beseech, exhort, call upon and pray with others when they need encouragement.
7. **Giving – Romans 12:8; II Corinthians 8:1-5** This gift is for those who give abundantly, sincerely, generously and without pretense or hypocrisy. They give to Christ's programs and God's people who are in need. Some with this gift actually adjust their lifestyle in order to give.
8. **Mercy - Romans 12:8; Jude 22-23** Those with this gift show great empathy for those going through trials and suffering whether physical or spiritual.
9. **Faith – I Corinthians 12:9; Hebrews 11:1-40** The gift of faith is different from the faith that saves us. Those with this gift have a great confidence and certainty in God and His promises.