

In This World (Pt.8)
How In This World Am I Gifted Spiritually?
(1 Peter 4:10)

Introduction: The Holy Spirit does not just live in us and do for us in this world. The Holy Spirit desires to work through us in this world. Peter writes to every believer when he says, the Holy Spirit has done something special for every believer – YOU ARE GIFTED! *Every believer is gifted for some special function in the body of Christ.* How did this happen?

I. The Holy Spirit gives every believer gift(s): (1 Cor.12: 1-11)

Every Christian has at least one spiritual gift that he/she has been given to use to the glory of God and the building up of the church. Now, this always creates a series of questions such as...

A. What are the gifts of the Spirit? – The term “Gift” We need to understand the term as it is used in context.

1. We may define Gifts of the Spirit “As an ability or skill that enables the recipient to perform a function (spiritual in kind) in the body of Christ with ease, effectiveness and personal pleasure.” (1 Cor. 12:7,11)

2. There is a difference between “Natural talent or abilities and spiritual gifts.”

- a. Everyone has natural developed talents and abilities (which can be used for self or others.)
- b. Only the believer has Spiritual gifts which are to be used for growth, ministry, building the church and glorifying God.

3. There are two general types of gifts we will deal with today, “speaking and serving” gifts, and both are equally important to the body.

- a. **Speaking:** prophecy, knowledge, wisdom, teaching, exhortation. (Not everyone is a preacher or teacher, *though all can and should witness for Christ.*)
- b. **Serving:** leadership, helps, giving, mercy, faith, **discernment.**
- c. **All gifts are permanent and will** operate throughout the church age. With the express purpose to edify and grow the church and glorifying God.

B. Are these gifts what is referred to as charismatic gifts? Yes.

Every gift is a “charismatic gift” word for Gift is charisma= based on the grace of God.

C. Who gives and receives Spiritual gifts? (Js 1:17) this also true of our spiritual gifts... *The Lord Himself who is the giver- 1 Cor. 12:8,9,11 & 28 “just as He wills” God is the source of the gifts (v.4-6)*

D. What is the purpose of the gifts (v.7)

E. How are Spiritual gifts distributed (v.11) *The Holy Spirit personally distributes to each believer, individually, the gift(s) He wishes him to have.*

F. Does the Bible give a list of Spiritual gifts for us to consult? Yes! (1 Cor. 12:8-10; 1 Cor.12:28; 1 Cor. 12:29-30; Rom.12:6-8; Eph.4:11; 1 Pe.4:11)

G. Can a Spiritual gift given by the Holy Spirit ever be lost? No. (Rom.11:29)

H. How do I discover the gift(s) the Holy Spirit has given me?

1. **Be open** to How God has gifted you.
2. **Be Available** – *revelation most often comes through participation.*
3. **Be sensitive** – *What types of service give you the most pleasure?*
4. **Be sensible** -You can’t do everything, nor were you gifted to. Find your gift and use it for the glory of God and the building of His church.

II. The Holy Spirit who guides every believer to their gifts: (1 Tim.4:11-16) *There is a sin that is never spoken of in the church – the 80 – 20 sin of neglect of using spiritual gifts.*

A. Some guidelines to discovery – As Paul instructed Timothy: (1 Tim 4:14) Here are five guidelines we should follow...

1. **Information** – (v.11)
2. **Toleration** – (v.12)
3. **Attention** – (v.13)
4. **Diligent** – (v.15)
5. **Faithful** – (16a)

B. Attitudes to discourage - there are a couple of pit falls that we need to be aware of along the way...

1. **Guard against the “I am indispensable attitude.”**
2. **Keep your motives in check** – We can keep our motives in check by answering a simple question: “Why?”
3. **Suppose we do not desire to discover or exercise our Spiritual gifts?** (Rom.12:6; 1 Pe.4:10)

III. The Holy Spirit grants every believer grace to use their gifts:

A. His grace reaches us but should not end with us -We are not to use our gifts for selfish gain – but for His glory!

B. His grace should cause us to resist some harmful attitudes that can be dangerous if not checked and placed into proper perspective. (Four harmful attitudes we should be aware of that will keep us from being good stewards of Gods grace to us.)

1. **“I am waiting for sudden inspiration from God... the right feeling. Then I’ll exercise my gift.”**
2. **“My gift is the most important or least important of all.”** One side of this attitude is self- seeking and the other is self-abasing. (1 Cor. 12:18-25)
3. **“I refuse to get involved in areas except that which is directly related to my gift.”** (2 Tim. 4:5)
4. **“I quit – because of conflict with someone or a lack of appreciation.”** (2 Tim.4:6-11)

Conclusion: Peter is writing to every believer when he says the Holy Spirit has done something special for every believer. – YOU ARE GIFTED!
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