

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Definitions of gifts listed in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10;28

These definitions are influenced by Dr. Thomas Schreiner who is the Associate Dean, School of Theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and the author of Spiritual Gifts: What They Are and Why They Matter.

Utterances of wisdom, utterances of knowledge, teaching (vv.8, 28) - There is some debate as to the difference between wisdom and knowledge. Dr. Schreiner links these gifts with the gift of teaching. “Teachers expound, explicate, and unpack the Word of God, imparting instruction based on truth already revealed.” (Schreiner)

Faith (v.9) - This is not saving faith, which is true of all believers. This is a truly extraordinary faith, a visionary faith looking toward the future with what seems like a complete unwavering trust in God’s lead.

Gifts of healing and working of miracles (vv.9, 28) - “Healing and miracles may overlap like wisdom and knowledge. Perhaps healing has to do with the healing of blindness, cancer, deafness, etc., while miracles could refer to exorcisms and nature miracles.” (Schreiner)

Prophecy (vv.10, 28) - The Holy Spirit enabled ability to communicate a message from God in a way people understand so that the church is strengthened, encouraged, and comforted. (Definition used throughout this sermon series)

Ability to distinguish between spirits (v.10) - The ability to determine with clarity between true and false, especially with regard to teaching and the Word of God. “Those who have the gift of discernment know the Scriptures well, and thus are particularly equipped ‘to test the spirits to see if they are from God’ (1 John 4:1).” (Schreiner)

Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues (vv.10, 28) - Tongues are “the supernatural ability to speak a foreign language in order to communicate the message of salvation and the truth of God.”

(definition we've used through this series). Interpretation of tongues is the ability to understand what has been said by someone speaking in tongues and translate it for all to understand.

Apostles (v.28) - 2 Definitions.

1. The office of Apostle. A specific group of people who witnessed directly Jesus' resurrection and who pioneered the spreading of the gospel and building of the church. These were specific men, with a specific purpose, in a specific time. (Peter, James, John, etc., later the Apostle Paul). They were given special authority to teach the Scriptures and spread the gospel. This authoritative office does not continue to exist today.

2. In terms of Spiritual Gifts the word apostle simply means "sent one." People with the gift to bring the gospel message to new places, like missionaries or church planters.

Helpers (v.28) - Those who serve wherever there is a need. Those who serve as deacons probably have this gift, but is certainly not limited to deacons. Believers with this gift are available to do whatever needs to be done to help the ministry and care of the people.

Administration (v.28) - This term was one often associate with a captain or navigator of a ship. Someone with the gift of administration knows what to do to get something done. Someone with the gift of faith may say "I see us here in a year." A person with administrative gifts knows the steps to get there.

This chart from Dr. Schreiner shows where spiritual gifts are mentioned throughout the New Testament. There are gifts not included in 1 Corinthians 12, but this shows the diversity of gifts in the body of Christ.

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Table of Spiritual Gifts in the New Testament³

Romans 12:6–8	1 Corinthians 12:7–10	1 Corinthians 12:28	Ephesians 4:11
<i>Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us</i>	<i>To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good</i>	<i>And God has appointed in the church</i>	<i>And he gave</i>
		Apostles	Apostles
Prophecy	Prophecy	Prophets	Prophets
			Evangelists
	Ability to distinguish between spirits		
Teaching	Word of wisdom and word of knowledge	Teachers	Pastors and teachers
Exhorting			
	Working of miracles	Miracles	
	Gifts of healing	Gifts of healing	
Service		Helping	
Leading		Administrating	
	Various kinds of tongues	Various kinds of tongues	
	Interpretation of tongues		
Giving			
	Faith		
Mercy			

³ The gifts aren't necessarily in the order in which they are listed in the biblical text.