

Christian Doctrine

The Holy Spirit (Part 5)

Spiritual Gifts

The Work of the Holy Spirit in Giving Gifts

At salvation, the Holy Spirit gives each believer at least one spiritual gift (some may be given several) which enable them to minister within the body of Christ. The church depends on and benefits from each person using their gift(s). (I Pet. 4:10; Rom. 12:3-8; I Cor. 12)

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are mention in several New Testament passages. No two lists are identical:

I Corinthians 12:8-10		I Corinthians 12:28	
Wisdom	Prophecy	Apostle	Healing
Knowledge	Discerning of spirits	Prophet	Helps
Faith	Tongues	Teacher	Administration
Healing	Interpretation of tongues	Miracles	Tongues
Miracles			
Prophecy			
Romans 12:6-8		Ephesians 4:11	
Prophecy	Giving	Apostle	
Serving	Leadership	Prophet	
Teaching	Mercy	Evangelist	
Encouraging		Pastor-teacher	

*Note additional handout for a description of each spiritual gift

The Debate Concerning Spiritual Gifts

It is debated whether all the gifts are in use today or if those of the supernatural variety were unique to the first century. Scripture is clear that many gifts were “sign” gifts used to authenticated God’s message or messengers during the first century, which played a role in laying the foundation of the church (Heb. 2:3-4; II Cor. 12:12; Eph. 2:20). If those were in fact temporary, that may explain why they appear not to be in use in later NT books (such as in II Tim. 4:20), or why many "miracles" of those claiming to have such gifts today do not match the validity of NT miracles. Even if we conclude that the miraculous gifts were unique to the first century, though, it would not mean that God could not do a miracle today if He chose to do so.