

Sunday School Lesson (September 3, 2023)

What are Spiritual Gifts?

The questions regarding Spiritual Gifts are literally collected from the New Testament.

In some of Paul's letters, he talks about the gifts of the Spirit and then lists them.
Read **1 Corinthians 12:4-6**

Now read **Romans 12:6-8**

Read **1 Corinthians 12:8-10**

Read **1 Corinthians 12:28-30**

And, the answer is.....?

Who has the Gifts?

Let's find out in **1 Corinthians 12:11**

Read **Ephesians 4:11-13**

Why did Jesus distribute these gifts?

⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. - 1 Corinthians 12:7

Ephesians 4:11-16

Summary:

“Spiritual gifts are unique endowments from the Holy Spirit, generously shared with Christians in community for building up the body of Christ in practical ways.”¹

¹ *Ibid.*, p 49.

From Matthew 25:14-30, the story of the talents.

A talent = 3,000 shekels (0.4 oz) => about 75 pounds!!

But, a play on the English word “talent” and we see an entirely different story.

When God asks what have you done with the gifts/talents He invested in you, what will you answer be?

Additional reference material:

1. Harper Study Bible, Revised Standard Version, Zondervan Bible Publishers, Grand Rapids, MI, 1985.
2. Haugk, Kenneth C., Discovering God’s Vision for Your Life: You and Your Spiritual Gifts, Participant Manual, 2nd Edition, Tebunah Ministries, St. Louis, MO, 2017.
3. www.BibleGateway.com for NIV & RSV quotations.
4. Internet definitions of Gifts: <https://www.compellingtruth.org/gift-of-miracles.html>

A Chart of New Testament Spiritual Gifts²

Romans 12:6-8	1 Corinthians 12:8-10	1 Corinthians 12:28-30	Ephesians 4:11
Proclamation	Proclamation	Proclamation	Proclamation
Servanthood			
Teaching the Faith		Teaching the Faith	Teaching the Faith
Encouragement			
Generosity			
Nurturing Leadership			
Mercy			
	Wisdom		
	Knowing		
	Faith		
	Healings	Healings	
	Miracles	Miracles	
	Discernment		
	Tongues	Tongues	
	Interpretation of Tongues	Interpretation of Tongues	
		Apostleship	Apostleship
		Helping	
		Visionary & Managing Leadership	
			Evangelism
			Shepherding

² You and Your Spiritual Gifts, Participant Manual, p. 47.

Definitions of Gifts:

Proclamation	The ability to speak the message of God to others. This sometimes involves foresight or visions of what is to come. This skill should be used only to offer encouragement or warning.
Servanthood	A talent for identifying tasks needed for the body of Christ and using available resources to get the job done.
Teaching the Faith	The skill to teach from the Bible and to communicate it effectively for the understanding and spiritual growth of others.
Encouragement	Competence in offering encouragement, comfort, and support to help someone be all that God wants them to be.
Generosity	Those who have this gift are particularly willing and able to share what resources they have with pleasure, and without the need to see them returned.
Nurturing Leadership	This aptitude marks a person who is able to stand before a church, to direct the body with care and attention, and to motivate them toward achieving the church's goals.
Mercy	This is the defining trait of a person with great sensitivity for those who are suffering. It manifests itself in offering compassion and encouragement, and in a love for giving practical help to someone in need.
Wisdom	The gift of being able to sort through facts and data to discover what needs to be done for the church.

Knowing	This is the gift of someone who actively pursues knowledge of the Bible. This person may also enjoy analyzing biblical data.
Faith	People with this gift have such great confidence in the power and promises of God that they can stand strong in their belief, no matter what may try to shake them. They can also stand up for the church and for their faith in such a way as to defend and move it forward.
Healings	A capability used by God to restore others, be that physically, emotionally, mentally, or spiritually.
Miracles	The spiritual gift of miracles is specifically the power to do supernatural works with the goal of furthering the kingdom of God.
Discernment	The wisdom to recognize truth from untruth by correctly evaluating whether a behavior or teaching is from God or another, ungodly source.
Tongues	The supernatural ability to speak in another language (one that has not been learned).
Interpretation of Tongues	The ability to listen to messages spoken in tongues, and then to translate them into current vernacular.
Apostleship	A person sent to new places with the gospel. You may have heard of missionaries going to different countries to help spread the Word; they could be described as apostles. An apostle can also provide leadership to other

	churches or ministries and offer advice on spiritual matters.
Helping	Someone with this gift is able to support or assist members of the body of Christ so that they may be free to minister to others.
Visionary & Managing Leadership	The ability to help steer the church, or a ministry, toward the successful completion of God-given goals, with skills in planning, organization, and supervision.
Evangelism	The ability to successfully communicate the message of the gospel, especially to non believers.
Shepherding	A broad-based gift that involves a number of different kinds of behaviors. A shepherd is a leader for “flocks” of many different sizes.