

God's Gifts among the Body of Christ

Throughout the Bible we discover the idea that God 'gifts' people with certain attributes or abilities, in order to fulfil certain functions and get certain things done. Practical experience teaches us that when someone is working in an area of their 'gifting', i.e., what they were wired for, they are far more effective and contented.

1. An Overview of God's Giving Nature

God's gifts are outrageously and disproportionately generous –

²⁴ 'The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. ²⁵ And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. (Acts 17:24-25)

2. Understanding Gift-Based Ministry

A helpful analogy is that of the 'tools of trade' that a tradesperson would have in their toolkit, in order to get his/her work done. Generally, tools are quite specific to the job at hand, and the kinds of tools a worker requires reflect the different jobs needing to be done.

So, it is with the spiritual gifts: they are all available, but different ministries will require different gifts. Experience and observation reveal that most people 'specialise' in a certain group of gifts most of the time that are most relevant to their role.

- For the common good; for the mutual benefit of the community 1Cor 12:7
- Strengthening through mutual encouragement Rom 1:11-12; 1Cor 14:3-4, 26
- Works of service that build the church Eph 4:11-13
- Ministering God's grace through serving others 1Pet 4:10

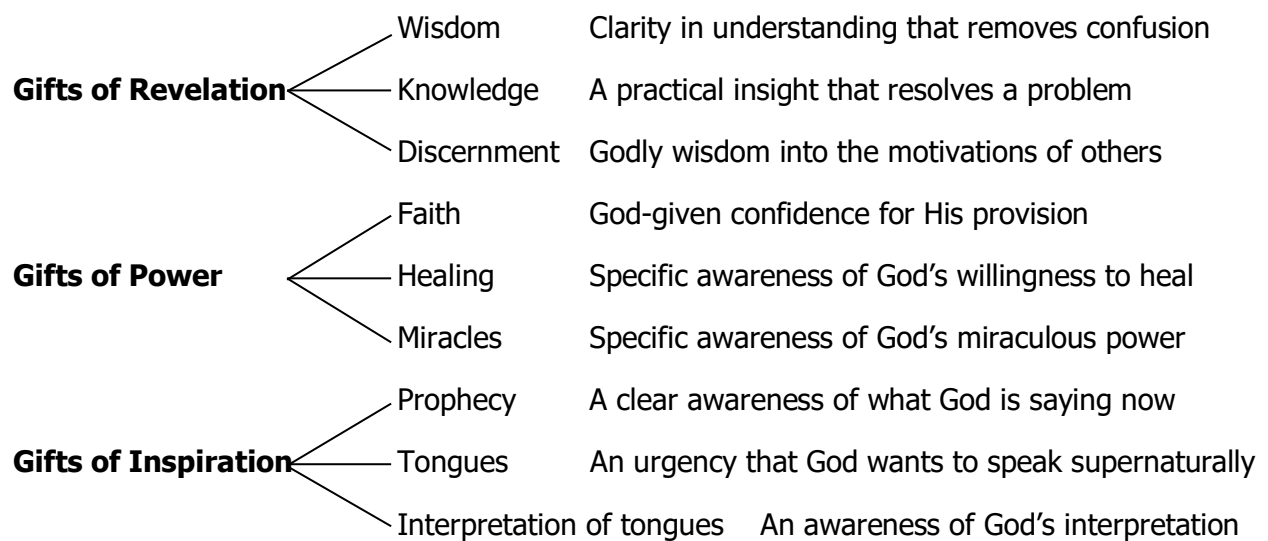
3. The Father's Gifts of Creation and Redemption

- The physical universe – Gen 1:1
- Human life in God's image – Gen 1:26-27
- Christ – Jn 3:16
- Holy Spirit – Acts 1:4-5; 2:38; Rom 5:5
- Faith – Eph 2:8
- Righteousness – Rom 5:17
- Eternal life – Rom 6:23

4. The Appointed Ministry Gifts – Ascension Ministry Gifts of Christ

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| • Apostle | – Inspired by God’s big purpose | 1Cor 12:28-29; Eph 4:7-11 |
| • Prophet | – Inspired by doing it right | 1Cor 12:28-29; Eph 4:7-11 |
| • Evangelist | – Inspired by winning the lost | Eph 4:7-11; 1Cor 12:28-30 |
| • Pastor/Shepherd | – Inspired to build people up | Eph 4:7-11; Acts 20:28 |
| • Teacher | – Inspired to bring understanding | Eph 4:7-11; 1Cor 12:28-29 |

5. The Nine Gifts of the Spirit in 1Cor 12: 8-10



6. The General Gifts of Service and Function

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| • Practical helps | – The jobs that just need to be done | 1Cor 12:28 |
| • Administrative gifts | – Organising things to function well | 1Cor 12:28 |
| • Serving | – Helping others with their needs | Rom 12:7 |
| • Encouragement | – Cheering others on in life | Rom 12:8 |
| • Financial contributing | – Supporting God’s work and others’ needs | Rom 12:8 |
| • Leadership | – Providing vision and direction | Rom 12:8 |
| • Showing mercy | – Supporting those who are struggling | Rom 12:8 |