

Spiritual Gifts Summary [by Will Groben]

Verse List: 1 Corinthians 1.4-8; 12.1-31; 13.8-10; 14.1-40; 1 Peter 4.10-11; Romans 12.4-8; Ephesians 4.11-14

First Question: What is a spiritual gift? Spiritual gifts are ways that God consistently works supernaturally in and through you to bless others and build their faith.

Second Question: What is the purpose of a spiritual gift? The purpose of spiritual gifts is to bless others and thus bring glory to God through Christ.

Third Question: What are the gifts? There are several lists of spiritual gifts in scripture. God could work through us in other ways as well. [Some notes on tongues and prophecy are on the next page.]

Fourth Question: Have some gifts disappeared? Many conservative Christians argue that God has stopped working through about 40% of the gifts listed in the New Testament. Based on 1 Corinthians 1.7; 13.8-10, other conservative Christians disagree.

Fifth Question: Who gets spiritual gifts? Only believers get spiritual gifts, nobody gets them all, and every believer gets at least one.

Sixth Question: How do we get gifts? Christ distributes spiritual gifts through the Holy Spirit.

Seventh Question: How do we know what gifts we have? How does God work in amazing ways through you to bless others and strengthen their faith? If you don't know, then consider your passions and natural abilities [see next page] and consider whether you might have spiritual gifts consistent with any matches in these categories. Ask others how God uses you effectively.

Eighth Question: What is our responsibility? Be ready to use your gifts as God directs. Stay humble and seek to bless others and glorify God with your gifts. Prayerfully consider how your unique design could help in the mission of making disciples, and seek to do so even if you do not have the gifts of evangelism or teaching. Find ways to serve in the church using your gifts. Be obedient to do what God commands in scripture, even in areas where you do not have a gift.

How has God “SHAPed” you? Some believe that God will be consistent in giving you Spiritual gifts, Heartfelt passions, natural Abilities, Personality traits, and Experiences to equip you for the ministries he has for you. List your natural abilities and passions first. Are there any consistencies? Could you have spiritual gifts that match up well with those consistencies? What aspects of your personality and experiences might contribute?

Spiritual Gifts	Heartfelt Passions	Natural Abilities	Personality	Experiences

Tongues: In the New Testament, there are a few examples of groups in which everyone spoke in tongues, but these were not the gift of tongues. Rather, what we see if we understand the historical context, is that these were miraculous manifestations of the Spirit for proving that God was extending his New Covenant grace to all people groups, including the believing Jews [Acts 2.4], Samaritans [Acts 8.14-16, implied] and Gentiles, which means everyone else [Acts 10.46]. These “tongues” definitely were known languages [Acts 2.6]. The spiritual gift of tongues was not for all believers [1 Corinthians 12.30]. Public use of the gift of tongues, if genuine and guided by the Holy Spirit, was accompanied by someone else’s Spirit inspired interpretation of the tongues [1 Corinthians 14.27-28].

Prophecy: Most Old Testament prophecy was not predictive, rather it was a calling back to the covenant God had made with his people, a calling back to living by God’s scriptural revelation. If God were to use believers today through gifts like prophecy, wisdom, or knowledge, the purpose would be to call us back to our covenant with him, to call us back to living by his scriptural revelation, and to believe in the scriptural predictions of his prophets and apostles. Because the canon of scripture is closed [the Bible is complete], nobody will hear from God today something that is to be universally applied.