



TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS

Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. —Psalm 145:11
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. —Joshua 22:5

September 13, 2026

Knowing the Holy Spirit Part 7: The Spirit's Gifts to the Church

Questions for Reflection or Discussion

Observation — What does it say?

1. Review Pastor Doug's definition and distribution of spiritual gifts. Which aspects raise questions for you?
2. Review the distinction between natural and acquired abilities, as opposed to spiritual gifts. What are some of your natural and acquired abilities? Have you ever used them to bless others? Tell us about that.
3. Into what two broad categories does 1 Peter 4:11 place all gifts? Which kind do you likely have?

Interpretation — What does it mean?

4. Pastor Doug noted that one can be both extremely gifted spiritually and very immature spiritually. Why do you think that is—and what might be some repercussions?
5. What might it say about a person if he complains about the gifts he has or envies the gifts of others?
6. According to 1 Corinthians 13, how is love determinative of whether one's spiritual gift actually accomplishes God's intended purpose?

Application — What do I do with this?

7. Where are you currently using your abilities and/or gifts to strengthen other believers?
8. What have you done/should you do in order to sharpen the gifts/abilities God has entrusted to you?



Sermon Summary

Christ gives gifts through the Spirit so that His body may be strengthened (Eph. 4:1-8).

The Source of Spiritual Gifts

Paul tells us that the risen and ascended Christ expresses His love and care for the church by giving spiritual gifts to His people through the ministry of the Holy Spirit. As Paul tells us, spiritual gifts visibly express the unity Christ has created within His diverse body. These gifts are not given to divide believers into ranks, but to enable us to serve one another. The Apostle Peter echoes Paul's idea (1 Peter 4:10). This means spiritual gifts are not merely a doctrine to understand; they are also a stewardship to embrace.

A spiritual gift is a God-given ability, distributed by the Holy Spirit, that enables a believer to serve others in love and build up the body of Christ. A spiritual gift is not given primarily to make me feel significant; it is given so that Christ may care for His church through me. Spiritual gifts reveal more about the grace of the Giver than about the spiritual maturity of the recipient.

The Distribution of Spiritual Gifts

Spiritual gifts are distributed at the will of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:1).

1. Why? The Bible does not tell us everything we might like to know about why a believer receives one gift rather than another. But we can trust that the Holy Spirit distributes gifts with perfect wisdom, knowing both what a local body needs and how each believer can best serve within that body.
2. When? Because these are gifts of the Spirit, and because believers receive the Spirit when they trust in Christ, it seems best to understand spiritual gifts as given at conversion.
3. Who? Every believer is given at least one spiritual gift (1 Peter 4:10).
4. Which gifts? The diversity of spiritual gifts is distributed among the body of Christ as a whole. God knows what each congregation needs at any given point in time, and He supplies what that congregation needs to serve Him faithfully. It may also be the case that not every generation should expect to possess every available spiritual gift in the same way (Eph. 2:20).
5. Where? There is no comprehensive list of the gifts of the Spirit in any one passage of the New Testament. There are five main lists of spiritual gifts in the New Testament: Rom. 12:3–8; 1 Cor. 12:7–11, 28–30; Eph. 4:11; and 1 Peter 4:10–11.

The Purpose of Spiritual Gifts

Whatever gift you possess, it is to be used to build up the body in love. Our gifts are not to be used to draw attention to ourselves or to tear down others (1 Cor. 13:1-3,8). Beware of projecting your gift upon others. Beware of thinking that your gift makes you better than others. That is not loving. Instead, receive your gift with humility, and receive the gifts of others with gratitude. The best way to discover your spiritual gifts and sharpen these abilities is to serve in different areas and pay attention to where God uses you most fruitfully. As you serve, remember that God can use natural abilities, acquired abilities, and spiritual gifts for His glory. It takes time to discover and refine your spiritual gifts. As you seek to discover where God has gifted you, it is important that you be honest with yourself. With practice, our abilities can be strengthened, whether they are natural abilities, acquired skills, or spiritual gifts. Every Christian is gifted to serve God, and every gift is important.

In his epistle, Peter seems to suggest two basic categories: *speaking gifts* and *serving gifts* (1 Peter 4:10–11).

There are nine *serving gifts* mentioned in the New Testament: 1. Administration; 2. Distinguishing of Spirits; 3. Faith; 4. Giving; 5. Serving or Helps; 6. Hospitality; 7. Leadership; 8. Mercy; 9. Pastor/Teacher.

There are six *speaking gifts*: 1. Evangelism; 2. Exhortation; 3. Prophecy; 4. Teaching; 5. Word of Knowledge; 6. Word of Wisdom.

Sign gifts are so called because they originally functioned to authenticate new revelation from God and those through whom it was given. They include: healing, tongues, the interpretation of tongues and miracles. Paul made a statement in one of his letters to the church at Corinth which indicates that at least some of these sign gifts were unique to the first century apostles (2 Cor. 12:12). As with the gift of prophecy, there is no Bible verse indicating that the gift of healing has ceased. I do think Christians sometimes confuse “the spiritual gift of healing” with healing that God performs in response to prayer. God may answer a prayer for healing offered by someone who does not have the gift of healing.

As best I can tell, the tongues described in the Bible involved the ability to speak a real-known human language not previously learned. In his letter to the Corinthians Paul gave instructions that the gift of tongues was not to be employed in a worship service in the absence of an interpreter (1 Cor. 14:27-28).

Every gift comes from Christ, is distributed by the Spirit, and is meant for the good of the body. So...

- Do not bury what Christ has entrusted to you.
- Do not envy what He entrusted to someone else.
- Receive your gift with humility, develop it with faithfulness, and use it in love, so that Christ’s body is strengthened and God receives the glory.

Natural Talents	Spiritual Gifts
Given by God through our parents	Given by God independent of parents
Given at birth	Given at conversion
To benefit mankind generally	To benefit the Body of Christ particularly

1 Cor. 12:8-11	1 Cor. 12:28	Rom. 12:6-8	Eph. 4:11	1 Pet. 4:11
Word of wisdom	Apostles	Prophecy	Apostles	Speaking
Word of knowledge	Prophets	Service	Prophets	Serving
Faith	Teachers	Teaching	Evangelists	
Healing gifts	Miracle workers	Exhorting	Pastor-Teachers	
Miracle working	Healing	Giving		
Prophecy	Helps	Leadership		
Distinguishing spirits	Administration	Mercy		
Speaking in tongues	Tongues			
Interpreting tongues				

Gifts Given to Some	Command Given to All
Ministering	Serve one another (Gal. 5:13)
Exhortation	Exhort one another (Heb. 10:25)
Giving	All are to give (2 Cor. 9:7)
Teaching	Great Commission (Matt. 28:19)
Showing mercy	Be kind (Eph. 4:32)
Faith	Walk by faith (2 Cor. 5:7)
Evangelism	All are to witness (Acts 1:8)

Complete the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Inventory. You can find it at: TCC.org/Holy-Spirit or scan this QR code.



Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

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The goal is to find a place at TCC where you can exercise your spiritual gifts. At TCC we believe that every member is a minister. Look for opportunities at [TCC.org/Serve](https://www.tcc.edu/serve).

Notes