

Gifts and Ministries of The Holy Spirit

Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is the third person in the Trinity, who revealed His Holy Name YHWH to his people Israel, sent His Eternally Begotten Son Jesus to save them from God's wrath, and sent the Holy Spirit to sanctify and give life to his Church. The Triune God manifests as three *Persons* (Greek *hypostases*), in One Divine Being (Greek: *Ousia*) called the Godhead, the Divine Essence of God. He is fully God. He is eternal, omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, has a will, and can speak. He is alive.

Purpose: John 16:8 - 15, Acts 1:8

⁸ And when He comes, He will convict *and* convince the world *and* bring demonstration to it about sin and about righteousness (uprightness of heart and right standing with God) and about judgment:

⁹ About sin, because they do not believe in Me [trust in, rely on, and adhere to Me];

¹⁰ About righteousness (uprightness of heart and right standing with God), because I go to My Father, and you will see Me no longer;

¹¹ About judgment, because the ruler (evil genius, prince) of this world [Satan] is judged *and* condemned *and* sentence already is passed upon him.

¹³ But when He, the Spirit of Truth (the Truth-giving Spirit) comes, He will **guide you into all the Truth** (the whole, full Truth). For He will not speak His own message [on His own authority]; but He will tell whatever He hears [from the Father; He will give the message that has been given to Him], and He will announce *and* declare to you the things that are to come [that will happen in the future].

¹⁴ He will **honor *and* glorify** Me, because He will take of (receive, draw upon) what is Mine and will reveal (declare, disclose, transmit) it to you.

¹⁵ Everything that the Father has is Mine. That is what I meant when I said that He [the Spirit] will take the things that are Mine and will **reveal** (declare, disclose, transmit) it to you.

Acts 1:8

⁸ But you shall receive **power** (ability, efficiency, and might) when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you **shall be My witnesses** in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria and to the ends (the very bounds) of the earth.

Hebrew word כֹּחַ *Kowach* – strength, power, force, ability

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Spiritual Gifts of The Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 12, 13, 14

Read all 3 chapters to fully understand the gifts, and how to receive and apply them.

1 Corinthians 12: 4-11 provides the nine gifts and an explanation or brief description of each gift

1 Corinthians 12: 4-11

⁴ Now there are distinctive varieties *and* distributions of endowments (gifts, extraordinary powers distinguishing certain Christians, due to the power of divine grace operating in their souls by the Holy Spirit) and they vary, but the [Holy] Spirit remains the same.

⁵ And there are distinctive varieties of service *and* ministrations, but it is the same Lord [Who is served].

⁶ And there are distinctive varieties of operation [of working to accomplish things], but it is the same God Who inspires *and* energizes them all in all.

⁷ But to each one is given the manifestation of the [Holy] Spirit [the evidence, the spiritual illumination of the Spirit] for good *and* profit.

⁸ To one is given in *and* through the [Holy] Spirit [the power to speak] a message of wisdom, and to another [the power to express] a word of knowledge *and* understanding according to the same [Holy] Spirit;

⁹ To another [wonder-working] faith by the same [Holy] Spirit, to another the extraordinary powers of healing by the one Spirit;

¹⁰ To another the working of miracles, to another prophetic insight (the gift of interpreting the divine will and purpose); to another the ability to discern *and* distinguish between [the utterances of true] spirits [and false ones], to another various kinds of [unknown] tongues, to another the ability to interpret [such] tongues.

¹¹ All these [gifts, achievements, abilities] are inspired *and* brought to pass by one and the same [Holy] Spirit, Who apportions to each person individually [exactly] as He chooses.

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Desiring/Seeking God's Kingdom

Matthew 6:33

³³ But seek (aim at and strive after) first of all His kingdom and His righteousness (His way of doing and being right), and then all these things taken together will be given you besides.

1 Corinthians 12:31

³¹ But earnestly desire *and* zealously cultivate the greatest *and* best gifts *and* graces (the higher gifts and the choicest graces). And yet I will show you a still more excellent way [one that is better by far and the highest of them all—love].

The Church and The Gifts

The goal of the New Testament Church is to sweep the world with the power of God, but it cannot be done without love. Love is the **key** that unlocks the door to all God has for us today.

Without love, you cannot produce the gifts of the Spirit.

The ministry Jesus performed on this earth was directed, guided and energized by the Holy Spirit that you and I have today.

We can reach out today to save the world in which we live, but it will never be done by organizational strength, or on the strength of numbers.

God does not need a host of men to win a battle; he just needs sincere and dedicated people, whose hearts are fully committed to Him. In this case, to win a total victory He needs those who have received the endowment of the gifts of the Spirit to function in their lives and their ministries.

Gifts of the Spirit Defined:

Revelation Gifts

Word of Wisdom: the revealing of the prophetic future under the anointing of God

Word of Knowledge: the revealing of a fact in existence which can only be supernaturally revealed. It cannot be seen or heard or known naturally.

Discerning of Spirits: comprehending of the human spirit, supernaturally revealed by the Holy Spirit. It is not the discerning of demons but the discerning of the human spirit – good and bad.

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Power Gifts

Gift of Faith: God's bringing to pass a supernatural change. No human effort is involved.

Gift of Working Miracles: works through a human instrument. A person doing a supernatural act by divine energy of the Holy Spirit.

Gifts of Healing: God supernaturally heals the sick through a ministry anointed by the Holy Spirit. A person is given by the Spirit of God a gift to pray for a particular kind of disease.

Note – There are many ways to be healed. This only includes a small portion of them. There may be as many gifts as there are diseases. This is why the term is in the plural form.

Inspiration Gifts

Gift of Tongues: ministry of proclaiming in a public meeting a message from God in a language not understood by the person giving it.

Gift of Interpretation of Tongues: Without any mental faculties being involved, the message given in another language is interpreted supernaturally by the Holy Spirit through another person.

Gift of Prophecy: The anointed speaking forth of words of edification, exhortation and comfort – words supernaturally given to the Church from God. There is no element of revelation in it.

Ministries of The Holy Spirit

In addition to the nine separate and distinct gifts of the Holy Spirit, there are nine offices of ministry that were given to the Church after the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 4:7-8

⁷ Yet grace (God's unmerited favor) was given to each of us individually [not indiscriminately, but in different ways] in proportion to the measure of Christ's [rich and bounteous] gift.

⁸ Therefore it is said, When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive [He led a train of vanquished foes] and He bestowed gifts on men.

The Lord Jesus through the instrument of the Holy Spirit gives two types of gifts:

1. The nine gifts of the Holy Spirit
2. Men and women as gifts to the body

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This gifts are listed in *Ephesians 4: 11*:

¹¹ And His gifts were [varied; He Himself appointed and gave men to us] some to be **apostles** (special messengers), some **prophets** (inspired preachers and expounders), some **evangelists** (preachers of the Gospel, traveling missionaries), some **pastors** (shepherds of His flock) and **teachers**.

In 1 Corinthians 12:28 we find two other groups – **helps** and **governments** and in 1 Timothy 3:1-13 are mentioned the offices of **bishop**, or **elder** and **deacon**.

1 Corinthians 12: 5, 28

⁵ And there are distinctive varieties of service *and* ministration, but it is the same Lord [Who is served].

²⁸ So God has appointed some in the church [for His own use]: first apostles (special messengers); second prophets (inspired preachers and expounders); third teachers; then wonder-workers; then those with ability to heal the sick; helpers; administrators; [speakers in] different (unknown) tongues.

Fivefold Ministry Gifts: Office of Apostle

The office of apostle is the foremost ministry in the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ. An apostle is not appointed by men. The Bible says the Holy Spirit is the One Who establishes these ministries in the Church.

Apostolos means a delegate; one sent with full power of attorney to act for another. An apostle is a divine delegate – one who has come to the people of the world, representing the Trinity in heaven. The apostle is anointed by the Holy Spirit to act in behalf of the Body of Christ, The Church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The apostle has the ability to perform the other functions. Any person – man or woman with an apostolic calling has the ability, the authority and the anointing to raise up a church without outside help.

The apostle is a combination of the other four church ministries. He Can be whatever is needed – pastor, evangelist, teacher, or prophet. Can set church government in order and establish deacon boards, elderships, ministry of helps and place governments in a church so the body eill function properly.

Fivefold Ministry Gifts: Office of Prophet

The second office is that of the prophet also called by God.

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When God appoints a prophet in the land, people there have nothing to do with it. In the Old Testament, the prophet was one of divine guide (also called a *seer*). He was sent by God to lead the people of Israel. The ministry of the prophet is about one who sees or perceives, a beholder of visions, foreknowledge (not his own), anything that a true prophet foretells will come to pass because the Holy Spirit, Who told it to him, cannot lie. We still have prophets today.

Fivefold Ministry Gifts: Office of Evangelist

The evangelist is a proclaimer of the Gospel. That is his purpose of ministry had he does not deviate from it. He simply preaches the love and forgiveness of God and the salvation that is available to all through His Son Jesus Christ.

An evangelist is a gift from God to the Church. A person cannot go to bible school and study to become an evangelist.

As an evangelist, no one has to give you a place to preach. When God calls you to do something, just go out and start doing it.

Fivefold Ministry Gifts: Office of Pastor

A pastor is a shepherd. A pastor is one who sees the multitudes and is moved with compassion. They are moved to '*tend*' to the sheep. The ministry of a pastor is to feed the flock with knowledge and understanding, to feed the souls of all who come by the Spirit of God.

It need not be a few. It can be 6 or 6,000. The more people there are, the more inspired the pastor can get and the more he can feed them. It arouses the spirit and anointing within him and enables him to feed them well. A real pastor is commissioned by God to do his job and he will pastor even if he doesn't get a dime or never any appreciation. Why? Because God told him to do it. The distinguishing mark is the pastor's heart, which comes only from God. You have it or you don't.

Fivefold Ministry Gifts: Office of Teacher

A teacher of the word can be located in one place or he can travel. The office of teacher carries a very special anointing for opening people's understanding of God's Word. Great teachers may almost be illiterate about worldly knowledge but have a vast knowledge and understanding of the Word of God.

As they give an exposition on the Word of God, it is truth pouring forth from them. Though they may have little or no education they are anointed to teach the Word of God.

All the education in the world will not make a teacher of God's Word. A teacher is a person who has been set in the Body of Christ by God for one specific purpose: to teach the Word.

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Additional administrators:

Office of Elder (or bishop)

One portion of laborers in the Body of Christ who are set aside by the spiritual leaders (apostles, evangelists, pastors and teachers) are elders. They function in the spiritual part of the Church.

An elder is taught that he may be able to exhort and convince the gainsayers (those who come against the body of Christ). This is the role of the elder: spiritual overseer in the Church, involved in blessing people spiritually.

Office of Deacon

As qualification for both the eldership and the deaconship, God said they should be capable of ruling their own house.

They are laborers who are godly, holy persons who must be faithful in all things who are given jobs to perform in the church. Deaconship is a good work.

1 Timothy 3:13 For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

The Lord expects a deacon to be an example to the people in his church.

Qualifications for Bishops [or Elders] and Deacons

1 Timothy 3:1-13

¹The saying is true *and* irrefutable: If any man [eagerly] seeks the office of **bishop** (superintendent, overseer), he desires an excellent task (work).

² Now a **bishop** (superintendent, overseer) must give no grounds for accusation *but* must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, circumspect *and* temperate *and* self-controlled; [he must be] sensible *and* well behaved *and* dignified and lead an orderly (disciplined) life; [he must be] hospitable [showing love for and being a friend to the believers, especially strangers or foreigners, and be] a capable *and* qualified teacher,

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³ Not given to wine, not combative but gentle *and* considerate, not quarrelsome *but* forbearing *and* peaceable, and not a lover of money [insatiable for wealth and ready to obtain it by questionable means].

⁴ He must rule his own household well, keeping his children under control, with true dignity, commanding their respect in every way *and* keeping them respectful.

⁵ For if a man does not know how to rule his own household, how is he to take care of the church of God?

⁶ He must not be a new convert, or he may [develop a beclouded and stupid state of mind] as the result of pride [be blinded by conceit, and] fall into the condemnation that the devil [once] did.

⁷ Furthermore, he must have a good reputation *and* be well thought of by those outside [the church], lest he become involved in slander *and* incur reproach and fall into the devil's trap.

⁸ In like manner the **deacons** [must be] worthy of respect, not shifty *and* double-talkers *but* sincere in what they say, not given to much wine, not greedy for base gain [craving wealth and resorting to ignoble and dishonest methods of getting it].

⁹ They must possess the mystic secret of the faith [Christian truth as hidden from ungodly men] with a clear conscience.

¹⁰ And let them also be tried *and* investigated *and* proved first; then, if they turn out to be above reproach, let them serve [as **deacons**].

¹¹ [The] women likewise must be worthy of respect *and* serious, not gossipers, but temperate *and* self-controlled, [thoroughly] trustworthy in all things.

¹² Let **deacons** be the husbands of but one wife, and let them manage [their] children and their own households well.

¹³ For those who perform well as **deacons** acquire a good standing for themselves and also gain much confidence *and* freedom *and* boldness in the faith which is [founded on and centers] in Christ Jesus.

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Ministry of Helps

The ministry of helps is what God wraps around us to hold us together in our stormy times. No man of God can function without helpers. They will probably get a bigger reward in heaven than the spiritual leaders (apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers) because they are usually more faithful in their helping than the leaders are in their ministering. (Matt 10:41-42)

Though God appoints only a few apostles and prophets, He has thousands of helpers. The helpers are important to God and they contribute to the strength of the ministry, any type of giving whether of self or resource is a 'help'!

Governments

In **1 Corinthians 12:28** the Greek work for governments is *kubernesis*, meaning to steer or to guide. This word governments means the steering committee. Those who possess knowledge to steer a church and guide it around its problems become the government of the church (administration). God wants church government to be well oiled with the Holy Spirit. This means that mature men and women can bless the church by being set aside to do certain things within the church, to operate the church in the way it ought to be operated.

We all have a place

These nine offices of ministry which God has set in the Church have a purpose. All are necessary for a well –ordered Church, and in these last days each of us has a place in the Church.

We should ask ourselves every day, *“What can I do to fit more perfectly into the divine pattern that God has planned for the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ?”*

Each of us has a place in God’s Church, a job to fulfill.

The Lord is waiting for us to move into our nitch and do our best for Him,

Combination of Ministries

When God gives ministerial gifts to the body of Christ, He may give more than one gift to the same person. For example, some people may fill a dual ministry, such as pastor and teacher. They can pastor a church magnificently, then proceed to a bible College and open the Word of God to the student body in a splendid fashion. Others may serve as both pastor and evangelist. They pastor their churches on Sunday and go out on Monday and hold revival meetings and cause hundreds of people to receive The Lord Jesus Christ.

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This combination of ministries occurs not because a person seeks these gifts, but because God has bestowed them upon them. They obtain them without struggling, without trying; they just flow from them under the anointing of the holy Spirit. (Acts 13: 1-2 shows an example of this)

Paul is an example of functioning in all the ministry gifts in the Church with excellence.

You may ask,

How can I know the office of ministry that God has called me to fill?

If a person has a ministry, his ministry will flow out of him and produce the proper fruit.

Ministry is evidence and it just makes a way and a place for itself.

People will know what you are by the fruit you produce. As you seek the Lord, pray to the Spirit. And study god's Word, the ministry gift that God has placed in you will surface without you have to force it.

Start Where You Are!

Begin by doing everything your hand finds to do. Do something close by, start small. You will find out right away if you have the ability. Usually the gifts you learned in the world are key to your gifts for the ministry but not always.

Don't wait for the doors to open, create doors all around you. There is so much to be done, just get started! ¹

¹ Excerpted from The Gifts and Ministries of the Holy Spirit ©1982 Lester Sumrall Evangelical Association (LeSEA)