

Spiritual Gifts.

3. Live Each Day. 1 Peter 4:7-11

a. Live with urgency. 4:7

C.T. 4:7 = Now the end of all things has drawn near; therefore, be sound-minded and spiritually sober for the purpose of prayer.

b. Live in love. 4:8

C.T. 4:8 = Above all, having the expanded love for one another, because love is covering a multitude of sins. (Prov 10:12)

c. Live unselfishly. 4:9

C.T. 4:9 = having hospitality to one another without grumbling.

d. Live To Serve. 4:10

C.T. 4:10 = As each one has received a grace gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

e. Live To Glorify God. 4:11

Whoever speaks, *let him speak (elited command)*, as it were, the utterances (**LOGION = 4x**; of God; whoever serves, *let him do so as by the strength (ISCHUOS = physical strength)* which God supplies (**Pres Act Ind CHOR8GEW = 2x**; in classical Greek it meant to supply a chorus line or dance troupe; that which is needed so that “the show may go one”); so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs (**PAI EIMI = is**) the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

C.T. 4:11 = **Whoever speaks, *let him speak*, as it were, the oracles of God; whoever serves, *let him do so*, by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to Whom is the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.**

Summary:

1. Concerning the spiritual communication gifts, we are told to stay with the oracles God has given to us.

A. Moses passed on God’s oracles. Acts 7:37-38

"This is the Moses who said to the sons of Israel, 'God shall raise up for you a prophet like me from your brethren.' "This is the one who was in the congregation in the wilderness together with the angel who was speaking to him on Mount Sinai, and who was with our fathers; and he received living **oracles** to pass on to you.

B. This is what the Jews were entrusted with. Rom 3:1-2

Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the benefit of circumcision? Great in every respect. First of all, that they were entrusted with the **oracles** of God.

C. Oracles refer specifically to the inspired Word of God. Heb 5:12

For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the **oracles** of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

2. Concerning the service gifts we are to rely on the strength God supplies.

A. We are to use the resources God has given us trusting Him to continue to supply. 2 Cor 9:5-12

So I thought it necessary to urge the brethren that they would go on ahead to you and arrange beforehand your previously promised bountiful gift, that the same might be ready as a bountiful gift, and not affected by covetousness. Now this I say, he who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully. Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed; as it is written, "He scattered abroad, he gave to the poor, His righteousness abides forever." Now He who **supplies** seed to the sower and bread for food, will **(fully) supply** and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness; you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God. For the ministry of this service is not only **fully supplying** the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God.

B. He first supplies us by our connection to the Head of the Body, the Lord Jesus Christ. Col 2:18-19

Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind, and not holding fast to the head, from whom the entire body, being **(fully) supplied** and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God.

C. Then He supplies us with the Holy Spirit. Gal 3:5

Does He then, who **provides (fully supplies)** you with the Spirit and works miracles among you, do it by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?

D. We are to use the spiritual grace supply we have been given so that we may fulfill the Two Great Commands. 2 Pet 1:5-9

Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith **(fully) supply** moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge; and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness; and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins.

E. Kingdom living will then be abundantly supplied. 2 Pet 1:10-11

Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; for

in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be **abundantly supplied** to you.

3. **In context, the “all things” specifically includes the use of spiritual gifts.**
4. **In the true Biblical use of spiritual gifts, God gets all the credit.
Cf 1 Cor 10:31 (prelude to Ch 12)**

Spiritual Gifts

1. **A Spiritual gift is a God-given ability to excel in a different area of service within the Body of Christ.**
2. **It is different from a talent or human ability which comes with natural birth in that Jesus Christ established the gifts (Ephesians 4:11) and the Holy Spirit sovereignly distributes them at the moment of salvation (1 Corinthians 12:11,18) to the entire Body of Christ (Ephesians 2:20).**
3. **It is important to realize that all gifts are to function in love (1 Corinthians 13) and that they are designed to serve others (1 Peter 4:10).**
4. **The Apostle Paul made it clear in 1 Corinthians that even though they are spiritual gifts, given by the Holy Spirit, they can be used in a fleshly way to draw attention to oneself or to become arrogant (1 Corinthians 12). Spiritual gifts are to be used to build up the church, not to cause divisions and confusion (1 Corinthians 14:12,33).**
5. **There are five places in the New Testament where spiritual gifts are mentioned by name. 1 Corinthians 12:8-10,28; Ephesians 4:11; 1 Peter 4:11; Romans 12:6-8**
6. **Spiritual gifts were given to the Church which began on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2).**
 - A. **Some gifts were designed to lay the foundation (Ephesians 2:20) so that the Church could begin, be built up and stabilized (1 Corinthians 14:40).**
 - B. **These gifts were called “sign” gifts and were designed to evangelize the unbeliever and stabilize the new Believer (1 Corinthians 14:20-22) until Scripture for this new dispensation could be written.**
 - C. **They were temporary and were not needed after they accomplished their necessary functions in the early church, so they disappeared (1 Corinthians 13:8-10).**

- D. Other gifts were designed for the function of the Church after it passed the “infancy” stage (1 Corinthians 13:10-13) and therefore are permanent. These involve gifts that communicate God’s Word and serve others (1 Peter 4:10-11).**
- 7. We are told that the gifts of “Prophecy,” “Languages,” and the “Word of Knowledge” will be done away when the “perfect” comes (1 Corinthians 13:8-10).**
 - 8. Since those gifts will be done away, then “Distinguishing of spirits,” and “Interpretation of Languages” will also disappear because they function in union with the previously mentioned gifts. Notice that all of these gifts concern communication.**
 - 9. When the book of Revelation was written, prophecy was closed for the Church Age (Revelation 22:18-19). Therefore, the “perfect” must be the completed, God-breathed, inspired Word of God. No more new information was needed for the Church. The teaching gifts then focused on the communication of what had been revealed through the written Word that became the New Testament.**
 - 10. Revelation 21:14 indicates that there were only twelve apostles. While it is clear that other people held a position that was called “apostle,” it did not mean that they possessed the gift (Galatians 1:19; the Lord’s brother was not one of the original twelve). It is clear that this spiritual gift was also temporary.**
 - 11. The gifts of “Healing” and “Miracles” were also temporary gifts as evidenced by their historical usage in the New Testament.**
 - A. God still can and does heal people and perform miracles, but not through a spiritual gift given to an individual.**
 - B. The Lord still answers prayer (James 5:16), but the function of the gift was based on the decision of the one possessing it.**
 - C. Those with the gift of healing could call on the Lord and healing would occur (Acts 3:6-8; 5:12-16; 9:34).**
 - D. The gifts were used in the early Church to draw attention and authenticate the message of the resurrected Christ (Acts 8:1-8; 39; 13:4-12; 14:1-4; 19:11-12).**
 - E. The Believers’ love for one another is the mature way of drawing attention to the message of Jesus Christ (John 13:34-35).**

12. Summary of Temporary Gifts:

- A. The Word Of Wisdom.** 1 Corinthians 12:8 refers to supernatural instructions given for the application of Church Age truth.
- B. The Gift of Faith.** 1 Corinthians 12:9 is a supernaturally great trust in the Lord in the face of seemingly impossible situations (1 Corinthians 13:2 cf Acts 12:1-19).
- C. The Word Of Knowledge.** 1 Corinthians 12:8 was the supernatural utterance of direct information for the Church, not of a prophetic nature, which was to guide them until the New Testament was completed.
- D. Healing.** 1 Corinthians 12:9,28 was the supernatural, immediate and total physical healing of individuals from various medical conditions.
- E. Miracles.** 1 Corinthians 12:10,28 was the supernatural setting aside of the normal natural laws and was viewed in conjunction with healing and the casting out of demons (Acts 19:11-12).
- F. Prophecy.** 1 Corinthians 12:10,28; Romans 12:6; Ephesians 4:11 was the supernatural ability to foretell information in the Church concerning the near and distant future (Acts 11:27-28).
- G. The Gift of Distinguishing of Spirits.** 1 Corinthians 12:10 was gift used to evaluate false teachers and false prophets (1 Corinthians 14:32).
- H. Tongues/Languages.** 1 Corinthians 12:10,28 was the supernatural ability to speak a human language that had not been previously learned.
- I. Interpretation of Tongues/Languages.** 1 Corinthians 12:10 was the supernatural ability to translate human languages that had not been previously learned.
- J. Apostle.** 1 Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 4:11 was a spiritual gift held by only twelve men (Revelation 21:14) who were handpicked by Christ Himself (Luke 6:13-16; Acts 9:15; Galatians 1:1).

13. Permanent Gifts:

- A. Teaching.** 1 Corinthians 12:28; Romans 12:7 is the supernatural ability to excel in the communication of God's Word to others.
- B. Helps.** 1 Corinthians 12:28 refers to a gift that supernaturally assists the gifts of others. It functions in many different areas. One example would be in the collection or preparation of food to nourish others so that others could more fully pursue their specific gifts (Acts 6:1-6).

- C. **Administration.** 1 Corinthians 12:28 is the supernatural ability to organize and oversee the resources that God has given to His Church.
 - D. **Serving.** Romans 12:7; 1 Peter 4:11 is the supernatural ability to carry out the physical functions of ministry in a practical manner.
 - E. **Exhortation.** Romans 12:8 is the supernatural ability to recognize and meet the need for encouragement within the Body of Christ.
 - F. **Giving.** Romans 12:8 is the supernatural ability to share one's resources with others in a higher proportion than would be normally expected. It is unselfishness measured by generosity, not by the specific amount that is given but by the willful sharing of resources.
 - G. **Leading.** Romans 12:8 is the supernatural ability to guide and direct individuals in the accomplishment of the service of the Church.
 - H. **Mercy.** Romans 12:8 is the supernatural ability to recognize and get help for those in spiritual or physical need.
 - I. **Evangelism.** Ephesians 4:11 is the supernatural ability to present the gospel of Jesus Christ to individuals or groups of people in ways they can clearly understand.
 - J. **Pastor-Teacher.** Ephesians 4:11 is the supernatural ability to shepherd God's flock through teaching and applying His Word.
14. **To sum up spiritual gifts, be bound by God's Word and function in His strength. (means we function in love giving him all the glory)**
 15. **No one gift is more important than another. It just has a different function. 1 Cor 12:12-27**
 16. **The viewpoint one has toward spiritual gifts should not be divisive within the Body of Christ, as the spiritual use of spiritual gifts will promote spiritual unity. Eph 4**
 17. **Be Led by the Spirit to Love and Serve One Another.**