

## Concerning Spiritual Gifts - Don't be ignorant! by Don Fenby

**1 Corinthians 12v1** says “*Now concerning Spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant*”. I have had it on my heart to talk about spiritual gifts because there seems to be some confusion about the gifts and what gifts do I have as a Christian. I want to explain some things about spiritual gifts to clear up any confusion you may have.

To me, gifts fall into four categories: The first is the natural gifts and abilities and the other three refer to spiritual gifts and abilities, as **1 Corinthians 14v46** states, ‘the natural and then the spiritual’ so here I go.

### Natural Talents

**The first category** I will talk about are talents that Jesus spoke about in Matthew 25v15. Every person regardless of who you are, born again or not, have been given a talent of some kind. The talents you have been given will lead you to have certain interests or hobbies and help you choose your vocation in life. Jesus tells about the 3 servants who were given some talents by their master before he went away on a journey. The talents in this verse relate to money, but they can also relate to personal abilities or gifts. The moral of the story is not how many you have, but what you do with them before the master returns (Jesus). Every one of the servants were given at least on talent, but the ones who were rewarded were the ones who put them to work and gained more. In this world people use their talents to become rich or break the law, but some use the gifts to help others and in doing so are rewarded by God. The lazy servant refuses to use his talent at all, this results in him being refused into the kingdom of God. If you don't know what your natural talents are, just follow the direction given to us in Ecclesiastes 9v9,10 “Do whatever you can with whatever you have and do it with all your might”.

**Spiritual Gifts:** Spiritual gifts are placed in 3 categories, **first** are the basic life purpose and motivational gifts (referred to as the gifts of the Father). They are called motivational gifts because these gifts place you into a role within the church (the body of Christ). The Apostle Paul outlines these gifts in Romans 12v4-8, and 1Corinthians 12. They are prophecy, ministry, teaching, exhortation, giving, leadership, mercy, helps, administrations, and varieties of tongues. Every willing Born Again believer will be placed within the body of Christ according to their individual gift from God. We need leaders in our churches but we also need servants to keep the place going and there is to be NO distinctions between them. God places people where He pleases; we are ALL part of HIS body As we need we all need parts of our body to function correctly, the body of Christ also needs a variety of gifts and abilities to work in harmony and function correctly also.

Not everyone is a prophet and not everyone is a leader, but there are those that show mercy to the sick and helpless, there are those that serve at tables and those who are able to give finances to them ministry, Jesus displayed all the se ministries here while on earth. Two examples of giving and serving are shown to us in the book of Acts. In Acts chapter 6 we read about Stephen who was a man full of faith who had the ministry of serving. Acts 10v1 is a man in Ceasarea called Cornelius, a Centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, a devout man and on who feared God with all his household, who gave generously to the people, and prayed to God always. There are Questionnaires that you can obtain to help you identify your gifts and abilities, but ask yourself “what do I enjoy doing most”? This will give a strong indication to as where you fit within the body of Christ.

**Secondly** there are “The gifts of the Holy Spirit” based on 1Corinthians 12 of which there 9 gifts listed. They are word of wisdom, word of knowledge, the gift of faith, gifts of healings, working of miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, different kinds of tongues and interpretation of tongues. As you can see some of these gifts interrelate with motivational gifts, but with a different emphasis. These gifts are very important to the body of Christ, they are the power gifts. Jesus told his disciples to wait for after his ascension to heaven. Luke 24v19 states “behold I send the promise of the Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high”.

Every Spirit filled believer at some time, will operate in these gifts, although not always when we want to. Usually there is a need within the body and yet there are some people who operate in them quite freely, but this comes with maturity of the persons walk with Jesus. There are times where I have had a word of knowledge or wisdom for a person, but it was when they were seeking the Lord for an answer in their life. The disciples were able to heal the sick with the authority that Jesus gave to them while he was here on earth. That power was an external power or on loan, it belonged to Jesus and went with him to the cross. When the disciples received the baptism of the Holy Spirit they received a personal anointing to operate in spiritual gifts empowered by the Holy Spirit. That same power is available to us as born again believers, as Jesus says “The works that I do, greater works shall you do because I go to the Father”.

I experienced this when I fellowshipped at Clark Taylor's ministry and was a home group leader of his church, Clark operated strongly in the gifts of the word of knowledge and healing, While I was part of his ministry, I also operated in these gifts, but once I left that anointing also left my life. I had to build God's anointing in my life for myself to be effective for the kingdom of God. Whereas the motivational gifts are there for the function of the church, the gifts of the Spirit are there as tools of warfare to fight the devil and bring deliverance to the oppressed, unfortunately some mainline denominations have discredited the gifts of the Holy Spirit and dis-empowered the body of Christ, But as the coming of Christ draws near so to the power of the gifts to bring deliverance to the church and revival to the nations.

**The third category.**

I call the "office gifts" (gifts of the son) which we read about in Ephesians 4v11. These are offices within the body of Christ that have a specific call on their lives, these people called are trained by the Lord for the building of His church and edification of the body. The "office" gifts have large responsibilities and in some instances are required many years of training because they are frontline ministries of the world. The apostle Paul spent 18 years in training after his conversion.

The fruit of the spirit is mentioned in Galatians 5v22 Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self control against such there is no law. As you can see there nine fruits of the Spirit as there nine gifts of the Spirit, now I can not tell you which fruit relates to which gift but I can tell you without the fruit operating in your life the gifts **WILL NOT** operate either. Many people want to be able to prophesy, but if you can not give a word in love and gentleness you are better of not giving it at all. Many people want to cast out devils but if you can not exercise self control against sin in your own life, then what right do you have to cast a devil out of another's life? A Pastor once said to me the key for the anointing is Praise, Now if you can not give praise back to God when you do some thing under the anointing, through his ability, then you may find that our God is a jealous God and you may not operate in the anointing as much as you would like.

**God Bless you - Don Fenby.**