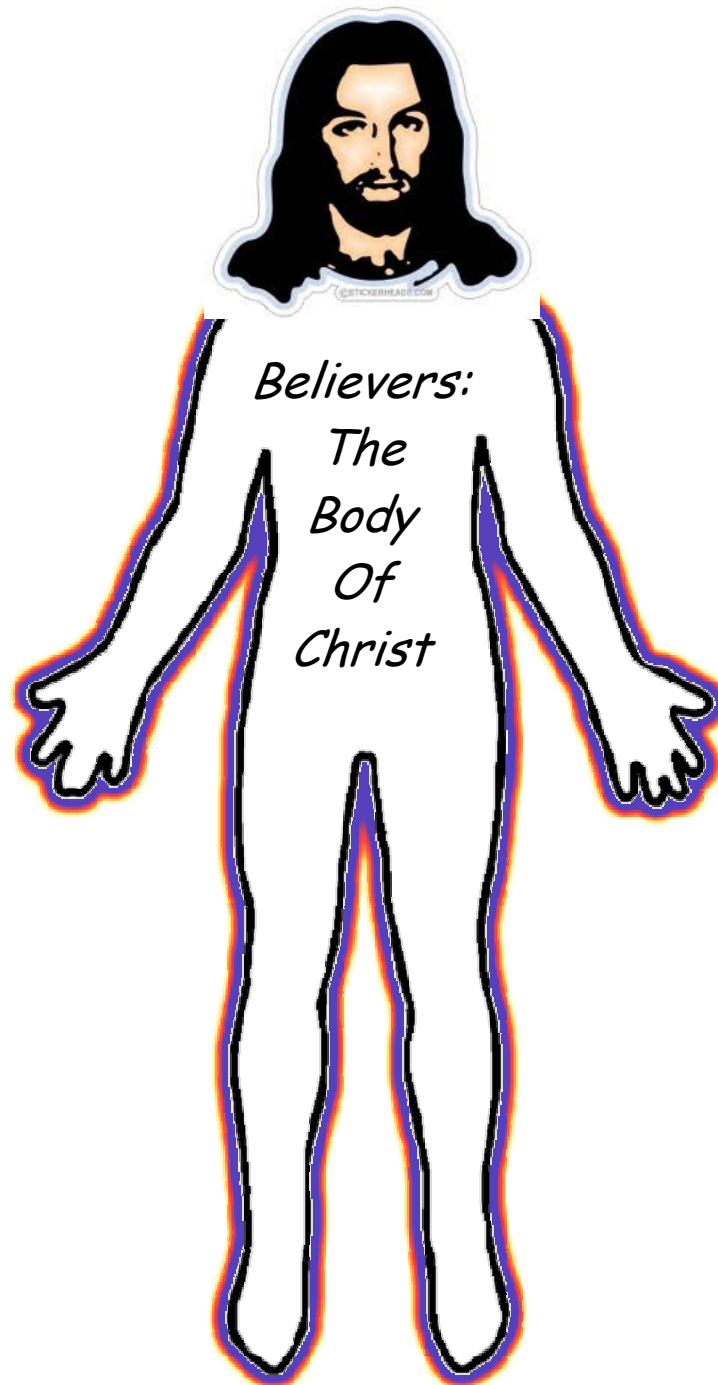


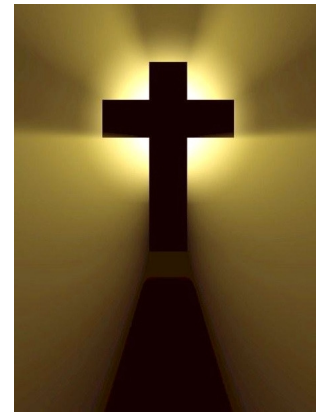
The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 62- 2012

The Giver of Spiritual Gifts...the Holy Spirit
Jesus is the Head - We are His Body
Our Spiritual Gifts Serve Jesus and the Body of Christ



BEFORE YOU BEGIN

If YOU have never believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, you have the opportunity to do so right NOW. Simply tell God the Father that you believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, who loved us so much that He came down from heaven and became a man to take our place and pay for the penalty for all the sin of all mankind. Jesus, the Savior died on the Cross for your sins and the sins of the whole world. Then Jesus was buried but He rose again and He is alive today seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven. When you make the decision to believe in Jesus in simple faith based on His work on the Cross, you are now a believer and will always be a child of God. When you die, you will spend eternity with Him in Heaven. [\(Acts 16:31\)](#) "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." [\(John 3:16\)](#) "God loved the world so much that He gave us One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."



Lesson



We are finally on the subject of spiritual gifts in the Bible. I bet you never thought we'd get to it! But here we are so let's get going and learn what there is to learn about it.

The Holy Spirit is the Giver of spiritual gifts! This is yet one more of His many ministries or work. Each believer is given a unique gift that is supernatural. It is supernatural because it is a demonstration of God the Holy Spirit, Himself, who is supernatural. And yet these gifts are designed by Him for us so that we can work together as a team in the Body of Christ. Jesus is our Head and we are His body.

This is worth repeating: at the moment of salvation, God the Holy Spirit, in one of His seven ministries to the new believer at salvation, and as one of the forty grace gifts that you received at salvation, by His sovereign will gave you a spiritual gift. You surely did NOT realize this at the moment you believed in Jesus, did you? No, you hadn't learned enough about it yet and you most likely don't know what your gift is yet. You will use your gift to serve Christ and others in the royal family. Most of you haven't discovered yours yet but you will. If you are a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, then you have a spiritual gift. Also the spiritual gift that you possess is not a sign that you are better or worse than any other believer because of that spiritual gift.

As God, the Holy Spirit decides who gets what spiritual gift. It is His sovereign decision...that means it's written in stone...permanent and it's perfect for you. [1 Cor 12:11](#) "But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills."

So, when it comes to understanding the nature of spiritual gifts, one very important thing about them is that they are from the source of, controlled by and set apart by the Holy Spirit, and are supernatural in character.



Spiritual gifts are given to us by the Holy Spirit; they come from the Holy Spirit; and because of Him there is something supernatural about them when they operate. It is His POWER that makes us able to perform our gifts in order to serve the Lord and the body of Christ...other believers. Any work or operation that is from the third Person of the Trinity is bound to be supernatural in nature!

In this lesson we are going to focus on how we will use our spiritual gift. Remember, we didn't earn or deserve salvation and we don't earn or deserve our spiritual gifts either. Our gifts are provided by the grace of God.

The word "gift" comes from the Greek word *charisma* and the root word is *charis*, which means "grace". When you add the letter "ma" to the end of the Greek word then it means receivers of grace. We are the receivers of these grace gifts. You remember what grace means: "a favor which one receives without any merit of his own. It is a gift of grace or a gift involving grace on the part of God as the Giver and is used..."

- a) Of His free gifts on sinners...salvation. [Rom 5:15, 16; 6:23; 11:29.](#)
- b) Of His gifts upon believers by the operation of the Holy Spirit in the churches. [Rom 12:6-8; 1](#)

Cor 1:7; 12:4, 9, 28, 30-31; 1 Tim 4:14; 2 Tim 1:6; 1 Peter 4:10.

- c) For extraordinary powers, setting apart believers and giving them the power to serve the Body of Christ...the church by the power of divine grace operating in their souls by the Holy Spirit.
Rom 12:6; 1 Cor 1:7; 12:4, 31; 1 Peter 4:10;



So grace is undeserved favor from God. Grace is free; limitless; blessings you can't work for; to helpless, undeserving sinners from the loving God who is completely satisfied by the Person and Work of the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace is God's policy towards us and all that He is free to provide for us. Thankfully it's not about what we earn and certainly not what we deserve. Rom 11:6 "But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace."

God's grace is abundant and He desires to shower us with it. That shower of grace includes our spiritual gifts. Eph 2:7 "...in order that in the coming ages He might **show** the incomparable riches of His grace, expressed in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus." It's our job to simply say "yes" and receive His highest and best. Please notice the word "show" here. God wants to SHOW the surpassing riches of His grace toward you and me. God wants to SHOW Himself in the use of your spiritual gift. To show WHAT? The riches of His grace toward YOU!! So our spiritual gifts are part of those riches in Christ that God wants to show us, even prove to us how much He loves us and provides EVERYTHING for us in His plan in grace. Our gifts make us happy!!!



God does all the work and we receive the benefits! And a POWERFUL pouring out of the grace of God happened when He decided to give us our spiritual gift. God has already blessed us with everything we will ever need for time and for eternity. Our problem is that we think we have to work for it when in fact God has already given it to us.

So since spiritual gifts come from the Holy Spirit, *charisma* teaches us that they are gifts of God's grace. They are not something we earn or deserve. All gifts are freely given by a gracious God who loves us.

If a man has the spiritual gift of pastor/teacher that does NOT mean that he is better than other people and so forth. The gifts are given freely and graciously by God to whomsoever He wills. They are gifts of grace, not from merit or works, and so they don't show a thing about someone's holiness or spirituality.

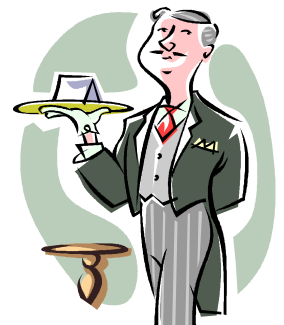
The principle then: spiritual gifts are sovereignly given by the Holy Spirit to each believer at the point of salvation for a special purpose to serve Christ by serving others in the Body of Christ. Eph 4:11-14 "And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, (12) for the supplying the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; (13) until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man (just like Christ), to the measure of the standing which belongs to the fullness of Christ." These are only some of the different gifts. There are varieties of gifts and ministries and varieties of effects on the team or body of Christ. 1 Cor 12:6 "There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons."



The word 'effect' is the Greek word *energema* from which we get our English word energy. It refers to the effects that can only be produced by the power of God. Only divine power lets us be effective in serving with our spiritual gift. That POWER or energy is from the Holy Spirit and the results are up to God and His plan and His work. 1 Cor 12:7 "But to each one is given the demonstration of the Spirit for the common good." To EACH ONE means each and every born again Church age believer gets one spiritual gift to serve and show Christ to other members of the body or church. The Greek word means a visible display, an exhibition, or an appearance. So the Holy Spirit is made visible, is on display, makes an appearance, and is on exhibit, when believers use their spiritual gifts to serve the Body of Christ

according to the workings of God the Father.

Let's make this VERY CLEAR: our spiritual gift is the Spirit of God working or ministering to the Body, using the believer to accomplish it, rather than the



believer doing something and asking God for help with the job. And it is for the COMMON GOOD of the Body of Christ. It is a benefit for all who receive the service from believers through their gifts. The Body of Christ profits from your service. The entire church profits from your gifts. Using your spiritual gift is the best show of unselfishness AND the best for self-fulfillment in ONE and the same activity! In other words, kids, you won't be selfish using it and it will make you VERY, VERY HAPPY!!!

Your spiritual gift is not for you but for the good of the team, the Royal Family, the Body of Christ, the church. I know I am repeating but this is exactly how you learn and grow.

The spiritual gift is given to the church, not to the individual. The individual believer is the channel, the steward, the vessel that God uses for the gift to work. It's not just for your benefit of good. Like when your Mom or Dad gave you something to share with the whole family and you ate it yourself, and then she or he gets really angry and says "that was for all the kids, not just for you"! Our Father in heaven is very wise, and He has made spiritual gifts to build strong friendships among the members of the Royal Family, to keep the team together and tight in the middle of our fight here in the devil's world.

We are all members one of the other, and we all get a gift that everyone needs, and all the other guys have a gift that we need, so we all have to give and receive in order for things to work out well. I rely on you. You rely on me. No lone rangers. Teamwork! Satan wanted to be selfish and independent and NEVER wants us to rely on God or God's provisions.



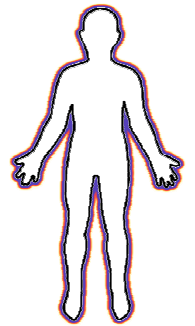
Look, kids, the Trinity is a team. And so are we!!! We are all members one of the other, and we all get a gift that everyone needs, and all the other guys have a gift that we need, so we all have to give and receive in order for things to work out well. Just like the human body works to keep healthy and perform in good condition so we can live in life and accomplish our goal, our mission, and our destiny. So grace is at work whenever we use our spiritual gift. Our Christian service is the exercise of a gift. We are keepers of the many-sided grace of God. **1 Peter 4:10-11 "As each one has received a special gift, use it in serving one another as good stewards of the many sided grace of God. (11) Whoever speaks is to do so as one who is speaking the words of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and authority forever and ever. Amen."** Notice the final result is the glory of God through Jesus Christ. This is our goal ALWAYS!!

So to summarize what we have learned already about spiritual gifts...

1. They are marked by great variety.
2. Their source is the Holy Spirit.
3. They are a gift of God's grace.
4. They are given for the purpose of providing service to Jesus, other believers and unbelievers.
5. They are energized by God for action in the believer's life.
6. They run on divine power.
7. Each believer gets one.
8. They are given to publicly demonstrate the work of the Holy Spirit.
9. They are designed to be used for the good of the team...the Body of Christ.
10. God gets the glory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Putting all this information together we can make a pretty good definition of a spiritual gift. A spiritual gift is a God-given supernatural ability to serve the Body of Christ...the church effectively that we received when we believed in Christ for salvation. A spiritual gift is a way by which the Holy Spirit ministers to or works for His Church. A spiritual gift is a supernatural ability graciously given by God the Holy Spirit to each believer (without

regard to any work on the believer's part) at the moment of salvation so that the Holy Spirit might show Himself in effective service for the benefit of the Royal Family, so that in all things God the Father may be glorified through our Lord Jesus Christ.



John 7:37-39 "Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, 'If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink.' (38) He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.' (39) But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified." The power of the Spirit is behind the flow of this living river. We believers are used by God to pour out water of the Word! Remember that without Jesus we can do nothing. And our use of our spiritual gift, our service, our divine good works, was designed in eternity past in the divine decree: Eph 2:10 "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand (in eternity past) so that we would walk in them."

Our Christian service is the exercise of a gift. We are keepers of the many sides of the grace of God. 1 Peter 4:10-11 "As each one has received a special gift, use it in serving one another as good keepers of the many faces of the grace of God. (11) Whoever speaks is to do so as one who is speaking the words of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and authority forever and ever. Amen."

Our spiritual gift in action is a direct undertaking or showing of the Spirit working through the believer. Our spiritual gift is the Spirit of God doing something, and using the believer to accomplish it, rather than the believer doing something and asking God for help with the job. Paul teaches us in 1 Cor 15:9-11, "For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. (10) But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove empty; but I worked even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me. (11) But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills." Our spiritual gift is a showing of the Spirit, or service divinely produced by the Spirit, and as He willed it. So our spiritual gifts given to us represents the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. Remember that when you complain about your own gift or to someone else's gift.



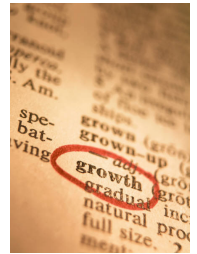
Now, the very first time that the spiritual gifts were given was on the day of Pentecost and they came from the Lord Jesus Christ and God the Holy Spirit. He made the first distribution on the day of Pentecost, ten days after His ascension, according to Eph 4:7-8. "But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. (8) This is why it says: 'When he ascended on high, He led captives in His train and gave gifts to men.'" But since that time, the Holy Spirit makes the distribution of all spiritual gifts, according to Heb 2:4 "God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will." And in 1 Cor 12:11, which we saw in the beginning of our lesson. In several passages, spiritual gifts are credited to God without telling us which member of the Holy Trinity is the Giver. But today the Holy Spirit is the giver as 1Co 12:11 says.



Spiritual gifts are not earned, not deserved, not developed, and not gotten through emotional experiences. This is why Paul says in Rom 12:3-8 "For through the grace given to me I say to every man among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has pre-arranged to each a measure of faith. (4) For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function (use), (5) so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. (6) And since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let each exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; (7) if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; (8) or he who encourages, in his encouragement; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness."

Your spiritual gift becomes ready for you to use through normal spiritual growth. From what the Word of God teaches, all believers have equal privilege and equal opportunity to grow spiritually and live in the plan of God. This means that the difference between believers in the eyes of God is never related to the believer's appearance, his personality, or anything the believer achieves spiritually or through his human talent. The only differences between believers can be seen from these two ideas:

- a) Spiritual growth. Some believers use their equal privilege and equal opportunity and achieve great spiritual growth so God can use them through their spiritual gifts. The differences among believers on the basis of their spiritual growth is a result of their motivation (to please God and obey Him), volition (choose to grow), and priorities (make it the most important thing you do). There will always be those who will and those who won't. It's our choice.
- b) Spiritual gifts. The differences among believers in spiritual gifts has its source in the sovereign wisdom of the Holy Spirit. He chooses your gift for you. He is God and omniscient...He know exactly what is the perfect gift for you to have the most effect on the Body of Christ. It's God's choice.



God the Holy Spirit in His sovereign wisdom has provided different spiritual gifts for the Body of Christ, just as different functions are assigned to different parts of the human body.

The effectiveness of your spiritual gift depends upon two things:

- a) The filling of the Holy Spirit is an absolute must to fulfill the plan God has for you in time and for your spiritual gift to count. Remember you have to be in fellowship with God to produce divine good work through your spiritual gift.
- b) The rate of spiritual growth depends on your daily decisions to grow in the time given to you on earth to fulfill the plan and gift God has for you.



If you are growing spiritually, your gift will function in a right way. Listen, even the communication gifts...evangelist, pastor/teacher, Bible teacher etc...can function to sometimes even when a believer is out of fellowship, because God honors the gift under his principle that it is not the man but the message that counts. It is the Word of God that is alive and powerful not the believer. This ONLY is true for communication gifts, and is not a good situation because the believer is not producing divine good and the Lord is not glorified. However, the person hearing the Word still benefits.

Therefore, spiritual gifts only function inside the pre-designed plan of God under the POWER of the Holy Spirit and carries on through the Word that lives in your soul.

You must understand something very important about spiritual gifts. They have nothing to do with how you feel. Your emotions have nothing to do with the filling of the Spirit or the way you use your spiritual gifts. As you grow spiritually from God's Word, your spiritual gift will function even without you being aware of it.

Spiritual gifts are the Father's witness to the saving work of Jesus Christ on the cross and to His strategic victory in the angelic conflict...our battle with Satan and darkness. [Heb 2:4](#) "God also bearing witness with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles (which means works of divine power) and by (spiritual) gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His (God the Father's) own will."

So, God the Father uses the ministry of God the Holy Spirit for giving spiritual gifts. The giving of these gifts are according to God the Father's very own will because He is the author of the divine plan. And notice that the giving of these gifts are to be used as what [Heb 2:4](#) above calls "a witness". The word *witness* is the Greek means to demonstrate together with; to join in bearing witness; or to unite in adding testimony. That's exactly what you do when you work in your spiritual gift. God created the human race to be a witness for God when Satan protested the sentence God gave him when he sinned. So you are a witness together with God against Satan. You join in bearing witness of the divine plan and the glorification of the Lord Jesus Christ.



You unite with other believers in adding testimony by building up and educating the body of Christ. Remember [Acts 1:8](#). "...but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to

the farthest parts of the earth." So through using your spiritual gift, you become a witness to the fantastic victory of our Lord Jesus Christ in His great defeat of Satan.

The giving of spiritual gifts are made to be a witness to the strategic victory of our Lord Jesus Christ during the dispensation of the Hypostatic Union...the 33 years Jesus walked the earth as the God/Man.

The spiritual gift of evangelism or pastor/teacher is designed to communicate one thing only...the WORD of GOD...Bible doctrine and that gift needs lots and lots of preparing. But it doesn't necessarily mean the person with the gift has to have a great ability in public speaking or cool talent on the part of the speaker to keep the attention of the people he is evangelizing or the believers he is teaching. Again it is the message in the Word not the person giving the message that is important.

Our spiritual gifts are for the purpose of serving the Lord and educating the Body of Christ, not bringing glory to self. All the glory must go to Jesus.

Using your spiritual gift means you have to be selfless, thinking of others more than yourself and this will give you great fulfillment at the same time and each and every time you function in your spiritual gift!! This is what glorifies Jesus, too, and I know that is what you all want to do because you love Him and you obey Him.

We are all united in Christ and in each other...the Body of Christ...when we serve Jesus and our brothers and sisters in Christ. Some day in heaven at Jesus' evaluation seat after the rapture, I know you want to hear Him say to you, "Well done, my good and faithful servant!..."

Close in prayer

Prepared from Pastor John Farley's lesson on June 26, 2011
Lighthouse Bible Church

