

Introduction

Studies in Grace and Faith believes that all the callings and gifts of the Holy Spirit that were available to the early church are available to the church today.

We seek to present the authentic gifts of the Holy Spirit as revealed in Scripture without relying on traditional definitions or human experience for the purpose of better equipping the saints.



What do Spiritual Gifts have to do with Grace?

1. Many today do not understand spiritual gifts.
 - a. *They've never been taught.*
 - b. *They don't believe they exist today.*
 - c. *They've adopted the attitude of "don't ask, don't tell".*
2. "Charis" is grace. "Charisma" is gift.
3. Spiritual gifts were foretold and are grace given to each one as a result of Christ's incarnation, death, resurrection, and ascension. They are part of His victory over evil. By overcoming death, He was able to pour out His gifts upon us.

Ephesians 4:7-11

But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.⁸Therefore it says,

*"When he ascended on high he led a host of captives,
and he gave gifts to men."*

⁹(In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? ¹⁰He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) ¹¹And he gave ...

4. The spiritual gifts are for all. There is no partiality of race (all flesh), gender (sons and daughters), age (young and old men, or social status (slave or free).

Acts 2:16-18

But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:
¹⁷"And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,

*and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams;
¹⁸even on my male servants and female servants*

in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

5. The gifts are not earned or deserved by our personal power or godliness, but given by grace as He wills.

1 Corinthians 12:11

All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

Acts 3:11-12

Now as the lame man who was healed held on to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the porch which is called Solomon's, greatly amazed. ¹² So when Peter saw it, he responded to the people: "Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?"



Purpose of Spiritual Gifts

6. The following are NOT purposes for spiritual gifts: personal glory, spiritual prowess, or domination of believers.

Romans 12:3-5

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

7. The purpose of spiritual gifts are to equip, edify, encourage, and comfort the saints and to build up the body of Christ (Eph. 4:12-16, 1 Cor. 14:3).



Spiritual Gifts¹

1 Corinthians 12:4

There are diversities of gifts (charisma), but the same Spirit. ⁵ There are differences of ministries (diakonea), but the same Lord. ⁶ And there are diversities of activities (energema), but it is the same God who works all in all². ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

¹ Some of the categories are clear, others seem to overlap. For example "gifts of healing" is literally charisma of healings, which might shift it to another category if following the "rules". While categories are up for discussion and even debate, the fact is, these gifts are still available to believers today. Some expositors divide them by spoken and unspoken.

² Note that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are all part of the gifts. It is preposterous to idolize the Holy Spirit when discussing the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The Trinity is at no time separate, nor are they jealous one of the other. If a minister begins to exalt the Holy Spirit in an undue fashion, it might be cause to question his/her motives. The Father has chosen to exalt the Son through the Spirit.

The Gifts According to Grace Lesson 1 Introduction

- 8. Diakonea:** These are equipping-building-service gifts given by God Himself for the purpose of bringing the body of Christ into the unity of the faith and equipping-coaching them for the purpose of ministry.
- a. **Ephesians 4:11; 1 Corinthians 12:28**
 - i. Apostle
 - ii. Prophet
 - iii. Evangelist
 - iv. Pastor-Teacher
- 9. Charisma:**
- b. **Romans 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 12:28**
 - i. Prophecy
 - ii. Ministry
 - iii. Teaching
 - iv. Exhortation-Comfort
 - v. Giving
 - vi. Ruler-Leader-Manager (Literally: he who is set in front of others)
 - vii. Showing Mercy
 - viii. Administrations
 - ix. Helps
- 10. Energema (operation, working, effect)**
- c. Word of wisdom
 - d. Word of knowledge
 - e. Faith
 - f. Gifts (charisma) of healings
 - g. Working of miracles
 - h. Prophecy
 - i. Discerning of spirits
 - j. Tongues
 - k. Interpretation of tongues

**Earnestly Desire Spiritual Gifts**

- 11. We are told to earnestly desire the greater gifts.**
- a. Earnestly desire, to covet, "to desire, to wish for excessively; crave"
Andrew Wommack's Living Commentary
1 Corinthians 12:31
But earnestly desire the higher gifts.

1 Corinthians 14:1

Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.

1 Corinthians 14:39-40

So, my brothers, earnestly desire to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. ⁴⁰ But all things should be done decently and in order.

1 Timothy 3:1

This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work.



Pursue Love

12. The gifts are perfected by love.

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Corinthians 12:31

But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

1 Corinthians 14:1

Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts.

13. Paul isn't diminishing the gifts by holding up love. He wasn't saying, "Pursue love and you won't need gifts." He was pointing out that we are all part of each other, and our motivation for operating in the gifts is love. Without love, the gifts are worthless.