

THE
PERFECT
COUNSELOR
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How Can I Distinguish Spiritual Gifts?

1 Corinthians 12:1-11, 28-31 - Sunday, May 24, 2020

It is needful for each believer to distinguish between the spiritual gifts God has given.

I. **Gifts of Speaking: 1Cor 12; 1Peter 4**

- a. **message of wisdom** (word of wisdom-KJV): This means the expression of a thought which "carries deep insight into the true nature of something."
- b. **message of knowledge** (word of knowledge-KJV): The expression of a thought derived from careful investigation and a desire to know deeper truth.
- c. **prophecy**: To speak forth the truth. This is not primarily fore-telling the future but forth-telling of godly truth.
- d. **speaks**: Using specific words to convey truth. This person can articulate themselves and help people gain a real understanding of what is being said.

II. **Gifts of Spiritual Office: 1Cor. 12; Eph. 4; 1Tim. 3**

- a. **apostles**: Those in the N.T. whose sole purpose in life was a specific calling by God in spreading the gospel message. This was an office for starting the original church, and these men had to have seen Jesus while He was on earth (see Acts 1:15-22)
- b. **prophets**: An office given to the church - sometimes speaking new revelation & sometimes expounded on already given revelation.
- c. **teachers**: It is the capacity to instruct so as to "establish believers in the faith."
- d. **Evangelists**: This is giftedness in presenting the salvation message in a very clear and effective way.
- e. **Pastor-teacher**: This gift relates to the tending and care of a local body or 'flock.' This office is also referred to as elder or bishop.

- f. **deacons** [diakonos]: "one who does servile work, or an attendant rendering services for free"
- III. **Gifts of Service**
- a. **faith**: This is a special faith beyond that necessary for all believers to have (See 1Cor. 13:2)
 - b. **discerning of spirits**, distinguishing between spirits: The ability to judge whether or not something is good or evil - of God or of Satan. **helps**: This is specific gifts in helping the needy and social ministries of the church. It may also involve ministering to the hurt and downcast.
 - c. **gifts of administration**: This is the gift of helping to guide the church and steer it through organization.
 - d. **ministry**, service: A servant or minister. This ministry will be very practical in use and often in the background.
 - e. **exhorts**, encouraging: This word does not refer to calling someone aside to comfort them, but to call them aside to encourage them on.
 - f. **gives**, contributes : This word carries the idea of giving of oneself or one's things.
 - g. **leads**: This word gives the idea of diligently standing in front of others and leading with zeal and great effort.
 - h. **mercy**: This is the outward manifestation of pity. This person, not only feels deep sorrow for the plight of another, but he also supplies the resources to meet the need.

IV. **Gifts of Signs**

- a. **healing (cures)**: This gift is the ability to make someone whole or to heal them. This is not a person who is a healer, but isolated instances healing.
- b. **working of miracles**, miraculous: A powerful effort producing a miraculous event.
- c. **different kinds of tongues** (various kinds of tongues- KJV): The gift of speaking in another language without ever having learned that language.