

The Spiritual Giftings God Builds into People

There Are 3 different types of gifting (spiritual gifts) that are important for the church to function well.

- A. **The Gifts of Church Leadership** (Ephesians 4:7-16)
- B. **The Gifts of The Holy Spirit** (1 Corinthians 12:7-11)
- C. **The Gifts of Basic Life Purpose** (Romans 12:1-8)

While we will focus mainly on the Gifts of Basic Life Purpose for this study, let us look initially at the pattern Jesus set up for his church:

Ephesians 3:20 What is the core strength for our life?

Qu: Who does God work his plans through?

Ephesians 4:1-7 *One God who is OVER all and THROUGH all and IN all. [Not just working THROUGH some chosen leaders / ministers but through ALL people] ... But to EACH ONE of us grace has been given as Christ has apportioned it.*

What is this grace for?

This is not the grace that just saves us – it is the grace of Christ that gives each of us a role to contribute to seeing his Kingdom on earth developed. Christ has a useful plan for you.

Ephesians 4:15-16 Growing up so EACH PART (of the body = each person in the Church) can do its work.

Qu: What do these texts show you about the significance of you having a contribution to the Church of Jesus?

Gift Set A. Look at Ephesians 4:7-16

Who has given these gifts? V7 CHRIST

List these 5 gifts

1. **Apostles**
2. **Prophets**
3. **Evangelists**
4. **Pastors**
5. **Teachers**

What are they given for? V12-13 to16

These key leaders are appointed by Christ specifically to build every member of the Church into mature effective workers, preparing *them* to do the work of ministry of Christ to our community and world.

These giftings are called the Gifts of LEADERSHIP or the 5 FOLD MINISTRY Gifts or the ORDER Gifts.

These offices or roles are pivotal to ensure that the other two types of gift categories are effectively developed and applied in the church.

They are for equipping the body of believers in the church to assist each member to

- a) Know the place the Creator has made for him/her to fill
- b) To receive the power of the Holy spirit to expand each member's capability beyond their natural ability

so the work of discipling people, building the church and evangelising the world is done effectively.

When we build according to the pattern that Jesus established, life flows to many people. See Hebrews 8:5-6+. The OT tabernacle was a pattern related to the spiritual one in heaven. The NT church is also a pattern that God has established. When we build the church by God's pattern, God will make sure the church grows.

When we allow the apostolic / prophetic leadership pattern arising from these Leadership Giftings to lead and govern the churches, growth happens. A church cannot grow properly on Romans 12 type giftings alone, no matter how willing or skilled.

These 5 giftings may not be present in every local church (usually will have at least one), but each local church needs to draw from relationship with these 5 giftings in some way (regional basis etc).

This pattern will help us find our real identity in Christ, give us a sense of belonging and provide us with a way to find and fulfil our life purpose. We each have a deep in-built need for a life purpose – by passionately contributing to seeing God's Kingdom built throughout our society, believing that we can make a difference.

We are here for a reason and we are all needed.

Note: These 5 Fold Ministry Gifts are to be recognised and declared by other 5 Fold Ministries through their discernment in the spirit. They are not to be self declared. They need recognition, a period of training and evidence of both ministry productivity and appropriate character development before full recognition and ordination.

Gift Set B.

Look at **1 Corinthians 12:1-11** especially v7-11

Who has given these gifts? See v 7 & 11	THE HOLY SPIRIT
Who are they given to?	Each one of us
What are they for?	For the common good

So these 9 gifts are usually called **the Gifts of the HOLY SPIRIT**

I understand these gifts of the Spirit are not permanent abilities ie there are no specialists in these roles, even though some people more commonly operate in one more than another. They come as an enablement by the Holy Spirit when there is a need. They allow people to do something beyond their natural ability or understanding, to achieve a task or message for a particular time. The Spirit uses whoever he chooses for the role. They are to be actively sought and expected. Make yourself available for the Holy Spirit to use. These are best studied in more detail than this article can provide.

Gift Set C.

Look now at **Romans 12:1-8** especially verses 6-8

How many people are being involved here?

Who gives out these gifts? v3 GOD (God as Father *or* creator)

What does it mean to use them “with the measure of faith God has given you”? see end of v3 This may need some detailed study, but I think this includes our response to the belief (faith, trust) that God about each of us that we can really help him in his purposes. He believes we can. Our job (faith step) is to take ourselves through the growth in confidence that we can do this [accept and own the gift(s)] and then develop the skills to do these roles well.

I think it also means to use them in accord with the level of personal maturity and skill we have developed at that time, not getting unwisely beyond our depth.

These are called **the Gifts of FATHER GOD** or
the **Gifts of BASIC LIFE PURPOSE**
(also may be called **CREATION Gifts**, or the **MOTIVATIONAL Gifts**)

They reveal much about your **BASIC LIFE PURPOSE**. They are gifts to be a means to fulfil your purpose in life – what you were created to do. (This is still to be distinct from who you are created to BE in regard to your worth and identity. Never confuse your identity in Christ with your usefulness).

Write out the list of these 7 Gifts of Life Purpose

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

Which is the most important?

No one of these 7 gift types is to dominate over others in role or worth. All are important and necessary. Some are more prominent and some are more behind the scenes, but all are valuable.

Quickly think which of these 7 basic abilities do you contribute best in? (usually will be more than one).

You will have a unique personal way of using these giftings.

Understanding there can be **a mix of giftings**. We don't just have one gifting. Usually there will be 2-3 we commonly use and many of us may rise at times to operate in some other area when needed (no-one else available).

How have you seen these abilities emerging in your personality and skills from a young age? Remember you are made in the image of God. He has designed you from conception. So they will show through out your life. He awaits a relationship with you to bring these abilities into the full capacity as you live in the Spirit dependent on his strength (see Ephesians 3:20 again).

How have they developed (or even emerged) since you committed your life to Christ.

Let us assess each gift in more detail:

1. **Prophesying** **“Giving fresh insight to people”**

I believe this covers the bringing any form of Spirit-inspired revelation, insight and direction. When we view it this way, it differentiates this gifting from Prophecy as a Gift of Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12 & 14) and the role of the prophet (Ephesians 4). So it can be not only a Word of Prophecy but also any useful Spirit-given understanding. This may be giving someone Godly advice, giving relevant Bible truth, the role of preaching – anything that opens doors for people into new ways of seeing life. It makes things clearer for other people and stimulates new inspiration, faith and impetus in them. The working of this gift also influences others in committing to doing things in accord to God’s righteousness.

2. **Serving**

Promotional practical functioning, facilitating and helping.

A Godly role, not just the menial drudgery jobs when you can’t do anything more significant.

Deacons often do this work and their job description calls for them to be filled with the Spirit (Acts 6:1-6 esp v3, 1 Timothy 3:8-13) to function in this serving role.

This gifting is just as significant as the first one, prophesying.

3. **Teaching**

Instruct others by using the Holy Spirit-given gifting to explain and apply the truth of God’s heart and ways. Insight and hope and life flow to people when they do this.

They have an ability to take ‘dry’ or confusing concepts and make it alive and understandable and useful to people. Using the Word of God, they help people find real answers and direction.

4. **Encouraging** and exhorting and instructing)

Working to draw out the best in people, believing that there is more.

5. **Contributing to needs**

Providing for others. Motivated by the Spirit of generosity.

Having good well-managed resources to help the less resourced. Giving to enable them to become what they cannot do alone. Teaching people to change their life situations and life ways to better management.

Good management and care of resources. Resources are more than money.

Discerning wisdom of when to help people and when this is wasteful or unproductive (at that time).

6. **Leadership**

Providing strong vision, direction, wisdom and the mobilising of people. Building effectiveness and coordination into the Body of the Church. Developing teams, mentoring and instruction. Drawing out these Romans 12 giftings in other people. Developing strong character, mature living and useful effect in people.

7. **Mercy Giftings**

Lifting up the weakened. Standing up in defence of the weak.

A deep compassion and care for people.

Places a high value on them personally.

A belief that life can be otherwise for them. Involves an honesty about the way things really are, yet looks for God's heart and God's intervention in the situation.

Has both sympathy and empathy in a healthy manner, and then helps people find better ways of managing life, through the assistance of the spirit.

Provides confidence and certainly when others are down and despairing.

Values the need for respect and worth for all people.

I think my major gifts may be (in this order from most important):

The best way to assess is to ask "What gets me excited, and what do I particularly love to see happen?"

Also ask "What is happening when I strongly sense the Holy Spirit working through me?"

Now ask someone else's opinion about your assessment of your giftings (because you may not yet have a clear confident ability to assess yourself or not be able to see gifts just emerging that others will be able to see)"

Ask yourself "What do I need to work on so that I can operate in these giftings in the best ways?"

Every gifting has a potential ability to be misused. What do you see are your potential traps, looking at your giftings?

Assess someone else:

(This is an important skill to learn – to help you understand other team players who operate differently to you, and to fine others with similar giftings to you so that you can fire each other up)

1. What do you think their giftings from this list are?
2. How does this compare to their assessment of themselves?