

Grace Covenant Church

Spiritual Gifts FAQ

1) What are Spiritual Gifts? Where are they found in the Bible?

Spiritual gifts are abilities to do certain things well, given by the Holy Spirit, for the edification (building) of the church. They're found throughout the Bible, but the following five passages give specific detail regarding the gifts: Romans 12:3-8 / 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 / 1 Corinthians 12:27-28 / Ephesians 4:11-13 / 1 Peter 4:9-11

Spiritual gifts are not natural abilities, honed skills, or innate talents. They are supernaturally given by God and allow someone to serve the body of Christ with supernatural ease and effectiveness.

Spiritual gifts are also not the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-26) which ought to be expressed in the lives of all Christians to a greater magnitude as they become more like Christ in all of life.

2) What is the purpose of spiritual gifts?

The Bible teaches us that God gives us spiritual gifts to build up the body (the church), and to bring unity to the church (1 Corinthians 12 / 1 Peter 4). Spiritual Gifts are not granted for our own spiritual growth but for us to aid the growth of others, for the strengthening of fellow believers.

3) How many spiritual gifts are there? Are there some not listed in the Bible?

There isn't an all-encompassing list of spiritual gifts listed in the Bible. Scholars differ on the exact number of gifts. The five passages indicate the following 16 spiritual gifts:

Administration	Evangelism	Knowledge	Serving
Apostleship	Faith	Leadership	Shepherding
Discernment	Giving	Mercy	Teaching
Encouragement/ Exhortation	Hospitality	Prophecy	Wisdom

**For more information about these gifts, please see our PDF on the [Spiritual Gift Descriptions](#).*

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4) What about the “charismatic” or “sign” gifts?

The Bible does not conclusively state that sign gifts (speaking in tongues, interpreting tongues, certain kinds of prophecy, healing, etc.) have permanently ceased. However, it seems consistent with Scripture (the book of Acts and the Epistles) that the expression of these types of gifts became less normative as the early church got established. They were warned to not let these gifts become divisive in the building up of the church.

We do not disregard the possibility that God may give some believers certain “sign gifts” in specific unique situations. We’ve heard of unique expressions of the Holy Spirit’s work in the mission field, but those tend to not be normative expressions over time even in those locals. As a church, we don’t teach or encourage these gifts at Grace. Expressions of prayer languages tend to be for the edification of the person, not the body as a whole, so they are not included in our Spiritual Gifts Assessment. Anyone who feels strongly about exercising these gifts publicly may feel more comfortable in a different local church.

5) Who gets spiritual gifts? How does someone receive spiritual gifts?

Christians. The Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to believers. The Bible tells us that every person that trusts Jesus for salvation by faith receives the Holy Spirit within them. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit happens at this point of conversion and the Spirit gives gifts as He chooses.

6) How many spiritual gifts do I have?

At least one. The Bible indicates that every Christian has a spiritual gift. Scripture does not specify whether Christians receive only one gift. It appears that believers may receive more than one spiritual gift and that they work in concert with one another. We don’t get to pick which gift we get. God, in His sovereignty, has chosen to empower His people with a variety of different spiritual gifts. The Bible does not teach that every Christian has the same gift. The diversity of the spiritual gifts and the impact of those gifts come from God Himself.

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7) How do I learn what my spiritual gifts are?

Good question! Our [online Spiritual Gifts Assessment](#) is a tool to point you in what might be the right direction to determine your primary gift(s). However, we believe you hone in on your primary gift(s) through affirmation from:

- A. The Holy Spirit,
- B. Other Mature Believers,
- C. Engaging in church ministry, and
- D. Seeing where supernatural results occur.

A) The Holy Spirit

Pray and Ask God to reveal what your spiritual gifts may be. Take the Spiritual Gifts Assessment prayerfully and ask the Spirit to direct your answers and guide you as you use this tool. The Holy Spirit is given to guide us into Truth and empower us to become like Christ in all of life. As you abide in Christ you will see evidence of your spiritual gift(s) and the fruit of the Spirit.

B) Other Mature Believers

Get Honest Feedback from Other Believers.

Ask A Mentor – Find an older, wiser Christian and ask them what gifts they see in you.

Your Church Community – Ask people you serve with how you are gifted.

C) Engaging in church ministry

Often, the best way to discover our gift is when we pour ourselves into the lives of other believers, and when we get involved in the life of the body. Engaging in ministry service gives us affirmation of how the Holy Spirit uses us effectively. How do you serve your church?

D) Seeing where supernatural results occur

The expression of your spiritual gift should happen with ease and effectiveness. If something is your spiritual gift, to some degree, it **should** be easily expressed through you and even be

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enjoyable. Not because it's your own power - exactly the opposite. It is that way **because** you're relying on the Holy Spirit within you, who is empowering your expression of that gift. It should also have a multiple impact.

8) How do I use my spiritual gifts?

Serve the church! Start serving and, as you serve, pray for opportunities to use and see your spiritual gift(s). No member of the church should live or do ministry in isolation. Instead, every member of the church should seek opportunities to utilize their gift for the benefit of the church. Spiritual gifts get developed and become more effective over time, so it's important to have proper expectations at the beginning. Engaging in serving the church helps you gain the experience of using your gifts and affirms you are gifted in a specific way. Have fun discovering how the Holy Spirit has gifted you and rejoice at how He uses you to build up Christ's church.