



Introduction

When a person becomes a Christian, the Holy Spirit takes up residence with the expressed purpose of changing that person inwardly. The fruit of the Holy Spirit is one aspect of change. He brings the qualities of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control that are intended to make each believer more like Jesus.

In addition, the Holy Spirit gives gifts. Unlike the fruit of the Spirit, the gifts of the Spirit are primarily used to help others. This study will help you understand the purpose of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. It will also help you discover the various kinds of gifts the Holy Spirit gives.

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Gifts of the Holy Spirit result from the presence of the Holy Spirit. The very first gift God gives is the gift of the Holy Spirit himself. The initial reception of the Holy Spirit is called the **Baptism of the Holy Spirit**.

John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Luke 3:16

- Underline the description of the one whom John said will come.
- Circle with what we will be baptized.
- *Jesus is the one about whom John was speaking.*

Jesus explained what John meant in a conversation with His disciples after the resurrection.

⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

Acts 1:4-5

- In verse 4 underline for what they were to wait.
- In verse 5, circle with what were they to be baptized.
- *The gift promised by the Father is the Holy Spirit.*

The presence of the Holy Spirit is the distinguishing characteristic of every believer. Consider Paul's statement.

You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.

Romans 8:9

- Underline where the Spirit of God lives
- Circle the essential ingredient for belonging to Christ

Other **VDR** studies that focus on the Holy Spirit include:

- > **Assurance of a Changed Life**
- > **Practicing Fruitful Living**
- > **God's Nature**

These studies are all available free of charge at www.vdrc.org.

The Greek Word **baptizoo** is translated **baptize**. It means to immerse or submerge. So when we are baptized with the Holy Spirit, we are immersed in Him.



Acts Chapter 2 describes the initial baptism of the Holy Spirit. Be careful that you don't use their experience as means of evaluating your experience. God is a God of infinite variety.



What are the Gifts

There are four passages in scripture that identify the various gifts that the Holy Spirit gives. Using the two main groupings that Peter provides, fill out the table that follows with the gifts that seem to fit that grouping. The gifts in Romans 12 are done for you.

¹⁰ Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. ¹¹ If anyone **speaks**, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone **serves**, he should do it with the strength God provides,

1 Peter 4:10-11

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⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit the **message of wisdom**, to another the **message of knowledge** by means of the same Spirit, ⁹ to another **faith** by the same Spirit, to another gifts of **healing** by that one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another **miraculous powers**, to another **prophecy**, to another **distinguishing between spirits**, to another **speaking in different kinds of tongues**, and to still another the **interpretation of tongues**.

1 Corinthians 12:8-10

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⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is **prophesying**, let him use it in proportion to his faith. ⁷ If it is **serving**, let him serve; if it is **teaching**, let him teach; ⁸ if it is **encouraging**, let him encourage; if it is **contributing to the needs of others**, let him give generously; if it is **leadership**, let him govern diligently; if it is **showing mercy**, let him do it cheerfully.

Romans 12:6-8

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It was he who gave some to be **apostles**, some to be **prophets**, some to be **evangelists**, and some to be **pastors and teachers**,

Ephesians 4:11

1 Peter	1 Corinthians 12	Romans 12	Ephesians 4
Speaks		Prophesying	
		Teaching	
		Encouraging	
Serves		Serving	
		Contributing	
		Leading	
		Showing mercy	

Natural verses Spiritual Gifts

God gives special abilities and talents to Christian and non-Christian alike. Natural abilities such as artistic talent, musical ability or ability to work with your hands are natural gifts from God. They are not to be confused with the special gifts God gives through the Holy Spirit to those who put their faith in Jesus.

Some definitions:

To help you understand some of the terms used in these passages, the following information is provided:

Apostle – one who has been sent forth.

Prophet and prophecy – one who speaks forth the truth. One who Communicates God's perspective to God's people.

Evangelist – one who announces the gospel to others.

Pastor – one who nourishes and cares for God's people.

Teacher – one who explains truth

Messages of wisdom – truth discerned as a result of reflection and study.

Messages of knowledge – truth that results from inspiration and intuition.

Healing – the supernatural correction of disease and illness.

Miraculous powers – The capability to do physically impossible activities.

Distinguishing Spirits – the ability to discern messages whose source is not of God.

Tongues – the ability to speak in another language without having learned the language.

Interpretation – The ability to interpret messages in another language without understanding the language.

The Distribution of Gifts

Nobody is left out when it comes to Spiritual gifts. Everyone placing faith in Jesus receives a gift from the Holy Spirit.

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

1 Corinthians 12:7

- Circle to whom the manifestation of the Spirit is given.
- The word **manifestation** comes from the word **manifest**, which means **“to make apparent”**. In this context the verse could say “now to each one the appearance of the Spirit is given”.

In an earlier part of his letter to the Corinthians, Paul makes it clear that each person receives a gift.

I wish that all men were as I am. But each man has his own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that.

1 Corinthians 7:6

- Circle who it is that has a gift from God.
- The context of Paul’s statement concerns celibacy. Paul was saying that his ability for celibacy was a gift from God. Paul deemed celibacy a spiritual gift, though it is not listed with the other gifts of the Spirit.

While each Christian receives at least one Spiritual gift, it is God who decides which gift a person gets.

All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.

1 Corinthians 12:11

- The reference to **“all these”** identifies the various gifts in verses 7-10.
- Circle the one who gives gifts.
- Underline how many recipients there are.
- Draw a box around the phrase that identifies the Spirit as the one who decides the gift that is given.

The Purpose of Spiritual Gifts

God has many reasons for giving spiritual gifts. Peter explained the purpose of spiritual gifts in his first letter.

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

1 Peter 4:10

- Circle the way that gifts should be used.
- Underline what each one should do.
- Gifts are never meant as a means for self-benefit. Gifts are always used to benefit someone else.

Paul expressed the purpose of Spiritual gifts a little differently.

God Gives to Each One

It makes sense that God gives gifts to **each one** of his children. He loves us each and shows no favoritism for one over another. If he gave gifts to some and not to others, His love toward those who did not receive a gift would be questioned.

Can I ask for a Gift?

It is never wrong to ask God for a particular gift. In fact we are encouraged to

... eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy.

1 Corinthians 14:1

However, guard against teaching that requires you to have a particular gift as proof of the spirit's presence in your life.



Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

1 Corinthians 12:7

- Underline the purpose for which the gifts are given.

Paul elaborates on the reason that God gives spiritual gifts in his letter to the Ephesian church.

¹¹ *It was he who gave some to be apostles,
some to be prophets,
some to be evangelists, and
some to be pastors and teachers,
¹² to prepare God's people for works of service,
so that the body of Christ may be built up
¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and
in the knowledge of the Son of God and
become mature,
attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*

Ephesians 4:11-13

- In verse 12, underline what the gifts of the Spirit prepare God's people to do.
- In verse 12 circle the reason that we are to do works of service.
- In verse 13, draw a box around the two types of unity that are to result from the ministry of the gifts of the Spirit.
- In verse 13, circle what we are to become as a result of the ministry of the gifts of the Spirit.
- In verse 13 underline to what we are to attain.

God is intent on seeing each child of His grow to spiritual maturity. And He gives us the privilege of helping each other grow.

So it is with you. Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church.

1 Corinthians 14:12

- Underline what someone should do who is eager to have spiritual gifts.

What is your Gift?

Because God does not announce His gift to us, many new Christians wonder what gift they have. There are some simple ways you can determine what gift God has given you.

- You will have a desire to use the gift God has given you.
- You will enjoy doing a gifted activity.
- Others will notice and confirm a spiritual ability.
- You'll get a great sense of satisfaction as you minister your gift to others.

You'll never discover your spiritual gift until you try to use it. So the best time to start your search for your spiritual gift is now.

Every Gift is Important

God perfectly distributes and bestows gifts to meet the needs of those around us. No one gets every gift. And no one gift is more important than another. Every person has a part to play in the building process.

To learn more about the process of building up the Body of Christ, investigate the Discipleship Study entitled **Building up the Brethren** in the **Relating to Men** section of the **vDRC** study series. You can find them at www.vdrc.org.

Review

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit occurs when a person invites Jesus to live inside of them. The presence of the Holy Spirit is the key distinguishing characteristic of a Christian.

What are the Gifts? There are a variety of gifts that can be grouped into two basic categories: gifts of speaking and gifts of service.

Distribution of the Gifts. Every believer receives at least one spiritual gift. Those gifts are distributed as needed according to God's plan and purpose. That is, the Spirit decides who gets what gift.

Purpose of the Gifts. The gifts of the Spirit are intended to build up the Body of Christ. They are to be used to help others grow into the measure of the fullness of Christ.

What's Your Gift. Each person must discover their gift. Using your gift in the lives of others will bring you great satisfaction.

Application

What has God spoken to you about in this study?

What do you think your need is?

What is it that God wants you to do?

How are you going to check-up on yourself?

Don't Skip the
Application
Applying God's Word to
your life is the most
important part of study.