

# Spiritual Gifts

## Surpassing Grace Empowerment for Believers

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- Old Testament Spiritual Gifts
  - On occasion spiritual gifts were given prior to the Dispensation of the Church.
  - These spiritual gifts were a surpassing grace empowerment from God, but they were not given to all believers.
  - Craftsmen were gifted for the construction of the Tabernacle [Ex 31:1-11; 35:30-35; 36:1-2, 8] and the Temple [1 Kgs 7:14; 2 Chr 2:7, 13-14].
  - Prophets were gifted and sent to Israel [Jer 7:25; 25:4; 26:5; 35:15] and to Gentiles [Jonah 3:1-5].
- Millennial Spiritual Gifts
  - During the future Millennial Kingdom the Holy Spirit will be poured out on all mankind and Jewish sons and daughters will prophesy [Joel 2:28-29].
  - Peter referred to this Joel passage when describing the events of Pentecost [Acts 2:15-18], but this event at the inception of the Church did not in any way fulfill the promises made to Israel.
  - The future prophetic ministry of Jewish believers during the Millennium must be distinguished from the gifts given to believers in the Church today.

### Joel 2 vs. Acts 2

Joel 2:28-29	Acts 2
“After this” follows the zealous deliverance of Israel from the Gentiles [Joel 2:18-20]	No such event preceded the inception of the Church
The Holy Spirit will be poured out on all mankind [Joel 2:28]	The Holy Spirit was poured out on a select group of believers in Jerusalem [Acts 2:1-4]
The Jewish people (your sons and daughters) will receive gifts of prophecy (dreams/visions) [Joel 2:28]; no mention of tongues	The Spirit-filled Church members began speaking in tongues [Acts 2:4]; no mention of prophecy

- Spiritual Gifts for the Church
  - Every believer in the Dispensation of the Church receives at least one spiritual gift [1 Pet 4:10a].
  - Spiritual gifts should be employed in serving others as stewards of the grace of God [1 Pet 4:10b].
  - These gifts are given by the Holy Spirit, ministries are allotted by Jesus Christ and all of the effects are produced by the Father [1 Cor 12:4-6].
  - The Holy Spirit gives us these gifts at the moment of our salvation for the common good [1 Cor 12:7] in building up of the Body of Christ [1 Cor 14:26b].
- Apostolic Age Spiritual Gifts
  - During the Apostolic Age of the Church many gifts were given which were temporary in nature just as the Old Testament spiritual gifts had been.

- Some gifts (Apostle and Prophet) were given for the foundation of the Church [Eph 2:20] and the revealing of the mystery doctrines [Eph 3:5].
- The Church is well past its foundation stage, the canon of Scripture is now closed and the mystery is now understood through the Bible, so these gifts are no longer given (as with Tabernacle building).
- The Apostle Paul clearly teaches that certain spiritual gifts come to an end [1 Cor 13:8ff].
  - ✦ Tongues (speaking in a foreign language) were given as a sign to unbelieving Jews [1 Cor 14:21-22] and ceased once Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 A.D.
  - ✦ After Tongues ceased the Interpretation of Tongues was no longer needed and ceased as well.
  - ✦ Prophecy, Word of Knowledge, Word of Wisdom, and Distinguishing Spirits were “in-part” gifts that were “done away” with when the canon of Scripture was completed (the “perfect thing” came).
- Today, the indwelling Spirit enables us to obtain knowledge/wisdom from the Bible [1 John 2:27] and to discern between spirits [1 John 4:1-3].
- As the Apostolic Age drew to a close and the canon of Scripture was being completed, the signs and wonders gifts (Healing/Miracles) which had served to testify to the authority of the Apostles [Heb 2:4] began to disappear [1 Tim 5:23; 2 Tim 4:20].
- Although these spiritual gifts are no longer given to believers, God still performs miracles every day and heals people when it is His will.
- Permanent Spiritual Gifts for the Church
  - Helps [1 Cor 12:28].
    - ✦ Every believer has the capacity to help others, both within and outside of the local church [Acts 20:35].
    - ✦ A believer with the spiritual gift of Helps has the surpassing grace empowerment which complements other believers’ spiritual gifts allowing him/her to augment their various ministries through the coordinated achievement of work.
    - ✦ The office of deacon is a possible fit for someone with this spiritual gift, but helpers may serve for years in various logistical support capacities within a local church without holding any office [1 Cor 16:16].
  - Service [Rom 12:7].
    - ✦ Every believer has the capacity to serve others [1 Cor 3:5; Eph 4:12] as servants of God [2 Cor 6:4].
    - ✦ A believer with the spiritual gift of Service has the surpassing grace empowerment to serve in personal ministry to others and edify in the process.
    - ✦ This διακονία (diakonia) gift is obviously well suited for the office of deacon (διάκονος, diakonos), but believers with any gift may serve as deacons.
    - ✦ Tychicus [Eph 6:21; Col 4:7] and Epaphroditus [Phil 2:25] are examples of someone engaged in service.

- Encouragement/Comforting/Exhortation – the Greek term is παράκλησις (paraklēsis) [Rom 12:8].
  - ✦ Every believer has the capacity to encourage/comfort/exhort others [Heb 3:13; 2 Cor 1:3-7; 1 Thess 4:1].
  - ✦ A believer with the spiritual gift of Paraklēsis has the surpassing grace empowerment to come alongside others and build them up in their faith.
  - ✦ This gift could be utilized in prayer ministries, music ministries, hospitality ministries, etc.
  - ✦ Believers with this gift could serve well in both the office of deacon and overseer in the local church.
- Mercy [Rom 12:8].
  - ✦ Every believer has the capacity to show mercy to others [Jude 22-23] just as we have received mercy from God [1 Pet 2:10].
  - ✦ A believer with the spiritual gift of Mercy has the surpassing grace empowerment to extend mercy to other and keep them from losing heart [2 Cor 4:1].
  - ✦ This gift could be utilized in hospitality ministries [Acts 16:14-15], prison ministries [Heb 13:3; 2 Tim 1:16], hospital/nursing home ministries, etc.
- Giving [Rom 12:8].
  - ✦ Every believer has the capacity to give to others [Eph 4:28; 2 Cor 9:7-15].
  - ✦ Those who give are blessed [Acts 20:35; Phil 4:17].
  - ✦ A believer with the spiritual gift of Giving has the surpassing grace empowerment to give of themselves in abundance with exceeding joy.
  - ✦ This giving may be in the form of money [1 Tim 6:17-19] or possessions [Luke 3:11], but it may also be the sharing of your time/attention, lending a hand, etc.
- Leadership [Rom 12:8].
  - ✦ Every believer has the capacity to lead others (parents -> children, husbands -> households) [1 Tim 3:4-5].
  - ✦ A believer with the spiritual gift of Leadership has the surpassing grace empowerment to take charge, stand in front and provide a clear path for others to follow.
  - ✦ This gift requires diligent labor [1 Thess 5:12] and could be utilized in the leading of any of the various ministries within a local church, but is well suited for the office of deacon as well as overseer.
- Administration (Guidance) [1 Cor 12:28].
  - ✦ Every believer has the capacity to guide others [Prov 12:26] and all of us need guidance [Prov 11:14].
  - ✦ A believer with the spiritual gift of Administration has the surpassing grace empowerment to steer ministries through the waters, even when they are turbulent.
  - ✦ This gift could be utilized to provide management skills to a wide variety of ministries within the local church and is well suited for the office of deacon as well as overseer.
- Teaching [1 Cor 12:28].
  - ✦ Every believer has the capacity (as they mature in the faith) to teach others [Heb 5:12].

- ✦ Teachers are held to higher accountability [Jas 3:1].
- ✦ A believer with the spiritual gift of Teaching has the surpassing grace empowerment to communicate the word of God with power [1 Cor 2:13; 1 Thess 1:5].
- ✦ This gift could be utilized in teaching ministries both within and outside of the local church and is well suited for the office of overseer.
- Faith [1 Cor 12:9; 13:2].
  - ✦ Every believer has the capacity to exercise faith [2 Cor 5:7; Gal 5:22; 1 Tim 4:12].
  - ✦ A believer with the spiritual gift of Faith has the surpassing grace empowerment to employ their abundant proportion of faith [Rom 12:6] to strengthen those who are weak in faith [Rom 14:1].
  - ✦ This gift could be utilized in congregational prayer meetings, visitation ministries, hospital/nursing home ministries, etc.
- Evangelist [Eph 4:11].
  - ✦ Every believer has the capacity to evangelize the lost [Eph 6:15; 1 Pet 3:15].
  - ✦ A believer with the spiritual gift of Evangelist has the surpassing grace empowerment to share the gospel and to teach others how to proclaim the gospel.
  - ✦ This gift could be utilized in personal evangelism ministries [1 Cor 9:14, 16], EvanTell type training ministries [Eph 4:12], etc. and is well suited for the office of overseer.
- Pastor-Teacher [Eph 4:11].
  - ✦ Every believer has the capacity to shepherd others (parents -> children, husbands -> wives).
  - ✦ Every flock of God needs a shepherd [Ezek 34:5].
  - ✦ All elders and overseers are commanded to shepherd the flock of God among them [Acts 20:28; 1 Pet 5:2].
  - ✦ A believer with the spiritual gift of Pastor-Teacher has the surpassing grace empowerment to tend to the spiritual needs of the flock (as well as teach them).
  - ✦ This gift could be utilized in many ministries, but is uniquely suited for the office of overseer.
- Ascertaining Spiritual Gifts
  - Consideration
    - ✦ Diligently study the word of God [2 Tim 2:15].
    - ✦ Ask God the Father for wisdom [Jas 1:5; Prov 2:3-7].
    - ✦ Carefully consider circumstances in your life, evaluating them according to Scripture [Acts 8:36; 11:11; 1 Sam 24:4].
  - Conviction
    - ✦ Follow the leading of the Spirit [Rom 8:14; Gal 5:18].
    - ✦ Examine your heart motivation [Jas 4:3; 1 John 5:14-15].
  - Confirmation
    - ✦ Others will see the effects of your giftedness [2 Pet 3:16].
    - ✦ Consult the wisdom of elders [Ex 18:19; Pr 1:5; Acts 8:34].