

Spiritual Gifts

A Book Report

By

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In

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Spiritual gifts are not the natural gifts we are given at birth. Although God uses our natural gifts, the gifts the Bible refers to as “Spiritual” gifts are given by the Holy Spirit to every believer at the time of conversion or subsequent to conversion. God is the one who gives spiritual gifts to believers. They belong to him and He gives them to whoever He chooses (I Cor. 12:7, 11).

Spiritual gifts can be imparted by the laying on of hands by spiritual leadership (I Tim 4:14). They can also be received when a believer is filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4; 10:44-48; 19:6). Spiritual gifts are not just for pastors and evangelists, but for everyone who believes in Jesus Christ (I Peter 4:10). There are many different kinds of spiritual gifts (I Cor. 12:8-10, 22-30; Rom. 12: 4-8; Eph. 4:11; I Pet. 4:10-11). Some of the spiritual gifts are actually people such as apostles, prophets, pastors and teachers as well as evangelists.

There are also ways to know what gifts you may have. If you love to serve, you may have the gift of hospitality. If you love to win souls to Christ, you may have the gift of evangelism. The list of gifts in the Bible are not extensive and are not intended to be. They are examples of the many types of gifts the Holy Spirit bestows on the body of Christ. The gifts are not for our personal use, but for building up the Church. The gifts are to encourage our brothers and sisters in Christ. Love should be the greatest motivator for use of the gifts of the Spirit (I Cor. 13:1-3). One gift is not more important than another. Paul uses the analogy of the human body to illustrate this principle. (I Cor. 12:12-26). The mouth or the one who speaks the word of God is no greater than the rest of the body. We all need each other. The eye is no greater than the ear or the foot greater than the toe.

The evidence for being filled with the Holy Spirit is also covered in this informative position paper. While the Christian and Missionary Alliance does not believe that the gifts ceased to be used after the Apostolic age, they do not believe that speaking in tongues is the initial physical evidence for what is called "the baptism in the Holy Spirit." The gifts are very much for today including speaking in tongues, but there is other evidence of this transformative second blessing! The fruit of the Spirit should be evident in a person's life who is filled with the Spirit. A desire to proclaim the gospel to the ends of the earth, and a renewed power of ability to carry out the great commission.

In conclusion, the gifts of the Spirit are very much in operation in the church today. They have not ceased as some still teach. One of the major proof texts that is used to show that the gifts of the Spirit are no longer in use today is I Corinthians 13:8 "lover never fails, But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away (NIV)." Yes, one day tongues will "be stilled" but now is not the time for that! I Cor 13:10 is also used to say that, "when completeness comes, what is in part disappears" (NIV). Yes, I believe the Old Testament canon as well as the New Testament canon was completed by the end of the Apostolic age but this is clearly not talking about the Bible being completed, but the second coming of Christ! One day Jesus will return and there will be no more need for spiritual gifts. But until that day the spiritual gifts are needed to share the good news with a hurting and dying world!

With integrity, I have read this book (circle one):

- Thoroughly and Entirely 100 %
- Quickly but Completely ___ %
- Thoroughly but NOT Entirely ___ %
- Quickly and NOT Completely ___ %
- Not at all

Signed:

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