

Assignment Title: Spiritual Gifts Reading Report –

Spiritual Gifts / Report by Nathan Northcutt

Name: Student

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Professor: Dr. Ronald Walborn

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This article lays out briefly what spiritual gifts are, who can have spiritual gifts, how spiritual gifts work, if any specific gifts are more important, what is evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit, if any gifts have ceased, and how we can discover our gifts. According to the

author or authors “spiritual gifts are empowerments for building up the church and extending the Kingdom of God.”¹ The Holy Spirit is the giver of spiritual gifts and we are merely stewards of the gifts that He decides to give us. All gifts are equal and should all be used to build up the church and for the glory of God, not any person’s glory. According to the author “the fruit of the Holy Spirit, as described in Galatians 5:22–23 is the primary evidence of the Spirit-filled life.”² The author also points out that no spiritual gifts have ceased.

The article also speaks about how to discover your spiritual gifts. A couple of pieces of advice the author gives involve looking at what areas of your ministry are already fruitful. For example, “If you enjoy teaching and find that people are edified through your teaching ministry, it is likely that the Holy Spirit has given you a gift of teaching.”³ Another piece of advice the author has is to speak to leadership in your local congregation. If your local church leadership sees something in you then it can help you to discover your spiritual gifts.

I really enjoyed this article. Personally, I am a very balanced person and I thought this article presented a very balanced opinion on spiritual gifts, if they are still around, what their purpose is, and how we should discover our own spiritual gifts. It aligned with my worldview and didn’t challenge it much, if at all.

I agreed with the author in regards to “expectation without agenda”.⁴ There must be some sort of evidence that someone is filled with the Holy Spirit. If we believe that the Holy Spirit is part of the trinity and that God is all-powerful, then it would be ridiculous to suggest that someone could be filled and empowered by the Holy Spirit and there not be evidence for that in their life. However, if we try to put God in a box and suggest that there is one particular thing

1 “Spiritual Gifts,” Alliance Statements and Perspectives, accessed February 14, 2023, <https://cmalliance.org/who-we-are/our-faith-and-mission/perspectives/>

2 Alliance Statements and Perspectives, “Spiritual Gifts.”

3 Alliance Statements and Perspectives, “Spiritual Gifts.”

4 Alliance Statements and Perspectives, “Spiritual Gifts.”

that is evidence of the Spirit then we are limiting God and what He can do. I fully believe that God can do anything that He wants and to place limits on His power is certainly incorrect.

The one thing I disagreed with a little, or was at least cautious about, was the idea that a fruitful ministry is an evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit. I think it can be easy for us to see a ministry from the outside, believe that it is thriving, and therefore believe that the person leading must be filled with the spirit. Or vice versa, if a ministry is not producing the fruit we want to see, the leader must not be filled. Personally, I would just be cautious about that.

I think this will impact my personal ministry in that I will be asking for and seeking spiritual gifts. In my ministry, I often feel weak and in need of help from God, which often doesn't feel great but I believe is where God can use me. Therefore, I will be asking God to grant me the power and the ability to do what He has called me to do to the best of my ability, eagerly hoping that God would grant me the gifts needed for a fruitful ministry. Also, I desire others to come to know their spiritual gifts. So, I hope that I will be able to encourage people with my church body to seek and to discover their own gifting as well so that the body of Christ can be built up more fully in my local church.

Bibliography

Alliance Statements and Perspectives. "Spiritual Gifts". Accessed February 14, 2023.

<https://cmalliance.org/who-we-are/our-faith-and-mission/perspectives/>

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: Nathan Northcutt