

Spiritual **Gifts**

An Overview

Spiritual Gifts: An Overview

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"Explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words."

1 Corinthians 2:13

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Introduction

The purpose of this article is to present an overview of spiritual gifts which I have found useful in my life and ministry. It consists of three components:

1. The categorization of the spiritual gifts into three groups:
 - MOTIVATIONAL gifts
 - MANIFESTATION gifts
 - MINISTRY gifts
2. One's MOTIVATIONAL gift is the root of one's MANIFESTATION and MINISTRY gifts.
3. There is a MOTIVATIONAL, MANIFESTATION, MINISTRY CONNECTION.

I trust this perspective will become clearer and more detailed as we go along. This overview simply lists and categorizes the various spiritual gifts found in Scripture. It is beyond the scope of this overview to give definitions for each of the spiritual gifts. With regards to defining the various spiritual gifts, I think the phrase – **“there are VARIETIES of effects”**¹ is important to remember. One can settle on general definitions of the various spiritual gifts, but further details of the various definitions will vary, as will their

¹ 1 Corinthians 12:6

manifestations and ministry expressions. It may be a bit frustrating for a teacher to not be able to “pin down” all the specifics of the various spiritual gifts. But, in fact, I believe that is the nature of the case: **The Lord, who is the Spirit, desires to have the freedom² for probably infinite manifestations and expressions of His gifts to the Church.**

Much earlier in my ministry I spent a considerable amount of time studying and teaching on the spiritual gifts in seminars and workshops. The teachings included my personal definitions of the various spiritual gifts which were based primarily on the New Testament Greek words for the various gifts. However, except for this overview, little else from that body of teaching has been put into print thus far.³ For more detailed definitions of the various spiritual gifts, there are a good number of books written on the subject of spiritual gifts, which include various perspectives and definitions.⁴

² 2 Corinthians 3:17; Cf. Galatians 5:13

³ This overview deals mainly with MOTIVATIONAL gifts. But the following articles which I’ve written have more to do with MINISTRY gifts, rather than MOTIVATIONAL and MANIFESTATION gifts: “[The Apostles’ Teaching](#)”; “[Christ-centered Discipleship & Equipping Ministries](#)”; “[From Children to a Mature Man](#)”; “[The Vineyard of the Lord](#)”, and “[The Husbandman](#)”. And also: “Comments on 1 Corinthians 14” (RE_ The gifts of prophecy, tongues, interpretation of tongues) which may be freely obtained in .PDF format by emailing AtChristsTable@gmail.com

⁴ Suggested Reading: “Know Your Ministry: Spiritual Gifts for Every Believer” by Marilyn Hickey (was most helpful on MOTIVATIONAL gifts). And also: “Questions and Answers on

The Purpose of Spiritual Gifts

“But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift. ⁸ Therefore ^{1a}it says, “WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH, HE LED CAPTIVE *THE* CAPTIVES, AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO PEOPLE.” ... We are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.”

Ephesians 4:7-8, 15b-16

The Body of Christ lives and grows by *the life of Christ*. Therefore, the purpose of the spiritual gifts is to share the life of Christ with the members of the Body of Christ.

“To each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”

1 Corinthians 12:7

The “common good” is sharing the life of Christ.

Spiritual Gifts” by Howard Carter; “Spiritual Gifts” by Donald Gee“; “The Gift of Prophecy” by Wayne Grudem.

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The Varieties of Spiritual Gifts

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

We will be discussing the three varieties of spiritual gifts -

- **"Gifts" of the Father (God-given spiritual motivations)**
- **"Ministries" of the Son**
- **"Effects" (or "Manifestations") of the Spirit**

"As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the multifaceted grace of God. Whoever speaks is to do so as one who is speaking actual words of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen." 1 Peter 4:10-11

Regarding spiritual gifts, there are two basic motivations:

- **Speaking**
- **Serving (or Doing)**

"However, since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to use them properly: if prophecy, in proportion to one's faith; if service, in the act of serving; or the one who teaches, in the act of teaching;

or the one who exhorts, in the work of exhortation; the one who gives, with generosity; the one who is in leadership, with diligence; the one who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.”

Romans 12:6-8

This overview of the spiritual gifts will focus on the **Motivational Gifts (7)**:

- Prophecy - *speaking*
- Serving - *doing*
- Teaching - *speaking*
- Exhorting - *speaking*
- Giving - *doing*
- Leading – *speaking & doing*
- Showing mercy - *doing*

“Ministries” of the Son:

“And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors (shepherds) and teachers.” Ephesians 4:11

“And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, *and various kinds of tongues.*”
1 Corinthians 12:28

Ministry Gifts (10):

- Apostle
- Prophet
- Evangelist
- Shepherd
- Teacher
- Miracles
- Healings
- Helps
- Administrations
- Tongues

“Effects” (or “Manifestations”) of the Spirit:

“But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another *various* kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues.” 1 Corinthians 12:7-10

Manifestation Gifts (9):

- Word of wisdom

- Word of knowledge
- Faith
- Healings
- Miracles
- Prophecy
- Distinguishing of spirits
- Tongues
- Interpretation of tongues

The Motivation – Manifestation – Ministry Connection

**But one and the same Spirit works all these things,
distributing to each one individually just as He wills.”**

1 Corinthians 12:11

Certainly, the giving of spiritual gifts is all of the Lord – not of our own choosing. We find ourselves gravitating towards certain gifts only because God has created us and given us certain **MOTIVATIONS** – “just as He wills”. But explicitly because of these God-given **MOTIVATIONS**, we find ourselves identifying with certain spiritual gifts more than with others. More significantly, we find we have **desire and faith** to step out in certain **MANIFESTATION** gifts more than with others. And as we grow in **faith and experience** in those certain **MANIFESTATION** gifts, we may find that the Lord has raised up a **MINISTRY** gift through us for the edification of His Body. Again, it is all rooted in the God-given **MOTIVATION**. Accompanying that **MOTIVATION** is **desire and faith** for certain **MANIFESTATIONS** of the Spirit. And with growth in **faith and experience**, those **MANIFESTATIONS** may develop into a life-defining **MINISTRY**.

Recognition

There is nothing more un-Christlike than self-aggrandizement, and therefore it is obviously something to always be shunned. However, recognition of one's gifts and calling – in true humility, honesty, and integrity – is beneficial. I believe God Himself, in His own ways, affirms and confirms His gifts in our lives and ministries, and allows affirmations and confirmations through others.

Concerning the recognition of others ...

This statement which Paul penned has always intrigued me:
“If I am not an apostle to others, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.” 1 Corinthians 9:2

The gifts and calling which others recognize in you are determined by *how they have received you*. **“The one who receives a prophet in *the* name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and the one who receives a righteous person in the name of a righteous person shall receive a righteous person's reward.”** Matthew 10:41

Concerning self-recognition ...

It *always* takes **faith** to deliver a MANIFESTATION gift. For example: You receive what you believe to be a prophecy which the Lord would have you deliver: At that point, this thought *always* emerges: “Is this really from the Lord? Or is it just my thought?” After 50 years of operating in MANIFESTATION gifts, that is *always* the case for me. But, I have grown in **faith** in the sense of immediately trusting the quiet urgings of the Holy Spirit and stepping out in **faith** to obediently deliver the message.

It also takes **faith** to operate in a MINISTRY gift. It is very interesting to observe the chronological development of the salutations of Paul’s epistles. In his earlier epistles we find: “**Paul, called to be an apostle....**” (Romans 1:1; 1 Corinthians 1:1) In his latter epistles we see: “**Paul, an apostle of Christ**” (Ephesians 1:1; Colossians 1:1; 2 Timothy 1:1) It seems that Paul grew in his personal conviction of his gifts and calling.

The fact of the matter is this: One must believe that what we are and what we have to give has indeed come from the Lord. If we are not convinced of that, we should rather just “sit down, and

shut up”, as they say. On the other hand, if we do believe that what we are and what we have to give has indeed come from the Lord, we have a responsibility to the gift and calling, and to the Lord Himself.

Faith for MANIFESTATION and MINISTRY gifts is based on MOTIVATION gifts. We must recognize the work of God in our lives and the deposit He has given us to give.⁵ Yes, He has given us something of Christ to give. **Some will recognize and receive it, some will not.**

⁵ 1 Timothy 6:20; 2 Timothy 1:14

Addendum

The Working Principle in this Overview

The working principle of this overview has been that our God-given MOTIVATIONAL gifts, when combined with faith, is the basis of MANIFESTION gifts and MINISTRY gifts. Therefore, there seems to be a CONNECTION between MOTIVATIONAL, MANIFESTATION, and MINISTRY gifts. If so, it all begins with knowing your basic MOTIVATION. A God-given MOTIVATION *mixed with one's faith* leads to a MANIFESTATION gift. And consistent manifestations lead to a MINISTRY gift.

“God has allotted to each a measure of faith. For just as we have many parts in one body and all the body's parts do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually parts of one another. However, since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to use them properly. Romans 12:3b-6a

The Motivation – Manifestation – Ministry Gifts Connections

Someone with a particular MOTIVATION gift could possibly lean toward particular MANIFESTATION gifts and MINISTRY gifts.

Some *possible* MOTIVATION – MANIFESTATION – MINISTRY CONNECTIONS (*with scriptural examples*):

MOTIVATION OF PROPHECY (speaking):

John the Baptist (Luke 3:3-9)

Possible MANIFESTATIONS:

- Prophecy
- Word of wisdom
- Word of knowledge
- Distinguishing of spirits
- Tongues & Interpretation

Possible MINISTRIES:

- Prophet
- Apostle
- Teacher
- Evangelist
- Shepherd

MOTIVATION OF TEACHING (speaking):

Paul (Acts 13:1; 20:20 & 27; 2 Timothy 2:15; 4:13)

Possible MANIFESTATIONS:

- Prophecy
- Word of wisdom
- Word of knowledge
- Distinguishing of spirits

Possible MINISTRIES:

- Teacher
- Apostle
- Shepherd
- Administrations

MOTIVATION OF EXHORTING (speaking):

Barnabas (Acts 4:36; 13:13; 15:37-38)

Possible MANIFESTATIONS:

- Prophecy
- Word of wisdom
- Word of knowledge

Possible MINISTRIES:

- Prophet
- Teacher
- Shepherd
- Evangelist
- Administrations
- Helps

MOTIVATION OF SERVING (doing):

Martha (Luke 10:38-42; John 11:8; Philipians 2:7)

Possible MANIFESTATIONS:

- Faith
- Healings
- Miracles
- Word of knowledge (i.e., Knowing what needs to be done)
- Word of wisdom (i.e., Knowing how to wisely do what needs to be done)

Possible MINISTRIES:

- Helps

MOTIVATION OF GIVING (doing):
Abraham (Genesis 13:9-11; 14:20; 22:10)

Possible MANIFESTATIONS:

- Faith
- Word of knowledge (i.e., Knowing what is needed)
- Word of wisdom (i.e., Knowing how to meet the need wisely)
- Healings
- Miracles

Possible MINISTRIES:

- Helps

MOTIVATION OF ADMINISTRATION (doing):
Nehemiah (Nehemiah 2:5-19; 4:4-14)

Possible MANIFESTATIONS:

- Faith
- Prophecy
- Word of knowledge (i.e., Knowing what needs to be done)
- Word of wisdom (i.e., Knowing how to wisely do what needs to be done)
- Distinguishing of spirits

Possible MINISTRIES:

- Administrations
- Apostle
- Shepherd
- Prophet
- Teacher
- Evangelist

MOTIVATION OF SHOWING MERCY (doing):
“The Good Samaritan” (Luke 10:33-35)

Possible MANIFESTATIONS:

- Healings
- Prophecy
- Word of knowledge (i.e., Knowing what needs to be done)
- Word of wisdom (i.e., Knowing how to wisely do what needs to be done)

Possible MINISTRIES:

- Healings

My Personal Spiritual Gifts Set

I've been engaged in the work of ministry for about 50 years. I've consistently spent time seeking the Lord regarding my personal gifts and calling.⁶ Just as a plant grows and becomes more distinguishable as to its variety, so my gifts and calling have become clearer and more focused as the years have passed. But from very early on, I discerned the following in myself:

MOTIVATIONS: Teaching - with the teaching being MOTIVATED sometimes prophetically, and sometimes apostolically.⁷

MANIFESTATIONS: I find desire and faith for: prophecy, word of wisdom, word of knowledge, distinguishing of spirits, and very occasionally, tongues and interpretation.

MINISTRY: Teaching. Particular people, in particular places, at particular times have also recognized in me and have received from me the ministries of prophet, apostle, and shepherd.

⁶ Cf. My message, "Wrestling for the Blessing", which may be freely obtained in .PDF format by emailing AtChristsTable@gmail.com

⁷ Please note: "prophetically" and "apostolically" are adjectives describing the teaching, not nouns as titles for myself. Again, words like "prophetic" and "apostolic" need defining. See: "[The Apostles' Teaching](#)" and "[Christ-centered Discipleship & Equipping Ministries](#)".

Bill & Frances Furioso
~ At Christ's Table ~



Bill Furioso and his wife, Frances, have been married for more than 40 years, and have two children, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Bill and Frances served as missionaries in South Africa for thirteen years making disciples, establishing churches, and training church leaders. Over a span of 40 years, they also traveled extensively in an itinerant Bible teaching ministry which took them to hundreds of gatherings on four continents ministering in churches, conferences, spiritual formation seminars, and home gatherings. They have shepherded several churches, disciplined many to Christ, and mentored church leaders in the USA and abroad.

Being an avid student by nature, Bill has done both formal and informal study in various fields including Education, Music, Philosophy and Theology. As a writer, he has authored many publications which are distributed worldwide. Because of Bill's disabilities resulting from a spinal cord injury, he can no longer travel, so their ministries of writing, recording, distributing, mentoring, and correspondence are now shared primarily via the Internet... www.AtChristsTable.org

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