

Spiritual **Gifts**

An Overview



TITLE & AUTHOR

Spiritual Gifts: An Overview
By W.D. Furioso



COPYRIGHT

Spiritual Gifts: An Overview
Copyright © 2010
At Christ's Table - ACTpublications
W.D. Furioso
<https://www.AtChristsTable.org>

ACTpublications may be freely shared, reproduced, and distributed - unaltered, in digital or print formats. Any quotations or excerpts must also be unaltered and referenced with the above copyright information.

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are taken from the (NASB®) New American Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1960, 1971, 1977, 1995, 2020 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



Table of Contents

Introduction - 4

The Purpose of Spiritual Gifts - 6

The Varieties of Spiritual Gifts - 7

The Motivation – Manifestation – Ministry Connection – 11

Recognition - 12

Possible Ministry Callings - 15

Introduction

Throughout this article, I have mentioned spiritual gifts and callings. To help in the discovery, pursuit, and doing of what God has created us to do, I thought it would be good to present an overview on the subject 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:
 - **Motivational** gifts
 - **Manifestation** gifts
 - **Ministry** gifts
2. Recognizing one's **Motivational** gift as the *root* of one's **Manifestation** and **Ministry** gifts.
3. Seeing the **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. But with regards to defining the various spiritual gifts, I think the phrase – “there are **varieties** of effects”¹ is important

¹ 1 Corinthians 12:6

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 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 So, for more detailed definitions of the various spiritual gifts, there are a good number of books written on the subject 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 Ministry for Discipleship & Equipping”](#); [“From Children to a Mature Man”](#); [“The Vineyard of the Lord”](#), and [“The Husbandman”](#). And also: [“1 Corinthians 14:26 – In Context”](#) (Concerning the gifts of prophecy, tongues, interpretation of tongues).

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 Spiritual Gifts”](#) by Howard Carter; [“Concerning Spiritual Gifts”](#) by

The Purpose of Spiritual Gifts

“⁷But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift. ⁸Therefore 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.”⁵

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.**”⁶

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

Donald Gee“; [“The Gift of Prophecy in the New Testament and Today”](#) by Wayne Grudem.

⁵ Ephesians 4:7-8, 15b-16

⁶ 1 Corinthians 12:7

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."⁷

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."⁸

Regarding spiritual gifts, there are two basic motivations:

⁷ 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

⁸ 1 Peter 4:10-11

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

“Gifts” of the Father - **Motivational Gifts (7):**

“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.”⁹

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

In this article, we are focusing on the **Motivational Gifts** listed above. However, below are merely listed the *Manifestation Gifts* and *Ministry Gifts* mentioned in the New Testament which emerge from the various **Motivational Gifts**:

⁹ Romans 12:6-8

“Ministries” of the Son (10):

“And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors (shepherds) and teachers.”¹⁰

“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.”¹¹

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

“Effects” (or “Manifestations”) of the Spirit (9):

“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

¹⁰ Ephesians 4:11

¹¹ 1 Corinthians 12:28

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.”¹²

- Word of Wisdom
- Word of Knowledge
- Faith
- Healings
- Miracles
- Prophecy
- Distinguishing of Spirits
- Tongues
- Interpretation of Tongues

¹² 1 Corinthians 12:7-10

The Motivation - Manifestation – Ministry Connection

But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.”¹³

Certainly, the giving and receiving 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**.

¹³ 1 Corinthians 12:11

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.”¹⁴

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.”¹⁵ Matthew 10:41

¹⁴ 1 Corinthians 9:2

¹⁵ 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....”¹⁶ In his latter epistles we see: “Paul, **an apostle** of Christ”¹⁷ 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

¹⁶ Romans 1:1; 1 Corinthians 1:1

¹⁷ Ephesians 1:1; Colossians 1:1; 2 Timothy 1:1

Lord, we have a responsibility to the gift and calling,
and to the Lord Himself.

Faith for **Manifestation** gifts 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.¹⁸ Yes, He has given us something of Christ to give.
Some will recognize and receive it, some will not.

¹⁸ 1 Timothy 6:20; 2 Timothy 1:14

Possible Ministry Callings

A Review

The working principle of this overview has been that our God-given **Motivation** gifts, when combined with faith, are the basis of **Manifestation** gifts and **Ministry** gifts. Therefore, there seems to be a **connection** between **Motivational, Manifestation, and Ministry** gifts. If so, it all begins with knowing one's basic **Motivation**.

Again, in this article, we are focusing on the **Motivational gifts**. Our God-given Motivation is the root of whatever God has created us to do – whether it is in the Church or in the marketplace. I realize that while every child of God is **Motivated** to serve **Manifestation** gifts of the Spirit – both in the Church and in the marketplace – not every child of God has a **Ministry** gift as listed in the New Testament.

However, I would like to present a perspective of Possible Connections between the Motivation gifts, Manifestation gifts and Ministry gifts below because I believe the Church needs:

- Better discernment of authentic Manifestation gifts
- More recognition of authentic Ministry gifts

Possible Connections

“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.”¹⁹

A **God-given Motivation** *mixed with one’s faith* leads to a **Manifestation** gift. And consistent manifestations lead to a **Ministry** gift. Therefore, someone with a particular Motivational gift could possibly lean toward particular Manifestation gifts and Ministry gifts.

I offer the following *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

¹⁹ Romans 12:3b-6a

- 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; Philippians 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.²⁰ 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:

Motivation Gift: Teaching - with the teaching being *motivated* sometimes prophetically, and sometimes apostolically.²¹

²⁰ See my article, ["Wrestling for the Blessing"](#).

²¹ Please note: "prophetically" and "apostolically" are adjectives describing the teaching, not nouns as titles for myself. Again, words like "prophetic" and

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

Ministry Gift: 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.

“apostolic” need defining. See: “[The Apostles’ Teaching](#)” and “[Christ-centered Discipleship & Equipping Ministries](#)”.

Bill & Frances Furioso

At Christ's Table ~ ACTpublications



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, discipled 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 Theology, Philosophy, Education, and Music. 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

ACTpublications

“Explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.” 1 Corinthians 2:13

A teaching ministry from Bill and Frances Furioso

At Christ's Table

Disciples of the King and His Kingdom eating and drinking of Jesus

THE HEAD

THE CENTER

THE FOUNDATION

of Biblical Christianity

with a view to

REVELATION of Christ

RELATIONSHIP with Christ

REFLECTION of Christ

ALL OF OUR MINISTRY RESOURCES ARE ON OUR WEBSITE

FREE TO READ-LISTEN-DOWNLOAD-SHARE

<https://www.AtChristsTable.org>

Other places you will find our written & recorded resources ...

WRITTEN MESSAGES

The Restoration Library: <https://www.therestorationlibrary.com>

Academia.edu: <https://independent.academia.edu/WDFurioso>

RECORDED MESSAGES

YouTube: www.YouTube.com/user/BillFurioso

Academia.edu: <https://independent.academia.edu/WDFurioso>

SoundCloud: <https://soundcloud.com/user-648428572>

Spreaker: <https://www.spreaker.com/user/14502151>

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: www.facebook.com/atchriststable

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/at-christ-s-table-ministries-254b5320/>

Twitter: <https://www.twitter.com/atchriststable1>

WhatsApp: +1 (585) 747-3906