**BIBLE QUESTIONS: SESSION 8**

1. **What are Gifts of the Spirit?**
   1. Gifts of the Spirit are talents and/or offices bestowed by the Holy Spirit upon individuals.
      1. Usually gifts of the spirit are referenced in the technical sense identified in Romans 12, 1 Cor 12, Ephesians 4 and 1 Peter.

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| **Romans 12**  [**exhortation**](https://mintools.com/gifts-list.htm#exhortation)[**giving**](https://mintools.com/gifts-list.htm#giving)[**leadership**](https://mintools.com/gifts-list.htm#leadership)[**mercy**](https://mintools.com/gifts-list.htm#mercy)[**prophecy**](https://mintools.com/gifts-list.htm#prophecy)[**service**](https://mintools.com/gifts-list.htm#service)[**teaching**](https://mintools.com/gifts-list.htm#teaching) | **1 Corinthians 12**  [**administration**](https://mintools.com/gifts-list.htm#administration)[**apostle**](https://mintools.com/gifts-list.htm#apostle)[**discernment**](https://mintools.com/gifts-list.htm#discernment)[**faith**](https://mintools.com/gifts-list.htm#faith)[**healings**](https://mintools.com/gifts-list.htm#healing)[**helps**](https://mintools.com/gifts-list.htm#helps)[**knowledge**](https://mintools.com/gifts-list.htm#knowledge)[**miracles**](https://mintools.com/gifts-list.htm#miracles)[*prophecy*](https://mintools.com/gifts-list.htm#prophecy)[*teaching*](https://mintools.com/gifts-list.htm#teaching)[**tongues**](https://mintools.com/gifts-list.htm#tongues)[**tongues interpretation**](https://mintools.com/gifts-list.htm#interpretation)[**wisdom**](https://mintools.com/gifts-list.htm#wisdom) | **Ephesians 4**  [*apostle*](https://mintools.com/gifts-list.htm#apostle)[**evangelism**](https://mintools.com/gifts-list.htm#evangelism)[**pastor**](https://mintools.com/gifts-list.htm#pastor)[*prophecy*](https://mintools.com/gifts-list.htm#prophecy)[*teaching*](https://mintools.com/gifts-list.htm#teaching) | **Misc. Passages**  [**celibacy**](https://mintools.com/gifts-list.htm#celibacy)[**hospitality**](https://mintools.com/gifts-list.htm#hospitality)[**martyrdom**](https://mintools.com/gifts-list.htm#martyrdom)[**missionary**](https://mintools.com/gifts-list.htm#missionary)[**voluntary poverty**](https://mintools.com/gifts-list.htm#poverty) |

* + 1. However, the above lists clearly are not meant to be exhaustive.
    2. Difference between talents and offices.
       1. A woman may be a talented preacher, but the Holy Spirit does not give her that “gift” for the church.
       2. A man may not be gifted/talented in raising children, but if God has given him a child, he has been given that gift/”office” by the Holy Spirit.
       3. Office and ability/talent go together for pastors who are supposed to be “apt to teach” (2 Tim 2:24). However, the humanly assessed “ability to teach” does not make one a pastor.

1. **What is the purpose of Spiritual Gifts?**
   1. The purpose of Spiritual Gifts are to build up the body of Christ, the church. (Eph 4:12)
   2. The purpose of miraculous spiritual gifts was to prove that a prophet was from God.
      1. Such gifts as tongues, direct prophecy, and healings may have ceased, as they no longer serve the purpose of attesting that a Word is from God.
         1. This is because all of the apostles have died, and we have their teachings in the New Testament.
      2. We are warned that in the Last Days, false prophets will perform signs and wonders to deceive. Therefore, we are to be especially critical of them, and “Test the Spirits” (1 John 4).
   3. Spiritual Gifts are NOT the “Marks of the Church”. You can have a church that has none of the spiritual gifts listed above and still be the true visible church, so long as they worship according to sound doctrine (pure word and sacraments).
2. **Who has Gifts of the Spirit?**
   1. Individual members of the body of Christ (the Church) (1 Cor 12:27)
   2. Not everyone has all spiritual gifts. (1 Cor 12:29-31)
   3. All believers are to have the most excellent gifts of faith, hope, and love (1 Cor 13:13)
3. ***Can unbelievers have spiritual gifts?***
   1. Yes, according to the Visible Church.
      1. Visible Church/Body of Christ are outward members according to the outward confession of faith, apparent Good Works and reception of Word and Sacrament Ministry. (This is distinguished from the Invisible church, which are those who have true faith in the heart, manifest in Good Works, and known perfectly only by God (1 Sam. 16:7, Jer 17:10)).
         1. Because man’s inability to perfectly see faith in works, it is impossible to perfectly know the heart of anyone as God does (1 Sam. 16:7, Jer 17:10). Therefore, we can *think* someone has true faith because of their outward works, when really they don’t (e.g., 1 John 2:19).
      2. The Spirit can work in unbelievers, even as Judas baptized (John 4:1-2), and Balaam prophesied God’s Word (Numbers 22).
         1. Donatism, AC VIII
         2. No one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the holy spirit (1 Cor 12:3). and “not everyone who says to me ‘Lord, Lord’ will enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 7:21). Taken together, these passages mean that someone can have a gift of the Holy Spirit (in some sense), and yet not be saved.
         3. This is why Preaching Sound Doctrine, Baptism, and the Lord’s Supper are always efficacious, because they depend upon the Holy Spirit, working through the Word of God, not the caliber of the men.