

A TABLE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

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NOTE: The KJV was used to prepare this table.

S/N	1Cor. 12:7-13	1Cor. 12:28-31	1Cor. 13:1-3	1Cor. 14:6, 26	Rom. 12:6-8	Eph. 4:11	Mark 16:17-18
1	Word of Wisdom						
2	Word of Knowledge		Understand all Knowledge	Speak by Knowledge			
3	Faith		Have all Faith				
4	Gifts of Healings	Gifts of Healings					Lay hands to recover the sick (Healing)
5	Working of Miracles	(Workers of) Miracles					
6	Prophecy	Prophets	Prophecy	Speak by Prophesying	Prophecy, Prophecy	Prophets	
7	Discerning of spirits						
8	Kinds of Tongues	(Speak with) Diversities of Tongues	Speak with Tongues	Speaking with Tongues (Speak Mysteries to God v. 2), Have a Tongue			Speak with new Tongues
9	Interpretation of Tongues	Interpret		Have an Interpretation			
10		Apostles				Apostles	
11		Teachers		Speak by Doctrine , Have a Doctrine	Teacher, Teaching	Teachers	
12		Helps					
13		Governments (Administration)			Ruler (Leadership)		
14			Bestow all (Giving)		Giver		
15			Give my body (Martyrdom)				
16			Understand all Mysteries	Speak by Revelation , Have a Revelation			
17				Have a Psalm			
18					Ministry (Service), Ministering (Serving) Server 1Pet 4:11		
19					Exhorter, Exhortation (Word of Exhortation Act 13:15; Heb 13:22)		
20					Shewer of Mercy		
21						Evangelists	
22						Pastors	
23							Cast out (Exorcize) devils
24							Not hurt by deadly things (Immunity)
25	Contineny , Power over will (Celibacy) 1Co 7:5-7, 37						

NOTE: The most listed gift is *Prophecy*, followed by *Tongues*, then *Teaching*.

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THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS DEFINED

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THE AIM HERE IS TO BE AS PLAINLY BIBLICAL AS POSSIBLE IN DEFINING AND UNDERSTANDING THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS.

ALL SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE **SPIRITUAL ABILITIES** GRACIOUSLY GIVEN BY THE HOLY SPIRIT TO MEMBERS OF CHRIST'S BODY (THE CHURCH), TO FREELY **MANIFEST** GOD'S **GRACE** IN VARIOUS SPECIAL **SERVICES** TO GOD, FOR THE **GOOD** OF OTHERS AND FOR THE **GROWTH** OF THE CHURCH. (See Rom 12:3-6; 1Cor 12:1-7; Eph 4:12-13; 1Pet 4:10).

Every Christian believer should constantly be conscious of and confident about the source, the power and the purpose of these abilities which have been variously given to them for free service. The whole purpose of every spiritual gift is to empower the Church:

*To understand God's will and ways,
To please God through obedience and true worship,
To benefit and serve one another freely, and
To make Christ known as His witnesses.*

As believers are stirred up, called upon or led to exercise and attempt these gifts in the Church, they should go ahead and do so through their church's activities, sub-groups and ministries. Experience confirmed by witness of the Church will help you discover your gifts.

Notice that in the Old Testament, Spiritual endowments were called Spirits. For instance the Spiritual Gift of Prophecy or Knowledge or Wisdom was called the Spirit of Prophecy or Knowledge or Wisdom.

DEFINITIONS

1. WISDOM

The gift of word (discourse) of Wisdom (eloquence in biblical wisdom and prudence) is the special grace to **discover** and **develop** practical **principles** from God's Word in order to give relevant **counsel** for tackling particular common or personal problems, in the way most beneficial to God's people and most pleasing to God. (**St Paul claimed to preach by this gift in 1Cor 2:4-7, 13-16**). This is the gift of preaching wise counsels that convincingly apply God's mind to real life situations as Christ promised in Lk 21:15. (**Stephen preached by this gift in Act 6:8-10**).

Spiritual Wisdom is about godly **discretion to make the choice** on WHAT IS **RIGHT** TO DO (in order to cooperate with and please God). The second half of most of St Paul's epistles are wisdom discourses on Christian living (Eph 4:1-3; 5:1-5). **The book of Proverbs was written through the gifts of word of Knowledge (Pro 19:27; 23:12) and word of Wisdom (Prov 22:17) Also see Pro 1:1-7; 2:2-7; 5:1-2.**

2. KNOWLEDGE

Knowledge here is “**ginosko**” NOT “**eido**”. The gift of word (discourse) of Knowledge (eloquence in the knowledgeable understanding of the Gospel mystery Eph 3:3) is the special grace for **rational** study and **analytical** scrutiny of the Scriptures for **revelatory** insight in order to clearly apprehend and comprehend the whole and true meaning of God’s Word and Christ’s Redemption, well enough to give informative **discourse** or **interpretation** from the abundance of such spiritual comprehension (1Cor 1:5). (**St Paul claimed to preach by this gift in 1Cor 2:8-12; Eph 3:1-9**). This is the gift of preaching knowledgeable discourses that extensively expound the eternal purpose of God as Christ promised in Lk 8:10. (**Apollos, with HELP from Priscilla and Aquila, preached by this gift in Act 18:24-28**).

Spiritual Knowledge is about godly **comprehension on the meaning** of WHAT THE **TRUTH** IS (about God’s power and purpose Eph 1:17-23). The first half of most of St Paul’s epistles are knowledge discourses on the Person and purpose of Christ (Eph 3:1-9).

*What some call “Word of Knowledge” these days does not fit biblical **ginosko**=“intelligent awareness” but **eido**=“intuitive awareness” which properly belongs to the gifts of **DISCERNMENT, REVELATION** and **PROPHECY**. The gifts of word of Knowledge and word of Wisdom involve intelligent **word-comprehension** ability (Pro 23:10) that could also enhance effectiveness in exercising the intelligible **word-communication** gifts of word of Exhortation (Preaching) and word of Instruction (Teaching).*

NOTE:

The mystical Jewish Cabbalists and Gentile Gnostics who engaged in non-contextual allegorical confabulations about the meaning of the Scripture and the Gospel, as well as Greek superstitious Philosophers who engaged in unfounded metaphysical speculations about the Rudiments and the Pleroma, all claimed to have these special mystical gifts of Wisdom and Knowledge. But the Apostles constantly denounced them (Act 17:17-22; Rom 1:22; 1Cor 1:19-23; 2:6; 3:19; Gal 4:3, 8-10; Col 2:8; 18-20; 1Tim 6:20).

3. FAITH

The gift of Faith is the special grace to gain **certainty about God’s intensions** for particular expectations of God’s people, and **hold unshakably unto God** with fervent prayer and extraordinary confidence till such unimaginable expectations, impossible tasks, difficult projects and programmes are accomplished; despite insurmountable hindrances. Mk 11:22-24; Heb 11:1, 13, 30-39.

From Hebrews Chapter 11, we learn that Faith is **confidence on (or certainty about) the TRUTH of divine testimony/report about the INVISIBLE and the FUTURE** (Heb 11:1, 6). God is always pleased to testify a good report of justifying approval for anyone who accepts that the report of God’s testimony is true (Heb 11:2, 5, 7). All justified believers already have their own basic saving Faith on divine TRUTH about the reality of the INVISIBLE God and the certainty of His FUTURE reward for believers (Heb 11:6), yet some special measure/proportion of gift of extraordinary or miraculous Faith is not given equally to all (Rom 12:6). True Faith is that which believes only the testimony of God’s Word (Rom 10:17), believing reports, ideas and mundane desires other than divine testimony is either presumption or conjuration but not true Faith.

4. HEALINGS

The gifts of Healings are the special graces to lay hands on (or speak to) people with varieties of sicknesses to make them recover without natural means, in a way that gives God the glory. Act 9:34; 28:8-9.

5. MIRACLES

The gift of working of Miracles is the special grace to **operate in the power** of God to make things happen contrary to normal processes of nature, for the good of God's people and to the glory of God. Acts 8:39-40; 20:9-12.

Miracles by sorcery/magic or satanic powers are called false/lying wonders because they are either illusions or used to deceive people into believing a lie or false doctrine (Exo 8:7; 2Thes 2:8-12; Rev 13:11-15).

6. PROPHECY

The gift of Prophecy is the special complex oracular grace to prayerfully **search** (inquest) so as to gain conceptual, pictorial and/or verbal **insight** into the **counsel and purpose of God** concerning the past, present or future (revelation), and **speak-forth or tell-forth** (proclaim) or **foretell** (predict) **revealed divine counsel** which the whole Church or some members need to be aware of, in FAITHFUL WORDS as **moved by the Holy Spirit** (inspired) at a given time. Joh 4:16-19; Act 21:9; 1Pe 1:10-12; 2Pe 1:19-21.

Prophets usually have the gifts of **Revelation** and **Discernment** combined with the gift of **Exhortation** for effective delivery of their prophetic messages Act 15:32; 1Co 14:3. They may also have the gift of **Miracles** to support their prophetic testimony or draw attention to their ministry. Effective Gospel Prophets are vast in Scriptures and prayerfully eager to discover God's PURPOSE AND TRUTH Dan 9:1-3; Dan 9:22-23; Dan 10:11-12; Dan 12:8-9. Christian Prophets must eschew inclination to divination and avoid dabbling into occultist mysticism or cabbalistic numerology and ritualism.

*Prophets should not use their gifts for soothsaying, divination, augury or prognostication about every inquisitive frivolous secrets and every mundane future curiosities people may wish to know, Prophecy should rather serve for timely proclamation of the **counsel of God** (what God intends to do and intends us to know and do about His intensions) for the hour, which is according to His pleasure and predetermined purpose (Isa 47:12-14; Jer 23:16-18). Divination for soothsaying consults spirits/omens on behalf of men but Inspiration for Prophecy speaks to men on behalf of God (Jer 14:14-16; 1Cor 14:1-5).*

The Prophets in the Scriptures were devout REFORMERS inspired to:

- ***declare God's power, purpose and pleasure;***
- ***invite people to repent and please God in purity and piety;***
- ***assure all of God's merciful pardon and mighty salvation.***

In general sense, (though not all believers are "predictive" Prophets) all spirit-filled believers in Christ could prophesy at least "proclamatively" because the Holy Spirit of Christ which indwells all believers and persistently testifies to Christ's Lordship is the Prophetic Spirit (Ezek 13:6-10; Act 2:17-18; 1Cor 12:3; Rev 19:10).

CANONICAL AND NON-CANONICAL PROPHECIES: Apart from the endowed ABILITY of the charismatic Prophetic GIFT, there is the assigned RESPONSIBILITY or AUTHORITY of the instituted or administrative Prophetic OFFICE. Prophets are of two categories – normative and non-normative. Prophetic messages are of two categories – those that are of transient value not usually written in the Scriptures and those that are of

eternal value which are written in the Scripture. Scripture-worthy prophets and witnesses (such as Moses and Mosaic prophets of the O.T. or Apostles and Apostolic prophets of the N.T.) were not merely gifted with the oracular or prophetic gift for spontaneous extemporaneous utterances but were advantageously authorized and authenticated, peculiarly consecrated and inspired as well as specially prepared to diligently inquire their oracles (1Pet 1:10-12; 2Pet 1:19-21) to know what to write and what not to write in the Scripture. These canonical or normative prophets are to be believed without question as tradition and obeyed without option as commandment (Rom 16:17; 2Tim 3:15-17; Gal 1:6-9; 2Thes 2:15; 3:6; 2John 9-12).

THE CANONICAL PROPHETS MAINTAINED THAT OTHER NON-CANONICAL PROPHETS AND THEIR PROPHECIES ARE NOT TO CEASE OR BE FORBIDDEN, but must be subjected to TESTING and judgment (Num 11:26-29; Deut 18:15-22; 1Cor 14:29-32; 36-39; 1Thes 5:19-22) because their insights are partial and blurred liable to error. Like all spiritually gifted persons, Prophets prophesy in **proportion** (Rom 12:6) and in **part** (1Cor 13:9), so every non-normative prophecy or revelation (as well as teaching or doctrine) is false or invalid except they are proved to agree with the normative oracles and tradition of the canonical Scripture (Deut 13:1-3; 1Cor 13:9-12; Gal 1:6-9; 2Thes 2:2-3; 1John 4:1).

FALSE PROPHETS are mostly prophets in their own rights, but they do not prophesy according to scriptural principles; rather they are manipulated MANIPULATORS who are either POWERFUL DECEIVERS or POWERLESS PRETENDERS as follows (Jer 13:13-15; 23:9-32; Matt 7:15-23).

1. **Occultist prophets** who prophesy by divination and demonic powers (Ezek 13:6-10; Act 8:9-22; 16:16-20; Rev 13:11-17; 16:13-14).
2. **Pretentious prophets** who prophesy by clever tricks (Act 19:13-17).
3. **Insincere prophets** who turn their true prophetic ministry into soothsaying venture through:
 - a) syncretism and sinful contamination (1Kin 22; Jer 28; Act 13:6-12; Rev 2:20), or
 - b) profiteering and selfish commercialisation (Num 22-24; 31:16; Josh 13:22; 2Pet 2:15-16; Rev 2:14), or
 - c) inclusion of guesswork and deluded presumption (Deut 18:20-22; Ezek 14:6-10).

TRUE PROPHETS are those consecrated brethren whose oracles are true declaration of God's mind for His people. True Prophets prophesy with all sincerity and diligence, and not with divination, delusion, dissimulations, derivations, deceptions or distortions (Deut 18:18-22; 2Cor 2:17; 4:1-2).

7. DISCERNMENT

The gift of Discerning of spirits is the special grace to perceive and clearly **distinguish** between attitudes, activities and events that are divine and true from those that are human, false and satanic, so that God's people will not be deceived. Act 5:1-5; 8:18-23.

Today some refer to the gift of Discernment as "**WORD OF KNOWLEDGE**" though this is difficult to be maintained both grammatically and with the Scriptures: Job 15:2; 33:3; 34:35; 35:16; 38:2; 42:3; Prov 19:27; 22:17; 23:12; 1Cor 1:5; 2Cor 8:7.

8. TONGUES

The gift of speaking in diversities of Tongues is the special grace to speak mysteries, prayers, praises and thanks to God in languages strange to and unknown to the speaker for personal spiritual edification. Act 2:11; 10:46; 1Cor 14:2-4, 13-18.

It is important to note that Jesus (Act 1:4-8), and John (Mat 3:11), and Joel (Joel 2:26-32) or even Peter (Act 2:14-21) and Paul (1Cor 14:1; Eph 5:18-20) never mentioned Tongues (either of fire or of utterance) as the key evidence of Baptism with, Fullness of, or Coming of the Holy Spirit; they rather mentioned that God gives the Holy Spirit to fulfil his promise of INDWELLING PURITY AND POWER to the Church for PROPHETIC WITNESS to the world.

*All the Apostles and the 120 disciples received the Tongues of Fire and the Gift of Speaking in Tongues and agreed with the truth that the Gift of Tongues, Prophecy and any other Spiritual Gift are good for all (1Cor 14:1, 5), yet they explained that Spiritual Gifts are not uniformly given to all but are diversely distributed (1Cor 12:10, 30). Emphasis on a particular Gift especially Tongues is **denominational preference** or **personal choice** which God may grant or people may falsely and forcibly mimic.*

Praying in the (Holy) Spirit (Jude 1:20) could be done by GROANINGS that cannot be uttered (John 11:33; Rom 8:26-27) or by uttered TONGUES that need interpretation (1Cor 14:14-18) or by INSPIRED WORDS that is well understood (Luk 10:21).

9. INTERPRETATION

The gift of Interpretation of Tongues is the special grace to explain or translate what is spoken in Tongues strange to the interpreter for the general spiritual edification of the whole Church. 1Cor 14:13-14.

10. APOSTLE (MISSIONARY)

The gift of Apostle (not the Apostolic OFFICE but Missionary GIFT) is the special grace to work as Christ's ambassadorial witness sent to the uttermost parts of the earth to bring the Gospel to and plant Churches amongst un-churched peoples. Mk 3:14-15; Lk 9:1-2; 10:1-12. (Note: APOSTOLOS=Apostle; APOSTELLO=sent on mission).

11. TEACHING

The gift of Teaching (word or discourse of Instruction) is the special grace to **organise** the whole counsel of God found in the Scripture (i.e. the Word of Truth) on issues concerning the doctrine (i.e. meaning of the message, person, power and purpose) of Christ and **instruct** the Church in a way they could understand, learn and practice. 2Tim 2:15; 3:16-17.

*The Teacher of the Word, in addition to being **a word-communicator**, apt to teach (2Tim 2:24f), needs the incisive **word-comprehension** gifts of both **Wisdom** and **Knowledge** to fully impact the doctrine of Christ.*

***FALSE TEACHERS** are innovators who revise and contaminate God's Word or lopsidedly contradict God's Word in order to deceive or exploit their hearers with their pernicious heresies (2Pet 2:1-3).*

***TRUE TEACHERS** teach wholesome and sound doctrine and thorough instructions that meet every standard of every portion of the whole Scripture (2Tim 2:14-19; 3:13-17).*

12. HELPS (ASSISTANCE)

The gift of Helps is the special grace to offer various forms of assistance to members of the Church so as to potentiate their spiritual effectiveness in fulfilling their ministries. Act 18:2-3, 26; Rom 16:2; 2Tim 4:11; Phm 24.

13. LEADERSHIP (RULING and ADMINISTRATION)

The gift of Leadership is the special grace to diligently **set goals** in accordance with God's will and purpose, for the various parts of the Church and **mobilise** God's people in such a way that they willingly work together through effective **administrative** or **management** plan to accomplish those goals to God's glory. Act 6:1-7; Tit 1:5.

*Gift of **Leadership** is essentially ability to influence people towards a good purpose in Church and Society, Gift of **Administration** is ability to manage formal processes for effective leadership and Gift of **Ruling** is ability to utilise authority properly for leadership. **Leadership** is not about oppressing people or bossing them around as the Gentiles do but about serving people in Church and Society to please God according to the rule and goal of God's Kingdom (Mat 20:25-28).*

14. GIVING

The gift of Giving is the special grace to willingly contribute and distribute one's substance generously (even up to voluntary poverty) so as to meet the material needs of the Church and the needy. Act 4:36-37; 2Cor 8:1-5.

15. MARTYRDOM

The gift of Martyrdom is the special grace to boldly bear witness to Christ in defiance to severe persecution, even unto death, in such a way that the Gospel is preached to God's glory. Act 7:54-60; 2Tim 4:6-8; 2Pet 1:14.

16. REVELATION (MYSTERIES)

The gift of Revelation is the special grace to gain direct conceptual, pictorial (vision or dream), and/or verbal insight into the **mysteries of Christ** and/or into the **hidden realities** concerning the past, present and future of the Church or some of her members so as to enable God's people understand the existing state of affairs. Act 10:9-20; 16:9; 2Cor 12:1-4; Eph 3:3-8.

*In this special sense Revelations is an aspect of the **Prophetic** gift (1Pet 1:10-12), but in a general sense Revelation is available to all **Spirit-filled** believers to understand the mystery of Christ's Gospel and experience the witness of the Holy Spirit (Rom 8:15-16; 1Cor 2:14; Eph 1:15-23).*

*Today some refer to the gift of Revelation as "**WORD OF KNOWLEDGE**", mistaking **GINOSKO/GNOSIS=intelligent knowledge for awareness to be same as EIDO/OIDA=intuitive knowing for assurance.***

17. PSALMS (SONGS)

The gift of Psalms is the special grace to **arrange and sing** inspired **melodies and lyrics** for **edification and doxological** purposes amongst God's people. Eph 5:18-19; 2Sam 23:1-2.

18. SERVICE

The gift of Service is the special grace to work and labour to **meet the various needs** of the Church, so that the Church will work the works of God and accomplish desired goals. Act 6:1-4; 9:36-39.

19. EXHORTATION (PREACHING)

The gift of word (discourse) of Exhortation is the special grace to expound God's Word and Will for **persuading and admonishing God's people** in a way that stirs up conviction, correction, consolation and commitment unto **seeking to please God** for their own good and God's glory. Act 2:40; 11:23; 14:22; 1Thes 2:11.

*The Exhorter (i.e. **Preacher** or **Homilist**) as with the Teacher also needs both the incisive **word-comprehension** gifts of **Wisdom** and **Knowledge to stir God's people through scriptural exposition, unto godliness with assurance of divine grace**. Mere rhetoric and motivational oratory may exhort unto vanity rather than sanctity.*

20. MERCY (BENEVOLENCE)

The gift of showing Mercy is the special grace to be greatly moved by compassionate concern for the miserable and work charitably to alleviate their distress and bring comfort. Act 9:36, 39;

21. EVANGELIST

The gift of Evangelist is the special grace to preach the Gospel message with convincing power to unbelievers in such a way that they believe and become followers of Christ. Act 8:5, 12, 35, 40; 21:8.

22. PASTOR

The gift of Pastor is the special grace to **shepherd and nourish** the flock of Christ (the Church), spiritually and emotionally, so that they may grow safe and sound unto maturity and unity of faith in Christ. John 21:15-17; Act 20:27-28.

23. EXORCISM

The gift of Exorcism is the special grace to cast out evil spirits by the power of the spoken Word of God, so as to deliver people and things from demonic influences. Acts 16:18.

24. IMMUNITY

The gift of Immunity is the special grace to be unhurt by deadly or injurious things in the course of serving God, such that the Church is comforted and God is glorified. Act 28:3-6.

25. CELIBACY

The gift of Celibacy is the special grace to stay unmarried without losing **continency** over sexual passion, so that God's work would be done maximally without the encumbrances of marriage and family or the scandal of sexual misdemeanour. Matt 19:10-12.

26. CRAFTSMANSHIP/Technology (OT)

A key gift found specifically in the Old Testament is the Gift of Craftsmanship or Technology (Exo 35:30-36:2) which is the special grace to use creative mind and skills to build structures and fabricate gadgets that enhance the worship of God.

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