

What Are YOUR Spiritual Gifts?

The Day You Met the Lord You were Given two Things!

#1 – The Lord has given you your specific Service of Calling!

The Apostle Paul met the Lord while on the road to Damascus with a blinding light and a voice from heaven. Our Lord Called Paul to serve Him and gave him a *Service of Calling*. Paul knew his *Service of Calling* the day of his conversion as he was told directly by the Lord what he had to do. Paul accepted his service readily, knowing that he would have to suffer many horrible persecutions and sacrifice his very life in the end for God's Kingdom.

As with Paul, we are also given a specific "Service of Calling" by our Lord. Your *Service of Calling* is what our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has called you individually to do to serve Him while we are still sojourners here in this world. It is true that as followers of Christ we all have a common purpose to walk in Him and be a witness to the world through the leading of the Holy Spirit but that is not your specific *Service of Calling*. *[If you have not received the "What is YOUR service of Calling?" email and would like to receive a copy, please send a request to support@onepathpublishing.com]*

#2 – Our Lord also provides you Gifts to Accomplish your Calling!

Did you know that you not only have a "service of calling" from our Lord, but He also provided you extremely powerful Spiritual gifts to those that desire it! Each of us has been given at least one Gift, but most don't even realize they have been offered it to assist them with their Service of Calling because they don't even realize that they have a Service of Calling.

The purpose of the gifts are twofold. **(1)** We are never asked to do something from our Lord without being provided the resources from the Holy Spirit to us to accomplish that task. It would be like joining the military and then being told that you had to supply your own bulletproof vests, weapons, and ammo. Of course, that is silly, and likewise, our Lord has provided you with all the Power you need to accomplish the task that He has assigned for you. **(2)** The second and equally important purpose for some of the Spiritual Gifts are to edify the church.

Confusion over what is and is not a "Spiritual Gift":

I must admit that this is a lot of confusion about spiritual gifts but there shouldn't be. The scriptures are extremely clear about them and their purpose. Paul even doesn't want the Corinthians to be "ignorant" and yet spiritual gifts are one of the most misunderstood subjects within the churches back in Corinth as it is in the church even today. Without covering all the confusion out there, I'll cover the main issues that cause the most confusion:

- If your background is Catholic, then you would be familiar with Seven Gifts that they integrate theologically with a couple of their other (non-Biblical) doctrines. They state the seven gifts are Wisdom, Knowledge, Counsel, Fortitude, Understanding, Piety, and Fear of the Lord. They obtain this entirely from the Old Testament of Isaiah 11:2-3 which doesn't even talk about the gifts of the Holy Spirit provided to those that are Born from Above. Those gifts are specifically and solely given to Jesus Christ Himself. *"There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him."* (Isa 11:1)
- Our service may require spiritual gifts to accomplish. A few of these services of callings are *apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers*. We are told specifically that these tasks,

or service of callings, are to “*equip His people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up*” (Eph 4:7-13). The members of the body of Christ have different functions or tasks. Rom 12:3-8 refers to the gifts and tells us that we have been provided them to accomplish tasks and then goes on to list a few of these tasks.

There is a distinction between a Gift to accomplish a task and the task itself. Those that don't make the distinction will include tasks as if they were Gifts. Those that do this may include Administration, Evangelism, Exhortation, Teaching, Giving, Helps, Hospitality, Leadership, Mercy, and Serving as Gifts. These are not Gifts, but Service of Callings. [*Most services of calling do require a measure of Wisdom, Knowledge, and Faith.*]

The Nine Spiritual Gifts:

There are different gifts yet one Spirit. There are different ministrations, but all have the same Lord. There are different diversities of activities, but it is the same God that works in all of them. There are also different manifestations of the Spirit given to each one for the profit of all. The Holy Spirit distributes each gift privately to every person as He wills as needed:

First Division: (1 Cor 12:8)

1. Spiritual Word of Wisdom
2. Spiritual Word of Knowledge

Second Division: (1 Cor 12:9-10a)

1. Faith; each person has been given this (Rom 12:3)
2. Healings
3. Miracles
4. Prophecy; we are told to earnestly desire this
5. Discerning of Spirits

Third Division: (1 Cor 12:10b)

1. Tongues
2. Interpretation of Tongues

The Pure Word is the only translation that identifies the divisions properly as specified in the Greek parsings which nearly all other translations but ignore. Without including the Greek parsings, man has created all kinds of “divisions”. One such set is Miraculous Gifts, Enabling Gifts, and Task-Oriented Gifts. All such man-made divisions could perhaps be helpful to some but are non-Biblical and should not be treated as such. The reason the scriptures made these three divisions is beyond the scope of this email and reserved for another time.

Desire the best Gift for you!

We are members of the Body of Christ and we each have different purposes and functions. If one member suffers then we all suffer. If one member is exalted, then we should all rejoice. We should all care one for another. We all have a vital part in the Body of Christ to fulfill our body of ministry. We must use our service of calling and spiritual gifts to grow and build the Body of Christ as He directs us. Paul tells us that even though the Holy Spirit provides the gifts according to as He desires, we are to earnestly desire the best gifts and the best gift is that which can be used to accomplish what God has called you to do in your life for His service.

Since the church in Corinth focused on speaking in tongues, Paul address this by contrasting it with the Gift of Prophecy. In 1 Corinthians chapter 14 he tells us that speaking in tongues does not edify the church, but to teach and prophecy to the church does edify the entire church and is therefore of more value. Tongues are a sign for unbelievers and Propheying is for believers. We are to pursue love and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that we may prophesy. The Spirit helps us to pray and makes intercession for us to God. The gift of tongues is for your personal benefit, but the gift of prophecy is for the benefit of the entire church.

Love is Greater than all the gifts:

There is a more excellent way than having the gifts of the Spirit – it is possessing Love (agape = Divine God-Love). If we do not have love, then we are nothing. **Agape** is unselfish giving love; it does not promote itself; it is not puffed up; it does not behave unseemly; **love never fails**; it suffers long and is kind; it does not parade itself; it does not provoke; it does not envy; it does not rejoice in iniquity but rejoices in the truth; it bears all things; believes all things; hopes all things; **it endures all things**.

All gifts will eventually fade except love. Paul refers to “when that which is perfect has come” then the gifts will have limited or no longer be of value. The fundamentalists movement believed that this passage referred to the full revelation of the Word of God. By this way of interpreting that passage, their belief was that after the apostles the world had “the full Word of God” (cannon of scripture) and that there would no longer be gifts of the Spirit.

G. Campbell Morgan indicates that from the context the passage “that which is perfect” was referring to the second coming of Christ. This makes more sense since the next passages say that “for now” we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. So, in the future, we will see Him (Christ) face to face. *We are to abide in faith, hope and love, these three; but the greatest of these is love*. He who **Loves** has fulfilled the law.

What is your Calling and Spiritual Gift you’ve been given to accomplish it?

The first step is to be serious about following the Lord (Matt 5:48). This is not a half-hearted task but one which requires all your heart, soul, and might. You must study God’s Word and not be persuaded by listening to man’s flowery sermons or books that might mislead you. Most importantly, in these end times, determine your Service of Calling and Gifts, and witness to your family, neighbors, co-workers, and all you meet and be a light to the world. Pray earnestly for the Gifts needed for you to accomplish your calling, and above all, you must have Agape Love.

In these special last days in which the Lord has chosen to have you live, we are required to put on the “*Whole Armor of God*” as there will be a significant deception that will fall over the entire earth, and many Christians will be deceived. The next more important thing you can do is pray and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit and study God’s Word. The end times are upon us, and we must work while it is still day because when the night comes, no-one can work. (Paraphrasing John 9:4).

The Pure Word is a Resource All Christians Must Have!

The Pure Word is a word-by-word translation from the Textus Receptus Koine Greek (the exact same text that the 1611 KJV scribes used) to English and it also incorporated the original Greek Parsings which the King James scholars completely ignored because they didn’t understand them. Don’t get me wrong - The King James Version is an amazing translation, but the scribes didn’t go far enough because they simply couldn’t because of lack of knowledge. At the time of the 1600’s no one understood the majority of the Koine Greek root words used in the New Testament nor did they understand nor use the Greek

parsings. It took another 260 YEARS before the Greek words were separated into their root components which was published by Strong in 1890. Without identifying the root words, the meanings they assigned to words in different verses constantly varied and had little to do with the true meaning of the text.

Not only that, but the scribes had no clear idea of what the Greek parsings were that were assigned to over 115,000 of the words (of the 140,745 total words). The purpose of the parsings is to provide text that could not be misinterpreted which then resulted in a crystal-clear message. Since they didn't use the parsings, the context and meaning of the English words they assigned constantly varied between verses and that gave rise to hundreds of denominations and disagreements which fragmented Christianity we see today. Their own letter to King James clearly states their frustration and their limitations in not knowing the words and their inconsistency in the final English text and they chalk it up to their "creative freedom or liberty". It wasn't until 260 years after the King James Version was compiled that the parsings of each of the 115,000 words were clarified and released in 1894 by Dr. Scrivener using upwards of 100 scholars spending decades of work on the task.

The Pure Word has taken each of the 5,624 Koine Greek root words and took the single primary meaning at the time of Christ of each word and directly substituted it into each use of the same root word. In addition, the precise parsings of each of the 115,000 words that were mostly ignored by the KJV scribes and nearly all scholars since, was applied to each word. This process removed all known discrepancies and provided a clarity of meaning that was never before possible.

I would strongly suggest that every Christian obtain a copy of ***The Pure Word*** and use it alongside your favorite Bible version to see the original meanings and open your eyes like never before. I humbly wouldn't even say it was a translation as verses were not "translated", but a Pure extraction from the Greek into English using the original meaning of each root word as closely as possible as it existed at the time of Jesus Christ and the Apostles along with the original parsings applied to each word.

May our Lord Bless you and lead you into a deeper understanding and relationship with Him,