

# "Spiritual Gifts"

## Enablement For The Will Of God

### Part VII

#### Observation:

The Christian is a very different person than the non-Christian! (II Cor. 5:17)

--What makes Christians act the way they do?

#### **A. Christians Have A Strong "Inner" Motivation Which Affects Everything They Do.**

##### 1. Every Christian has a **New Nature!**

*"Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature;*

*the old things passed away; behold, new things have come." II Cor. 5:17*

##### a. The "new creature" genuinely **loves God!**

We love Him because He loved us first, II Cor. 5:14; I Jn. 4:10,19.

##### b. The "new creature" gets deep meaning out of **sharing** the love of Christ with other people! It is a "new" motivation! II Cor. 5:15

##### 2. Every Christian has received the "indwelling" of the **Holy Spirit!**

*"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own." I Cor. 6:19*

##### a. The indwelling Holy Spirit **motivates** the Christian to **show** love "for" Christ!

##### b. The indwelling Holy Spirit **motivates** the Christian to **show** love "for" others!

##### 3. Every Christian has received the "gifting" of the **Holy Spirit!** This "gifting" determines the way we **view** all of life. From it, we **form** our convictions. From it, we **express** our opinions.

*"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. . . . But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills."*

I Cor. 12:4,11

##### a. Understanding a Christian's **Spiritual Gifting** will explain much of what they do and say. It is very helpful to understand in a marriage, family, and Church.

##### b. As we study the "Motivational Gifts" of Romans 12:6-8, remember that every Christian has one of these God-given **motivations** functioning within them.

--This explains why Christians act the way they do!

## B. The "Motivational Gifts" Of Romans 12:6-8.

--There are **seven** "Motivational Gifts" listed in Romans 12:6-8. As we study each of these "gifts", we will observe **four** things about each:

### Observations one and two will be "POSITIVE"!

1. What does this "gift" give a Christian a **desire** to do?  
--This "desire" is the motivation of the "gift".
2. What is the **ability** that is given with the "gift"?  
--Each brings its own "enablement" for service.

### Observations three and four will be "NEGATIVE"!

3. What is the **inability** of the "gift"?  
--What are the things that this particular gift cannot tolerate?
4. What is the **frustration** of each "gift"?  
--What statement would best describe what is being "thought" and "felt" by the Christian with this gift?

## The "Motivational" Gifts Described

### 1. The Gift Of "PROPHECY":

*"Since we have **gifts** that differ according to the **grace** given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if **prophecy**, according to the proportion of his faith . . ."*

Romans 12:6

--Note: This is not the O.T. gift of "prophecy" -- the ability to "foretell the future".

#### **a. Positive:**

- 1) The "**Desire**" of this gift: To "**DECLARE**" the Truth!  
--This Christian is motivated to "speak" God's truth whenever and wherever possible.  
**This is their "heart"!** (See Acts 20:20-21)
- 2) The "**Ability**" of this gift: To "**RECOGNIZE**" or "**DISCERN**" the Truth!  
--This Christian is enabled to "see" or "sense" both Biblical truth and general truth in all areas of life!  
--This Christian is not afraid to "confront" people verbally! (Gal. 2:11-14; Eph. 4:15)

#### **b. Negative:**

- 1) The "**Inability**" of this gift: To "**TOLERATE**" any lack of "Truth".  
--This Christian is concerned, or even angered, whenever people fail to speak or act in the Truth!
- 2) The "**Frustration**" of this gift: **"Don't you understand . . . the only thing that can really help people is to make them deal with what God says!"**

## 2. The Gift Of "SERVICE":

*" . . . if service, in his serving . . . " (Romans 12:7)*

### a. Positive:

- 1) The "Desire" of this gift: To "**SHOW**" the love of Christ by giving practical "**HELP**" to people in need!  
--This Christian is motivated to "love" people the way Jesus often did -- by meeting their needs.  
**This is their "heart"!** (See John 13:35)
- 2) The "Ability" of this gift: To "**RECOGNIZE**" the needs of people!  
--This Christian is enabled to "see" where people have outward physical and practical needs.  
--This Christian will not wait to be "asked" for help; they will "initiate" the help -- they just show up with what is needed!

### b. Negative:

- 1) The "Inability" of this gift: To "**TOLERATE**" Christians who do not help others → those who show no concern!  
--This Christian is often tempted to criticize those who don't help others.
- 2) The "Frustration" of this gift: **"Don't you understand . . . people must see the love of Jesus as well as hear it!"**

## 3. The Gift Of "TEACHING":

*" . . . or he who teaches, in his teaching . . . " (Romans 12:7)*

### a. Positive:

- 1) The "Desire" of this gift: To "**DOCUMENT**" or "**VALIDATE**" the Word of God by "detailed" study.  
--This Christian is motivated to "dig" into the Word for its eternal treasure and to teach others.  
**This is their "heart"!** (See II Tim 2:15)
- 2) The "Ability" of this gift: The desire and skill to do the "**DETAILED**", "**LONG-TERM**" **STUDY** required to "rightly divide" the Word of Truth.  
--This Christian is enabled to "analyze" and "interpret" the Scriptures. They focus on "sound doctrine".  
--This Christian normally has many books, even a library, devoted to Biblical knowledge and is personally diligent in reading and study.

### b. Negative:

- 1) The "Inability" of this gift: To "**TOLERATE**" lack of accuracy or doctrinal purity in the teaching or preaching of God's Word.  
--This Christian will not accept anything that is taught until they "study it" for themselves. If they differ with those who are teaching or preaching, they often become critical of them.  
(See II Cor. 4:2; Acts 17:11)
- 2) The "Frustration" of this gift: **"Don't you understand . . . people cannot be saved or grow spiritually unless they hear the 'unadulterated' Word."**

#### 4. The Gift Of "EXHORTATION":

*" . . . or he who exhorts, in his exhortation . . . " (Romans 12:8)*

##### a. Positive:

- 1) The "Desire" of this gift: To **ENCOURAGE** other Christians to "walk in the light" and to "grow in the knowledge" of Christ!  
--This Christian is motivated to "motivate" others in the Lord! They want to get involved with others, to walk along beside them, to catch them when they fall! **This is their "heart"!**  
(See Acts 20:18-19, 31-32)
- 2) The "Ability" of this gift: To be **SENSITIVE** to and to **IDENTIFY** areas of needed spiritual growth in the lives of others.  
--This Christian devotes much time and energy in the lives others. They are involved in many relationships outside their own marriage and family.  
--This Christian likes to give gifts of encouragement -- helpful books and literature on spiritual growth.

##### b. Negative:

- 1) The "Inability" of this gift: To **TOLERATE** their fellow-Christians who have no desire or willingness to "grow" spiritually!
- 2) The "Frustration" of this gift: **"Don't you understand . . . where the people in our Church should be spiritually?"**

#### 5. The Gift Of "GIVING":

*" . . . and he who gives, with liberality . . . " (Romans 12:8)*

##### a. Positive:

- 1) The "Desire" of this gift: To **PROVIDE** the financial means to carry on and to advance the cause of Christ.  
--This Christian is motivated to take what God has given to them and to give it to others!  
**This is their "heart"!** (See II Corinthians 8:1-4)
- 2) The "Ability" of this gift: To make the hard **CHOICE** to take what could be used for themselves and to **GIVE** it to others!  
--This Christian is disciplined in financial matters.  
--This Christian often lives on "little" or does not live on a higher level which would be possible.  
--This Christian has an ability to discern where their financial gifts would do the most good.

##### b. Negative:

- 1) The "Inability" of this gift: To **TOLERATE** Christians who don't give sacrificially!  
Or, to **TOLERATE** Churches and Christian ministries which do not use God's money efficiently!  
--This Christian can be very "judgmental" about how other Christians use their money!
- 2) The "Frustration" of this gift: **"Don't you understand . . . what could be done for Christ if Christians just used their money to glorify God!"**

## 6. The Gift Of "ORGANIZATION":

*" . . . he who leads, with diligence . . . " (Romans 12:8)*

### a. Positive:

- 1) The "Desire" of this gift: To **ORGANIZE** the people of God to effectively "fulfill" the plan and purposes of God.
  - This Christian is motivated to be an administrator -- to be used in the "behind the scenes" organizational framework.
  - This Christian is not motivated by a desire for power or public recognition!  
**This is their "heart"!** (See I Pet. 5:1-4)
- 2) The "Ability" of this gift: To function as an **EFFICIENT MANAGER** of God's people!
  - This Christian can "see" where people can "fit" into getting the task accomplished.

### b. Negative:

- 1) The "Inability" of this gift: To **TOLERATE** inefficient management within the Church that hinders the cause of Christ!
  - This Christian can "offend" others in the effort to get things done efficiently or in a "Christ-honoring" way!
- 2) The "Frustration" of this gift: **"Don't you understand . . . what God's people could do if they worked to their potential?"**

## 7. The Gift Of "MERCY":

*" . . . he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness." (Romans 12:8)*

### a. Positive:

- 1) The "Desire" of this gift: To **SHOW** the love of Christ by being "sensitive" to and providing "help" for the **INWARD HURTS** of people.
  - This Christian is motivated to help people see that the love of Christ for them is the answer to the inner needs of their life. **This is their "heart"!** (See Eph. 3:16-19; I Thess. 2:7-8, 11-12)
- 2) The "Ability" of this gift: To **FEEL** the **HURTS** of other people.
  - This Christian is able to "sense" where people are hurting, often saying, "Is something bothering you? May I help?"
  - This Christian is "sympathetic" to a person's inner feelings.
  - This Christian is "patient" with the failures of Christians.

### b. Negative:

- 1) The "Inability" of this gift. To **TOLERATE** the insensitivity and impatience of some Christians toward those who are hurting!
  - This Christian will question the "maturity" those who speak the "truth" of the Word, but fail to show the "love" and "patience" of Jesus.
- 2) The "Frustration" of this gift. **"Don't you understand . . . people must sense the love of Christ in us before they can believe that His love can really help them!"**

## **How Do You Recognize Your Spiritual Gift?**

1. You must be "**GROWING**" spiritually!
  - a. Since these gifts are given by the Holy Spirit, a Christian must be learning to "walk" by Him in order to discover His gifting. (Gal. 5:16)
  - b. Since these gifts are given by the Holy Spirit, a Christian must be learning to be "filled" by Him in order to discover His gifting! (Eph. 5:18)
  - c. Note: An "underdeveloped" spiritual life leads to an "underdeveloped" and "little-used" spiritual gift!
2. You must be meaningfully "**INVOLVED**" in the Body of Christ since these gifts are given for the "common good" of Christians. Lack of "involvement" in the mission and purpose of the Church will lead to difficulty in identifying spiritual gifts.
3. You must be "**RESPONDING**" to any ministry "**OPPORTUNITIES**" God places in front of you. Involvement in Christian ministry will give opportunity for your gift to be recognized.
4. You must be "**LISTENING**" to other members of the Body of Christ. They will often recognize your gift before you and will sometimes make comments about how God has gifted you.  
--Note: Be sure to ask your Church leaders what gift they see!

## **Conclusions**

Every Christian has a "**new nature**" which is expressed in and through his/her personality. This new nature is the "life" of Christ living in them by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. This nature is motivated by Christ -- it is characterized by His love. Rather than living for "self", the new nature lives for Christ. The indwelling Holy Spirit makes this possible by giving each Christian a "spiritual gift". Our "gift" determines the way we see everything in our world. Therefore, it is helpful within a marriage, a family, or a Church to understand an individual's spiritual gift.

--Our spiritual gift is like a pair of "eyeglasses" we put on → all of life is seen through the lenses of these glasses!

--Warning: One of the most common sins among Christians is the **pride** of assuming that, "Everyone should be like me!" or, "I am right in the way I view things -- anyone who disagrees is wrong!" (They are less "spiritual"/"mature"!)

--The Biblical truth is that God has purposed that we be very different from one another in our homes, churches and communities!

--We are to value each other as God has purposed!

## Questionnaire

### 1. Do you acknowledge that you have a “spiritual gift”?

“ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

### 2. What is your motivational “spiritual gift”?

\_\_\_\_\_ “Prophecy” → “Declaring the truth”

\_\_\_\_\_ “Service” → “Meeting practical needs”

\_\_\_\_\_ “Teaching” → “Study and presentation of the truth”

\_\_\_\_\_ “Exhortation” → “Encouraging others to grow spiritually”

\_\_\_\_\_ “Giving” → “Making personal resources available to the cause of Christ”

\_\_\_\_\_ “Organization” → “Efficient management of people to reach spiritual goals”

\_\_\_\_\_ “Mercy” → “Sensitivity to the inward needs of people”

### 3. I honestly do not know what my spiritual gift is!

\_\_\_\_\_ This is something I have not been taught about from Scripture.

\_\_\_\_\_ This is something I haven’t thought about very much.

\_\_\_\_\_ This is something I have wanted to know but have not been able to understand.

### 4. How are you using your “gift” for the “common good” of the Body?

-- “I believe that I am using my gift by \_\_\_\_\_.”

-- “I am serving Christ by \_\_\_\_\_,  
but I do not believe that this service is utilizing my spiritual gift.”

### 5. I believe that God has given me a “desire” to serve Him by . . .

\_\_\_\_\_.

Key Question: “Where is your \_\_\_\_\_?”

Observation: Think of the “\_\_\_\_\_” in the Body!

(Think through the specific possibilities of each gift!)

Think of the “\_\_\_\_\_” in each Believer!