

HOLY SPIRIT: SPIRITUAL GIFTS (I)

“Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let use them...” (Romans 12:6-8). Before summarizing the gifts, notice the following: We all have gifts. Gifts differ. We should use them. It is important to know your gifts, and it is important to follow your gifting. The seven gifts in this passage are gifts from the Father. These gifts are the raw material we are to present to God when we are baptized into Christ’s body by the Holy Spirit. These gifts are imbedded in our personality. They are part heredity and part environment. These gifts are a combination of our heredity and our environment. God gives who we are, as we are (good and bad) to the body of Christ, a combination of our failures and success, a product of our education or lack of it. In short, the gifts are our motivation for life that becomes converted and will be transformed for the Father’s use. Here are seven kinds of gifted people the Father gives to the Body of Christ: 1. Prophecy. This word comes from two Greek words: “forth” and “speak.” A person with the gift of prophecy speaks forth the counsel of God “according to the proportion of our faith” (6). The words of the prophet must be in agreement with the Word of God that has been revealed. The prophet by definition is a preacher, no more and no less. 2. Ministry. The word here refers to “serving others.” An important part of serving is helping other believers. This equivalent to the gift of “helps” (I Corinthians 12:28). 3. Teaching. This is the ability to communicate the Word of God with insight and clarity. 4. Exhortation. The word means called alongside to help. The noun form is used of the Holy Spirit as our Helper (John 14:16). This is a gift of encouragement. This gift appeals to the will of people to get them to act. 5. Giving. The word means “to share with someone.” This is the willingness to share one’s material goods with others. 6. Leading. The word means to preside and comes from the word, “stand before.” A leader leads by going first and showing the way. 7. Mercy. This is a gift of compassion. People with gift use their gift to help those who are poor, sick, and suffering. The important thing is to begin where your gift leads you and mature in the ways you use your gift. Also, these gifts complement one another. They keep the Body of Christ in balance. Any gift is more effective when used together with other gifts. “So, we, being many are one body in Christ...” (6).