

HOLY SPIRIT: SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Spiritual gifts are a spiritual enabling to do the work of God in the church age. The same Spirit who moved over the waters in creation is moving over the church in this age. The same Spirit that worked through the prophets in the Old Testament is working through believers today. The same Spirit that descended on Jesus at His baptism has descended on the church on the day of Pentecost. The spiritual power that was available in the early church is available today, although we may not always see the same outward manifestations. Spiritual gifts are mentioned in the New Testament to teach us and equip us for serving God now. Spiritual gifts originate in God. They are given to believers by God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. They are gifts of grace. They enable us as believers to be a part of the great work of fulfilling the great commission (Matthew 28:18-20). Spiritually gifted men and women are equipped to operate in the same power that descended on the day of Pentecost (Acts 1:8). There are three major passages that deal with the subject of spiritual gifts. Romans 12:3-8 list the gifts of God the Father. Ephesians 4:11-12 reveal the gifts of God the Son. I Corinthians 12:1-31 covers the gifts of God the Holy Spirit. It is our responsibility as Christians to discover our gifts and use them. Every believer has at least one spiritual gift, and probably more (I Corinthians 12:7, 11). You don't need to take a test to discover your spiritual gifts. Begin by asking yourself some questions: What do you do well? What do others say you do well? What do you (or would you) enjoy doing? What can you not keep from doing or wanting to do? Begin serving the Lord in some way, and see where it leads you. Steven and Philip became powerful preachers who started in a food distribution ministry (Acts 6:5-8; 8:5). Pray, and ask God to reveal your spiritual gifts. You will be unfulfilled as a Christian until you serve with gifts God has given you. You will be fulfilled when you operate in the grace and giftings of God. When the anointing (I John 2:20, 27) is released in the power of the Holy Spirit, you will be used by God to fulfill your purpose for existing.