

## TRUE SPIRITUAL GIFTS – ROMANS 12:6-8

### THE BOOK OF ROMANS #22

Today our study of chapter 12 brings us to what we could call “The true spiritual gifts”. They are also known as the permanent spiritual gifts. They differ completely from the “sign gifts” or “temporary gifts” spoken of in 1 Corinthians. The gifts in the Early Church such as tongues, divine healings etc., were temporary and passed off the scene with the completion of the canon of Scripture. Despite what the Charismatic movement claims, the only gifts that have extended passed the Early Church are the permanent gifts found in Romans 12. We will examine them today. We begin today with:

1. **All believers have gifts – Romans 12:6** -. God has given every Christian at least one spiritual gift in which to serve Him with. The fact that these gifts are given by God should allow us to apply verse 3 -. Since the gift came from God, then there is no need for pride on our part seeing we had nothing to do with acquiring the gift. We are also told that these gifts “differ” one from another. In other-words, not all Christians have the same gifts; that is by design. We should never be jealous of others who have gifts that we may desire. The gift that you have is the gift that God wanted you to have. We are to haply use it for His service.
2. **The gift of prophecy – vs. 6b** -. In the OT, prophesying was “foretelling”. In the NT period, it is “forth telling”. It is the ability to bring forth truth from the Bible. This gift is usually bestowed upon preachers and teachers. Someone with the gift of prophecy will be able to understand and teach the Bible from its proper context and bring forth secondary applications. Preachers who teach out of context and outside of the bounds of orthodoxy may have ability on the surface but that ability is his own and not Holy Spirit given.
3. **The gift of ministry – vs. 7a** -. This gift has the idea of a servant. It is derived from the same Greek word as “deacon”. A Christian with this gift will have the ability to “minister” or to serve in some capacity in the church. The command to “wait on our ministering” has the idea of pouring yourself into a specific ministry. Many Christians may have the gift of ministry but they never actually minister in any area of service. If you have the gift of ministry, you must utilize that gift by serving.

4. **The gift of teaching – vs. 7b -.** The gift of teaching is simply the ability to understand Scripture and truth and then be able to properly teach it. Among these gifts, we see four that are closely related and yet differ in their function within the church. We will cover that later. The gift of teaching is a gift whereby the teacher does more than just teach material; the individual must be able to teach to the point of others learning. Some teachers teach over the heads of their students to the point where no learning is accomplished. A teacher must be able to tie his subject matter up in a way that the student can come away with an understanding of that subject. In other-words, a teacher cannot “be all over the place” in his teaching. A teacher must be able to use object lessons to teach. So as you can see, a person with gift of teaching has to be more than just a person who can parrot a lesson plan. This gift has to have many other facets involved to rightly be called a gift.
5. **The gift of exhortation – vs. 8a -.** The gift of exhortation involves not only teaching truth but being able to “exhort” or “urge” the listener to make application. This gift demands a type of “motivational speaker” ability. The gift of exhortation is a gift that allows the teacher to motivate others to apply what is taught. Not every teacher has this ability. I mentioned that four of these gifts are closely related but differ in their administrations in the church. The gift of prophecy is usually connected to the ministry of the pastor. The gift of ministry can be connected to deacons or others who are actively involved in the ministry of the church. The gift of teaching of course to teachers in the church and exhorters who may not have a teaching ministry but can exhort others in different aspects within the church. Individual Christians can have these gifts but it seems as if God uses these very similar gifts differently in the local church.
6. **The gifts of giving, ruling and mercy – vs. 8 -.** The gift of giving has the idea of one who can give of his substance for the benefit of others without personal gain attached. They give honestly and with the aim of helping others. The gift of ruling is the gift of leadership. The individual with this gift will have the ability to lead others in the church in a specific task. This Christian only seeks to get the job done and to lead in a way that emphasizes the group and not himself. The gift of mercy seems to have the idea of those who can care for and take care of the elderly or the sick. Having this gift requires “cheerfulness” in providing this care. There are certain Christians who get joy out of helping those who cannot help themselves regardless of the what that service entails. What is your gift?