

The Truth About Spiritual Gifts
**Answering Three Big Questions
About Spiritual Gifts**

I. Introduction

II. Why Is There So Much Confusion About Spiritual Gifts?

- A. Because Satan is sowing confusion about this!
- B. Because people are trying to analyze spiritual gifts without ever experiencing them.
 - 1. You will never understand Christianity from the outside looking in.
 - 2. In the Vineyard, we believe in all of the spiritual gifts that are in the Bible!
 - 3. Every follower of Jesus is to operate in spiritual gifts.

III. What Is the Purpose of Spiritual Gifts?

- A. To glorify the Triune God
 - 1. I Corinthians 12:4-7 (NAS) *⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. ⁶There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. ⁷But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.*
 - 2. I Peter 4:11 (NAS) *Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*
 - 3. Luke 5:25-26 (NAS) *²⁵Immediately he got up before them, and picked up what he had been lying on, and went home glorifying God. ²⁶They were all struck with astonishment and began glorifying God.*
 - 4. I Corinthians 12:4 (NAS) *Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.*
 - 5. Spiritual gifts are not given to us based on merit!
 - 6. There is no relationship whatsoever between a spiritual gift that is given to someone by God, and the level of that person's spiritual maturity!
 - 7. The only condition for receiving spiritual gifts is that a person has to want to receive spiritual gifts, and asks for them.
- B. To build up the body of Christ (the Church)
 - 1. I Corinthians 12:7 (NAS) *But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.*
 - 2. We encourage every Small Group to let all the spiritual gifts be expressed.
 - 3. The "dispensational" viewpoint of Scripture
 - 4. I Corinthians 13:8-10 (NAS) *⁸Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away. ⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part; ¹⁰but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away.*
 - 5. The "perfect coming" is talking about the second coming of Jesus!

IV. Reasons We Don't Seek Spiritual Gifts From God

- A. We've had some kind of disappointment with God.
 - 1. You will never successfully move forward in the power of God unless you learn how to deal with failure.
 - 2. When you seek to move in spiritual gifts, it's not about you! It's about God.
- B. Personal discomfort
 - 1. God wants us to trust Him in everything.
- C. We've had distorted teaching about spiritual gifts in our past.
 - 1. The proper response to the misuse of spiritual gifts is the proper use of spiritual gifts!

V. Conclusion