

Week Fourteen Addendum—Classification and Definition of Specific Spiritual Gifts

FUNCTIONAL Gifts are gifts that can stand alone in their use and edification of others. They are not dependent on other gifts for their expression or manifestation.

SUPPORT Gifts are gifts that are expressed through one or more of the functional gifts. They edify the body in a support role. They cannot stand alone. For example, how could the body be edified by a member with the gift of Wisdom, unless it was expressed by one of the speaking gifts.

There are different ideas of exactly how a gift should be defined. *This is because they are not defined in the scripture, only practiced.* The following definitions are common to evangelical Christians, although there may be a few variations from specific listings that you may have read.

Functional Gifts: Those gifts which can stand alone.

Speaking Gifts

- *Prophecy:* The divine ability given to a member of the body of Christ that enables them to proclaim God's truth in a clear and concise way to a group of people that calls them to repentance and correction of life-style, or provides comfort and edification.
- *Teaching:* The divine ability given to a member of the body of Christ that enables them to clearly and accurately understand, communicate, and apply God's truth.

Service Gifts

- *Administration:* The divine ability given to a member of the body of Christ that enables them to understand organizational function, and the ability to devise and execute effective plans to reach short and long term goals of that organization
- *Giving:* The divine ability given to a member of the body of Christ that enables them to give money and material resources far above the required tithe to the Kingdom and Work of the Lord with liberality and with joy.
- *Helps:* The divine ability given to a member of the body of Christ that enables them to invest their time and talents in practical and necessary tasks that help other Christians increase the effectiveness of their gifts.

People-Intensive Gifts

- *Encouragement:* The divine ability given to a member of the body of Christ that enables them to give words of comfort, consolation, encouragement and reassurance to those that are wavering in their faith or experiencing hurt.
- *Evangelism:* This is not mentioned as a gift, but I believe it is implied in the office of Evangelist. Sharing the gospel is a command, a privilege, and a responsibility for all believers, however this seems to be the divine ability given to a member of the body of Christ that enables them to share the gospel in such a way that the Spirit moves upon the lost and brings them to faith and discipleship.

- *Leadership*: The divine ability given to a member of the body of Christ that enables them to instill vision, to set goals, to motivate others to the accomplishment of those goals for the glory and purpose of God.
- *Mercy*: The divine ability given to a member of the body of Christ that enables them to feel genuine empathy with and joyfully minister to those who are suffering.
- *Shepherding*: The divine ability given to a member of the body of Christ that enables them to care for, nurture, and love a group of believers. This is also called "Pastoring". It is mentioned as an office, but I believe the gift is implied within the office.

Support Gifts: Gifts expressed through another gift.

Enabling Gifts

- *Discernment*: The divine ability given to a member of the body of Christ that enables them to distinguish between truth and deception in character, relationships, and message content.
- *Faith*: The divine ability given to a member of the body of Christ that enables them to supernaturally understand and believe the will and purposes of God, and act on that belief without swerving or doubting.
- *Knowledge*: The divine ability given to a member of the body of Christ that enables them to discover, accumulate and analyze information effectively.
- *Wisdom*: The divine ability given to a member of the body of Christ that enables them to apply spiritual truth and teaching practically.

Miraculous Gifts

- *Healing*: The divine ability given to a member of the body of Christ that enables them to be God's instrument and channel to restore people to health.
- *Miracles*: The divine ability given to a member of the body of Christ that enables them to serve as channels of powerful acts of God that seem to circumvent the ordinary course of natural laws.
- *Languages*: The divine ability given to a member of the body of Christ that enables them to speak in an unlearned language the wonderful works of God.
- *Interpretation*: The divine ability given to a member of the body of Christ that enables them to make known the message of one operating in the spiritual gift of languages.