

The Holy Spirit - gifts of the Spirit, by Gabrielle Wright

If we think of the gifts of the Spirit as gifts in the sense of presents, then who are the recipient of the gifts, who is it that is meant to benefit from and enjoy the gifts?

It is the universal church; The body of Christ in the world as a whole; The family of Christ as one unit.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 reads, “There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. *To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.*”

It is helpful to note that what we commonly refer to as gifts of the Spirit can be spoken of as manifestations of the Spirit in and through us for the good of the universal church.

We may only manifest a specific ability or characteristic of the Spirit once in our whole lives, or we may manifest the same supernatural ability many times and on a regular basis. The Spirit will enable and prompt us to do certain things as is needed for the sake of the whole body of Christ.

In the book of 1 Corinthians is a list of special abilities that people have been given by the Spirit for the building up of the body, this list was identified at that time.

The Spirit is still alive and still has creative power, so this list is not exhaustive and final; the Spirit will equip and enable people to do what is needed when it is needed. As times change the way people manifest the life of the Spirit within them may change.

Below is the list we commonly refer to as the gifts of the Spirit as identified in the book of 1 Corinthians.

Please be aware that all gifts are equally important and needed for the healthy functioning of the universal church.

Summary of gifts and abilities found in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10:

- The utterance of wisdom
- The utterance of knowledge
- Faith
- Healing
- Working of miracles
- Prophecy
- The ability to distinguish between spirits
- Various kinds of tongues
- The interpretation of tongues