

Introduction to the Gifts of the Spirit

Psalm 150 NKJV Let all things praise the Lord. 1 Praise the Lord. Praise God in His sanctuary; Praise Him in His mighty firmament. 2 Praise Him for His mighty acts; Praise Him according to His excellent greatness! >>>

*3 Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; Praise Him with the lute and harp!
4 Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; Praise Him with the stringed instruments
and flutes! 5 Praise Him with loud cymbals; Praise Him with cymbals! 6 Let
everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord!*

*Psalm 149:5 Amplified Let the saints be joyful in the glory and beauty which God
confers upon them; let them sing for joy upon their beds. Let the high praises of God
be in their throat.*

*These might seem like strange scriptures to open with a teaching on the gifts of the
Spirit, but NO, they aren't. As born again believers, Christians, we should always have
the praises of God rising up to heaven from our very beings for the gifts that God gave
us; starting with the gift of salvation and the gift of God the Holy Spirit.*

*There are so many gifts listed in the Bible that we can rejoice over, and there are gifts
the elders of the church recognize, as God given gifts, that are evident in people's lives
that we acknowledge that they have to be from God.*

*I want to go to Ephesians 4:11 Amplified And His gifts were varied; He Himself
appointed, and gave men to us; some to be apostles, (special messengers), some
prophets (inspired preachers and expounders, some evangelists (preachers of the
Gospel, traveling missionaries), some pastors (shepherds of His flock) and teachers.*

*12 His intention was the perfecting, and full equipping of the saints, (His consecrated
people), that they should do the work of ministering toward building up Christ's body
(the church). As Christians, we, collectively and you individually, are the church - the
Body of Christ.*

*These above-mentioned individuals are God given gifts to help you identify and
encourage you in the special gift that God has given you. If you understand that the
Church is a living thing, and that we are not supposed to be spectators, but active
members, helping others grow in their salvation, then my hope is that you will develop
YOUR gift and use it accordingly.*

*II Timothy 1:6 NLT This is why I remind you to fan the flames of the spiritual gift God
gave you. The NKJV says to STIR UP the gift of God which is in you. In the Vines
dictionary, the gift of God is regarded as a fire, capable of dying out through neglect.
Hence, the NLT "fan the flames".*

When the elders of the church recognize the gift that has become evident in your life, they will lay hands on you to confirm this gift and encourage you in the ministry.

I Corinthians 12:1 NKJV Now concerning spiritual gifts brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant. 4 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 There are differences of ministry, but the same Lord. 6 And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God Who works all in all.

7 But the manifestation of the Spirit, is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given (1) the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another (2) the word of knowledge, by the same Spirit. To another (3) faith by the same Spirit, to another (4) the gift of healings by the same Spirit, to another (5) the working of miracles, to another (6) prophecy, to another (7) discerning of spirits, to another (8) different kinds of tongues and to another (9) the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works in all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

There are other gifts that the church recognizes that are not listed above. Gifts that edify the body of believers and that glorify God. Some of these are the gift of administration and a gift of encouragement. The gifts of giving, and helps and hospitality; leadership and mercy are necessary not only to the church as a whole but also to the members in particular.

It's time to awaken Church, awaken to the fact that we serve a living God, full of mercy and grace. We sing songs of the mercy and grace of God in our lives. We sing songs that our God is alive. Jesus is alive and the church is alive. What are you currently doing to help build the Church?

Jesus said to go into the world and preach the gospel. What that means is proclaim to the world the good news that Jesus forgives the sinner and gives them gifts. Gifts like the ones listed above. Gifts that will glorify God in when they are in use, and gifts that will give meaning and purpose.

Are you going to be a spectator or are going to be an active member of a living entity like the local church? Are you wondering "what can I really do as an individual"? Can God really use someone like me? We all aren't preachers and teachers but we all are members of the body of Christ. And we all have a significant part to play. So, what is your part?

I want to refer you to I Corinthians 12 NKJV starting with verse 12, which I would encourage you to read in its entirety. 12 For as the body is one and has many members, but all are members of the one body, being many, are one body, so also in Christ. 14 For in fact the body is not one member but many. 27 Now you are the body of Christ and members individually.

The following nine teachings are of the nine gifts listed in I Corinthians 12. You should seek counsel with your pastor on what you feel is your gift to the body.

***NOTE: In writing these teaching lessons, I use three Bibles. They are referenced by:
NKJ - The New King James NLT - The New Living Translation and
Amp. The Amplified Bible.***

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