

Spiritual Gifting in Messiah's Body – Part 1 To Make us Mighty in Spirit

Introduction:

Spiritual gifts are an expression of the multi-faceted grace of *Elohim* (יהוה) (“As each one has received some spiritual gift, he should use it to serve others, like good managers of God's many-sided grace” 1 Peter 4:10). Firstly, we need to understand the Biblical definition of grace—grace is more than 'unmerited favor' it is, “The desire and the power to do God's will.” 1 Cor. 15:10 states: “But by God's grace I am what I am, and His grace towards me was not in vain; on the contrary, I have worked harder than all of them, although it was not I but the grace of God with me” (emphasis mine).

Just as there are many gifts, there are also many ways to organize them for study and application. The following division is not unique, yet it has brought enrichment and freedom to many believers who have wondered what their spiritual gifts are and how they could effectively use them. I am persuaded that יהוה's goal is to ‘Make us Mighty in Spirit’ and we become mightier and wiser when we apply His truth to our daily lives.

1. What are Spiritual Gifts?

Definition: Spiritual gifts are drives, opportunities, and results given by the Ruach HaKodesh to achieve His supernatural goals—“For indeed the body is not one part but many.” (1 Cor. 12:14)

Each person born into Messiah's kingdom takes on a “debt of love” to fulfill the Torah of יהוה (Romans 13:8: “Don't owe anyone anything—except to love one another; for whoever loves his fellow human being has fulfilled Torah.”) Therefore, יהוה gives spiritual gifts so we can pay our debt of love!

2. Who is given a Spiritual Gift?

Answer: Every Believer. An individual's spiritual gift is made active at salvation when יהוה's Spirit (His Holy Spirit) unites with our spirit—Romans 8:16-17 “The Spirit himself bears witness with our own spirits that we are children of G-d; and if we are children, then we are also heirs, heirs of God and joint-heirs with the Messiah...”

Every one (including non-believers) can have *natural abilities*. Once we become *born from above*, יהוה **ignites** them into the means by which He can achieve **supernatural results** through us.

3. How many gifts do each of us have?

For the purposes of this study, we shall divide the *pneumatics* (Greek, meaning *spiritual matters*) into THREE major categories: Motivational Gifts (those listed in Romans 12:3-9), Ministerial (those listed in 1 Cor. 12:27-31) and Operational (those listed in 1 Cor. 12:7-11)—see 1 Cor. 12:4-7. We have ONE primary Motivational gift and the possibility of many Ministerial and Operational manifestations.

The Greek word for gift is *charisma*, from the root word *char*, which means joy. *Charis* is the Greek word for grace. The Greek word for operation is *energema* from which we get the English word energy. As God gives power through our Motivational gift, the effects produced by it are the operations or manifestations of the Spirit. Each believer may also have several ministerial (Greek, *diakanion*) appointments usually activated by the local assembly. After Rav Sha'ul lists these ‘ministerial gifts’ in 1 Cor. 12:28-30 the apostle concludes by saying: “Eagerly seek the better gifts. But now I will show the best way of all” (1 Cor. 12:31). Notice the singu-

larity of *Kefa's* statement in 1 Peter 4:10, “As each one has received some spiritual gift, he should use it to serve others, like good managers of God's many-sided grace.” (Emphasis, mine)

4. Why do we receive only ONE Motivational gift?

Answer: So we can concentrate on it! Romans 12:6-8: “*But we have gifts (charismata) that differ and which are meant to be used according to the grace that has been given unto us. If your gift (charisma singular!) is prophesy, use it...*” Also so we can see our need for one another—*Romans 12:3-5: "For I am telling every single one of you, through the grace that has been given to me, not to have exaggerated ideas about your own importance. Instead, develop a sober estimate of yourself based on the standard which God has given each of you, namely, trust. For just as there are many parts that compose one body, but the parts don't all have the same function; so there are many of us, and in union with the Messiah we comprise one body, with each of us belonging to the others."*

The ear is designed to carry a different function than the eye, and the hand to perform differently than the foot. In the body there are comely and uncomely parts, but they are all necessary. Would there really be a need for others if we had all seven motivational gifts? If the answer were yes this would be *self-sufficiency* and not *koinonia*!

It is also stimulating that there are seven such gifts—the Almighty’s number for perfection and maturity. The implications of this number are well known to us and therefore; we will not dwell in it. Another fact of note is that in the functioning of the human body medical science has discovered seven sense perceptors. The parallel with the function of the spiritual gifts in the body is nothing short of staggering! These seven sense perceptors are: heat (prophecy), touch (server), balance (teacher), stretch/growth (exhorter), cold (giver), pressure (ruler), and pain (mercy). The “*things that are made*” always reveal “*His eternal power and Godhead*” (Ro. 1:20, KJV).

5. What are the THREE categories of gifts?

Diversities of:

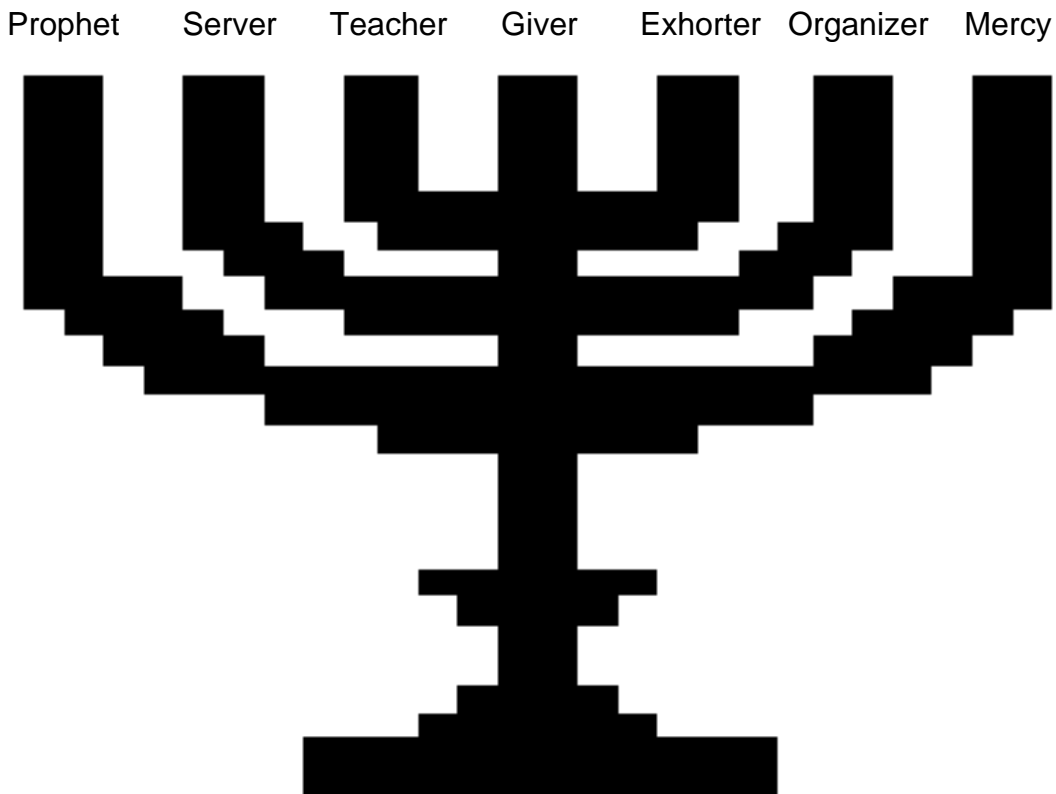
<p>Gifts (1 Cor. 12:4) <i>Charismaton</i></p> <p>Motivation (Romans 12:3-9) <i>“But we have gifts that differ and which are meant to be used according to the grace that has been given to us.”</i> vv. 6</p>	<p>Administrations (1 Cor. 12:5) <i>Diakanion</i> (ministries)</p> <p>Ministry (1 Cor. 12:27-31) <i>“And God has placed in the Messianic Community...”</i> vv. 28</p>	<p>Operations (1 Cor. 12:6) <i>Energema</i>-effect</p> <p>Manifestation (1 Cor. 12:7-11) <i>“...will be for the common good...”</i> vv. 7</p>
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Motivation (Romans 12:3-9)	Ministry (1 Cor. 12:27-31)	Manifestation (1 Cor. 12:7-11)
1. Prophecy Proclaim Truth Expose Sin	1. Apostles Sent Forth Mission/Establish	1. Word of Wisdom Seeing Life From God's Perspective
2. Serving Meet Needs Free Others	2. Prophets Proclaimers of Truth Confront Christians	2. Word of Knowledge Comprehending Christ and His Word
3. Teaching Clarify Truth Validate Information	3. Teachers Instructors Certify Message	3. Faith Visualizing What God Wants to Accomplish
4. Exhorting Stimulate Faith Promote Growth	4. Miracles Supernatural Deeds Active Faith	4. Healing Removing Diseases in Spirit Soul or Body
5. Giving Entrust Assets Maximize Results	5. Healings Spiritual Restorer Mental Restorer Physical Restorer	5. Miracles Natural/Supernatural events with precise timing giving glory to God
6. Organizing Plan Ahead Complete Tasks	6. Helps Assist Leadership Aid the Needy	6. Prophecy Bringing to light the secret motives of the heart
7. Mercy Remove Distress Share Burdens	7. Governments Overseers Local Elders	7. Discernment Recognizing what is God's vs. world, flesh & the devil
	8. Tongues Various Languages Testing Tongues	8. Various Tongues Glorifying God using language and music
		9. Interpretation Declare divine mes- sages

7. How do we discover our Gift?

- Accept Messiah as your Savior and Trust in His Atonement (Ro. 10:9-13)
- Enter into Messiah's Victory over Sin (Romans 6,7,8)
- Concentrate in the needs of others (Eph. 4:12-13)
- Discern your real motive in helping others (Romans 12:4)
- Identify what Believers do that irritate you (1 John 3:16)
- Understand the categories of Gifts (1 Cor. 12)
- Distinguish the characteristics and misuses of each gift
This is the most powerful way of all—we will study this further!

8. Illustration of the Gifts



Gifts Quiz

9. Which one of these seven persons best describes you?

{Mark as many as apply. Be honest with yourself—if in doubt do not check the box }

Person Number 1

- You want to make sure that statements are true and accurate.
- You desire to gain as much knowledge as you can.
- You react to people who make unfounded statements.
- You check the credentials of one who wants to teach you.
- You use your mind to check out an argument.
- You enjoy spending hours doing research on a subject.
- You like to tell other as many details as you can on a subject.
- You pay close attention to words and phrases.
- You tend to be silent on a matter until you check it out.
- You like to study material in a systematic sequence.

Person Number 2

- You can visualize the final results of a major undertaking.
- You enjoy coordinating the efforts of many to reach a common goal.
- You can break down a large task into achievable goals.
- You are able to delegate assignments to others.
- You see people as resources that can be used to get a job done.
- You are willing to endure reaction in order to accomplish a task.
- You require loyalty in those who are under your supervision.
- You remove yourself from petty details to focus on the final goal.
- You can encourage your workers and inspire them to action.
- You move on to a new challenge once a job is finished.

Person Number 3

- You see actions as either right or wrong.
- You react strongly to people who are not what they appear to be.
- You can usually detect when something is not what it appears to be.
- You can quickly discern a person's character.
- You feel a responsibility to correct those who do wrong.
- You separate yourself from those who refuse to repent of evil.
- You explain what is wrong with an item before you sell it.
- You let people know how you feel about important issues.
- You enjoy people who are completely honest with you.
- You are quick to judge yourself when you fail.
- You are willing to do right even if it means suffering alone for it.

Person Number 4

- You can sense when people have hurt feelings.
- You react to those who are insensitive to other's feelings.
- You are able to discern genuine love.
- You desire deep friendships in which there is mutual commitment.
- You seem to attract people who tell you their problems.
- You find it difficult to be firm or decisive with people.
- You tend to take up offenses for those whom you love.
- You need quality time to explain how you feel.
- You want to remove those who cause hurts to others.
- You often wonder why God allows people to suffer.

Person Number 5

- You motivate people to become what you see they could be.
- You like to give counsel in logical steps of action.
- You can usually discern a person's level of spiritual maturity.
- You enjoy working out projects to help people grow spiritually.
- You sometimes raise expectations of results prematurely.
- You dislike teaching which does not give practical direction.
- You like to see the facial responses of those whom you counsel.
- You often take "family time" to counsel others.
- You find it hard to follow through on the project you have started.
- You identify with people where they are in order to counsel them.

Person Number 6

- You notice the practical needs of others and enjoy meeting them.
- You enjoy serving to free others for more important things.
- You are willing to neglect your own work to help others.
- You sometimes go beyond your physical strength in serving others.
- You can remember the likes and dislikes of others.
- You can usually detect ways to serve before anyone else can.
- You will even use your own funds to get a job done quickly.
- You do not mind doing jobs by yourself.
- You do not want public praise, but you do need to feel appreciated.
- You find it difficult to say "no" to those who ask for help.
- You like to put "extra touches" on the jobs you do.

Person Number 7

- You are very frugal with money for yourself and your family.
- You enjoy investing money in the ministries of other people.
- You have an ability to make money by wise investments.
- You desire to keep your giving a secret.
- You react negatively to pressure appeals for money.
- You like to encourage others to give with your gifts.
- You want the ministries you support to be as effective as possible.
- You enjoy giving to needs which others tend to overlook.
- You sometimes fear that your gifts will corrupt those who get them.
- You desire to give gifts of high quality.
- You enjoy knowing that your gifts were specific answers to prayer.

Which person has the most checked boxes? _____

10. What are the characteristics of each Motivational gift?

GIFT	CHARACTERISTIC	CARNAL USES
<p>1. PROPHECY (Kefa/Peter)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Love without hypocrisy * Abhor evil * Cling to good <p>Needs: CLEAR CONSCIENCE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Need to express himself * Quick opinions of people * Alertness to dishonesty * Desire for justice * Open about personal faults * Wholehearted involvement * Loyal to truth vs. people * Will suffer for truth * Persuasive in truth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Exposing w/o restoring * Jumps to conclusions * Reacts harshly to sinners * Being Unforgiving * Condemn themselves * Impetuous * Cuts off people who fail * No tactfulness in rebuke * Dwells on the negative
<p>2. SERVING (Timothy)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Kind affection * Brotherly love * Honor others <p>Needs: AUTHORITY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * See & meet practical needs * Free others to achieve * Disregards weariness * Cannot say "NO" * Alert to likes & dislikes * Need Approval * Likes short projects * Puts "extra touches" * Meets needs quickly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Gives un-requested help * Things are too important * Works beyond the limit * Shun God-given priorities * React to overlooked needs * Resent no of appreciation * Works people by own schedule * Frustrated by time limits * Interfere in God's discipline
<p>3. TEACHING (Luke)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Diligent Research * Fervent spirit * Serving God <p>Needs: MEDITATION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Need to validate info. * Check out teachers * Rely on established means * Systematic presentations * Gather many facts * Require thoroughness * Uneasy with subj. truth * Perseveres with teachers * Clarify misunderstandings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Become proud of knowledge * Despise credentials lack * Rely on human reasoning * Criticize practical applications * Showoff research skills * Rejects Scriptural rules * Putting mind above the HS * Takes teaching to extreme * Arguing over minor points

10. What are the characteristics of each Motivational gift?

GIFT	CHARACTERISTIC	CARNAL USES
<p>4. EXHORTER (Sha'ul) * Rejoice in hope * Patient... * Prayerful</p> <p>Needs: G-D'S DESIGN</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Committed to spiritual growth * Able to see root problems * See steps of action * Raise hope for solutions * Turn problems into benefits * Desire to be "transparent" * Insight through experience * Urged to act on clear steps * Desire to share in person 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Keeps others waiting * Looks to self for answers * Being proud of results * Starting projects early * Treat people as projects * Sharing private examples * Presents truth out of balance * Setting unrealistic goals * Give up on unwilling ones
<p>5. GIVER (Matthew) * Give to needs... * Hospitality</p> <p>Needs: OWNERSHIP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Able to see resources * Invest self with gift * Desire to give high quality * Hope gift answers prayer * Desire to give secretly * Concern that gifts corrupt * Exercise personal thriftiness * Use gifts to multiply giving * Confirm amount with counsel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Hoard resources for self * Uses gift to control * Force higher living standards * Feel guilt (personal assets) * Rejects pressure appeals * Gives sparingly to family * Give to projects vs. people * Cause people look him * Waiting too long to give
<p>6. ORGANIZER (Nehemiah) * Bless in Persecution * Curse not</p> <p>Needs: SUFFERING</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Visualize end results * Need loyalty in associates * Ability to delegate * Withstand reaction to tasks * Make jobs look easy * Very alert to details * Complete tasks quickly * Able to be decisive * Completion requires cleanup 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * View people as resources * Get loyal with favoritism * Using delegation to avoid work * Unresponsive to appeals * Put projects before people * Overlook serious faults * Fail to explain or praise * Force decisions on others * Losing interest in finished jobs
<p>7. MERCY (John) * Weep with * Rejoice with</p> <p>Needs: MORAL FREEDOM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Deeply loyal to friends * Need for deep friendships * Empathize with hurts * Decisions based on benefits * Deeply sensitive * Attract people in distress * Desire to remove hurts * Measure acceptance by closeness * Attracted to prophets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Taking up offenses * Becoming possessive * Tolerating evil * Failing to be firm * Lean on emotion vs. reason * Defrauding opposite sex * React to God's purposes * Fail to show deference * Cuts off insensitive people