

Spiritual Gifting in Messiah’s Body – Part 6 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 G-d’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 G-d’s will.” 1 Cor. 15:10 states: “But by G-d’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 G-d with me”.

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)

2. Who is given a Spiritual Gift?

Answer: Every Believer. An individual’s spiritual gift is made active at salvation when G-d’s 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 G-d and joint-heirs with the Messiah...”

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.

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 G-d 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.”

5. What are the THREE categories of gifts?

Diversities of:

<p>Gifts (1 Cor. 12:4) <i>Charismaton</i></p>	<p>Administrations (1 Cor. 12:5) <i>Diakanion</i> (ministries)</p>	<p>Operations (1 Cor. 12:6) <i>Energema</i>-effect</p>
<p>Motivation (Romans 12:3-9) “But we have gifts that differ and which are meant to be used according to the grace that has been given to us.” vv. 6</p>	<p>Ministry (1 Cor. 12:27-31) “And G-d has placed in the Messianic Community...” vv. 28</p>	<p>Manifestation (1 Cor. 12:7-11) “...will be for the common good...” vv. 7</p>

Characteristics of the gift of Giver

GIFT	CHARACTERISTICS	MISUSES
Who in Scripture best illustrates the motivational gift of giver?	<p>1. Able to see resources A giver has an ability to discern wise investments. His motivation is to use assets of time, money, and possessions to advance the work of the L-rd. If a person with the gift of giving has limited funds, he is still able to use his ability of recognizing available resources and draw upon them when needed.</p>	<p>1. Hoarding resources for self An effective use of the gift of giving depends upon having the fear of the L-rd. One way we learn the fear of the L-rd is by regular giving. It was for this purpose that the tithe was established. (See Deuteronomy 14:22-23.) If a giver stops exercising his gift, he will not only begin to lose the fear of the L-rd, but his storing up will cause him to become stagnant.</p>
<i>Matthew</i>	<p>2. Invest self with gift A giver needs continuous reassurance that his decisions are in G-d's will whether he has little or much to give. To achieve this, he will first give himself and then his gift to the L-rd. Since all believers must practice giving, Paul explained how the Macedonians "...they gave themselves to the L-rd, which means, by G-d's will, to us." (2 Cor. 8:5).</p>	<p>2. Using gift to control people A giver has a desire to make sure that his gifts are wisely invested and used. Thus, he will often buy a good quality item rather than giving the money for it. However, if items are purchased or projects are sponsored by a giver, he may be viewed as using his gifts to control lives and ministries.</p>
Share what you have with G-d's people (Romans 12:13)	<p>3. Desire to give high quality The giver's ability to discern value motivates him to provide quality gifts. He wants them to last. Matthew recorded in greater detail than any other Gospel writer the gifts given to <i>Yeshua</i>. He is the only writer who mentioned "the treasures" brought by the Magi; he described <i>Miryam's</i> ointment as "very precious," and <i>Yosef's</i> tomb as "new." (See Matthew 2:11; 26:6-11; and 27:57-60.)</p>	<p>3. Forcing higher living standards If a giver's focus is more on the quality of the gift than the need that it is meeting, he can cause the receiver to be dissatisfied with the quality of other things which he owns. A giver could also excuse personal luxuries on the basis that he is generous with his money. However, when he is not faithful in little, G-d will not trust him with much.</p>
Practice hospitality (Romans 12:13)	<p>4. Hope gift answers prayer A giver who is in fellowship with the L-rd will be prompted to give even when a need is not obvious. His ultimate confirmation that this gift was according to G-d's will comes when he learns that it fulfilled an unknown need or answered a special prayer.</p>	<p>4. Feeling guilty about personal assets A giver who is not in fellowship with the L-rd will begin to feel guilt as he stores up funds. Even if he is preparing for a special need, he must have the reassurance from the L-rd that his plans are according to G-d's will.</p>

	<p>5. Desire to give secretly Just as the giver looks to the L-rd for direction, so he wants recipients to look to the L-rd for provision. The giver knows that future reward is more valuable than present praise, thus he will give quietly and often anonymously. Matthew is the only Gospel writer who emphasized secret giving. (See Matthew 6:1-4.)</p>	<p>5. Rejecting pressure appeals If a giver reacts to all appeals for funds and looks only for the hidden and unannounced needs, he may fail to get the mind of the L-rd in a particular situation. He may also miss an important opportunity to give wise counsel as well as needed funds to a worthy ministry.</p>
<p>What basic Scriptural principle does the person with the gift of giver most need to exercise?</p>	<p>6. Concern that giving will corrupt A mature giver understands the destructiveness of the love of money. He is very aware that the disciplines that G-d taught him in acquiring assets may not have been learned by those who need his assistance. Therefore, he looks for ways of giving which avoid dependency, slothfulness, or extravagance.</p>	<p>6. Giving too sparingly to family The frugality of a giver is often extended to his own wife and children. However, if he does not show the same concern, care, and delight in meeting their needs as he does others, they will react to his generosity. By listening to the L-rd and the counsel of his wife, he will avoid the damaging consequences of unwise gifts or investments.</p>
<p>Ownership</p>	<p>7. Exercise personal thriftiness The personal assets which the giver has are often the result of consistent personal frugality while being content with basics. A giver will always be concerned in getting the best buy, not with how much he has left. He will spend extra effort in saving money and being resourceful with what he has.</p>	<p>7. Giving to projects vs. people If a giver loses his focus on meeting the needs of people, he may be unduly attracted to projects. His desire for measuring value may prompt him to build a "memorial to his generosity." The emphasis of Scriptural giving is distributing to the necessity of saints. Paul's collection was for the needy Believers.</p>
<p>Why is this true? It allows the giver the freedom to respond to G-d's direction.</p>	<p>8. Use gifts to multiply giving The motivation of a giver is to encourage others to give. He wants them to experience the joy and spiritual growth that comes by sacrificial giving. Thus, the giver may provide matching funds or the last payment in order to encourage others to give.</p>	<p>8. Causing people to look to him vs. G-d When a giver lets others know what he is giving, he will cause many to turn their attention from the L-rd to him. He also runs the danger of attracting carnal Christians with wrong motives. These people are trained to appeal to his human inclinations and extract funds which were not directed by the L-rd.</p>
	<p>9. Confirm amount with counsel A giver reacts to pressure appeals. He looks instead for financial needs which others tend to overlook. A husband who has the gift of giving will often confirm the amount that he should give by seeing if his wife has the same amount in mind.</p>	<p>9. Waiting too long to give If a giver is not instantly obedient to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, he may lose the joy of seeing G-d accomplish a miraculous provision through him. The one who was to receive the gift will also be denied the opportunity of seeing G-d provide funds precisely when needed.</p>