Movement 7

Gifts: The Spirit Has Given You Something for Others

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A Movement of Revelation, Calling, and Christ-Shaped Ministry

Every believer is gifted. Not because of personality, talent, or preference, but because the Holy Spirit lives in you. And the Spirit's mission is to reveal Jesus through you.

Spiritual gifts are not about what you can do. They are about what Jesus wants to do through you.

The Essence of Spiritual Gifts: Jesus Manifested Through His People

Spiritual gifts are manifestations of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:7). And the Spirit's mission is always the same: to glorify the Son and extend His ministry (John 16:14).

This means:

Gifts are the Spirit imparting the life of Jesus into us.

Gifts are the character and ministry of Jesus expressed through His people.

Gifts are how the body of Christ becomes the presence of Christ.

Gifts are how we become Jesus to one another.

When you teach, that is Jesus the Rabbi.
When you encourage, that is Jesus the Comforter.
When you lead, that is Jesus the Shepherd.
When you show mercy, that is Jesus the Healer.
When you discern, that is Jesus the True Witness.

Gifts are Jesus in motion.

Biblical Gifts of the Spirit - The Ways Jesus Manifests Through His People

Scripture gives several lists of gifts, not to limit the Spirit, but to show the many ways Jesus expresses Himself through His body.

1. Manifestation Gifts (1 Corinthians 12:7-11)

These reveal the power of Jesus:

Wisdom - insight into God's heart for a situation

Knowledge - Spirit-given understanding beyond natural insight

Faith - extraordinary confidence in God's power and promises

Healing - Jesus restoring physical, emotional, or spiritual brokenness

Miracles - God acting beyond natural explanation

Prophecy - speaking God's truth to strengthen, encourage, or correct

Discernment - recognizing what is from God, the flesh, or the enemy

Tongues - Spirit-empowered prayer or praise

Interpretation - making Spirit-prayer understandable to others

2. Ministry Gifts (Romans 12:4-8)

These reveal the heart of Jesus:

Prophecy - declaring God's truth with clarity and conviction

Service - meeting practical needs with joy

Teaching - explaining Scripture and truth clearly

Encouragement - strengthening the weary and building up faith

Giving - generosity that reflects God's heart

Leadership - guiding others with humility and vision

Mercy - compassion that heals and restores

3. Office Gifts (Ephesians 4:11-13)

These reveal the leadership of Jesus:

Apostle - pioneering, establishing, strengthening new works

Prophet - calling the church to faithfulness and alignment with God

Evangelist - proclaiming the Gospel with clarity and passion

Pastor - shepherding, caring, and guiding the flock

Teacher - grounding the church in truth and doctrine

Gifts, Talents, and Abilities - What's the Difference?

Talents: What You're Born With

Part of your creation:

musical ability

athletic skill

artistic expression

natural leadership

Good and valuable… but not spiritual gifts.

Abilities: What You Develop

Part of your growth:

training

discipline

education

practice

Helpful and important… but not spiritual gifts.

Spiritual Gifts: Who Jesus Is in You

Part of your new creation:

grace in motion

Jesus expressed through you

ministry empowered by the Spirit

participation in Christ's mission

Talents are natural. Abilities are cultivated. Gifts are supernatural.

Complimentary Gifts & the Full Equipping of the Spirit

Most believers have:

primary gifts (strongest manifestations of Jesus)

complimentary gifts (supporting expressions that cluster together)

lower-scoring gifts that still reside in them

One example of a "stack" of primary and secondary gifts:

Teaching

Knowledge

Leadership/Administration

These form a coherent cluster, a unified expression of Jesus the Teacher, Shepherd, and Logos.

And even if a gift such as evangelism scores lower, the Spirit still equips you to:

share the Gospel

testify to Jesus

lead someone to Christ

Even lesser gifts can be exercised, but can be expressed through your primary gifts.

Lower scores don't mean "not gifted." They mean "not primary." You carry the whole Spirit, and the Spirit equips you for the whole mission of Jesus.

Spiritual Gift Inventories: Helpful Tools, Not Holy Spirit Replacements

Gift inventories can be helpful, not because they give you a gift, but because they often confirm what the Spirit has already placed in you.

They can:

reveal patterns

affirm what others see

give language to what you feel

highlight complimentary gifts

point to areas of fruit

But they cannot:

replace the Spirit

define your identity

determine your calling

limit how God might use you

Tests are mirrors. The Spirit is the source.

Trusted Assessment

ChurchGrowth Spiritual Gifts Survey - a simple, biblically grounded tool.

Recommended Book

Understanding Spiritual Gifts — Sam Storms.

Discovering Your Gifts

Pay attention to:

what brings you joy

where you see fruit

what others affirm

what burdens your heart

what comes naturally when helping others

where the Spirit nudges you

Gifts are discovered through love, obedience, and community, not introspection alone.

Simple Practice: Ask the Spirit

Sit quietly and pray:

“Holy Spirit, how do You want to manifest Jesus through me?”

Then ask:

“Who do You want me to bless today, and how?”

Act on the first gentle nudge.

Reflection Questions

What gifts do others consistently affirm in you?

Where do you see fruit when you serve?

What cluster of gifts seems to fit your life and calling?

How might Jesus want to love others through you?

Closing Prayer

Holy Spirit, thank You for giving me gifts for the good of others. Reveal how Jesus wants to love people through me. Help me discover, grow in, and faithfully steward the grace You’ve placed in me. Make me a vessel of Your presence for the building up of Your body. Amen.

Gentle Invitation to Movement 8

Next time, we’ll explore mission - how your identity, community, and gifts overflow into the world as love in action.