



SPIRITUAL GIFTS WHAT ARE SPIRITUAL GIFTS? | EPHESIANS 4:1-16 Pastor Mark Owens

My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. ¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them. – Psalm 139:15-16

The church is healthiest when every believer embraces three simple truths:

- I have been saved by grace.
- I have been gifted by grace.
- I have been called to serve by grace.

God entrusts all believers with spiritual gifts and will one day hold us accountable for how we use them.

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. – Ephesians 4:1-6

Spiritual gifts are gifts of God's grace.

But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. – Ephesians 4:7

Our salvation is by grace.

Our calling is by grace.

Our opportunities are by grace.

Our spiritual gifts are by grace.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. – Romans 12:3

The biggest obstacle to spiritual gifts is our pride.

Important truths about spiritual gifts:

- Every believer receives grace (*"to each one of us"*).
- Christ determines the gift (*"according to the measure of Christ's gift"*).
- Spiritual gifts are not earned.
- Spiritual gifts are not chosen by the recipient.

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. – Ephesians 2:8-9

Spiritual gifts equip us for the work.



Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men."⁹ (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth?¹⁰ He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ. – Ephesians 4:8-12

Healthy churches are not built by a few gifted leaders. Healthy churches are built when every believer faithfully uses the gift Christ has given them.

Spiritual gifts build up the body of Christ.

Until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. – Ephesians 4:13-16

How do spiritual gifts build up the body of Christ?

1. Spiritual gifts grow us to be more like Christ (v. 13)

- Teachers deepen our understanding of Scripture.
- Encouragers strengthen us when we grow weary.
- Shepherds lovingly guide us through difficult seasons.
- Merciful people remind us of Christ's compassion.
- Leaders help us stay focused on God's mission.

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2. Spiritual gifts protect the church from false teaching (v. 14)
3. Spiritual gifts strengthen relationships in the church (vv.15-16)

- Encouragers restore hope.
- Merciful people comfort the hurting.
- Servants meet practical needs.
- Givers provide resources.
- Leaders create unity.
- Teachers explain truth.

The result is a church where people are cared for, challenged, and loved.

How do spiritual gifts build up the body of Christ?

1. Spiritual gifts grow us to be more like Christ (v. 13)
2. Spiritual gifts protect the church from false teaching (v. 14)
3. Spiritual gifts strengthen relationships in the church (vv.15-16)
4. Spiritual gifts mobilize believers (v. 12)
5. Spiritual gifts enable the church to grow together (v. 16)

Three prayers for today:

- Am I saved by the blood of Jesus?
- God, will you reveal my spiritual gifts to me today?
- Lord, if I'm not using my spiritual gifts, will you show me?