



## BIBLICAL TRAINING CENTER

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### Gifting of the Holy Spirit

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#### About the Spiritual Gifts

##### 1. Overview of the Gifts

- a. Every believer has at least **one** spiritual gift.

1 Peter 4:10 – “Each of you should use **whatever gift you have received** to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”

- b. The Holy **Spirit** decides which gift(s) we have.

1 Corinthians 12:11 – “All these [gifts] are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, **just as he determines.**”

1 Corinthians 12:18 – “But in fact **God has placed the parts in the body**, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.”

- c. No person has **all** the gifts.

- The Bible’s description about being a body with **many different parts** would not make any sense.<sup>1</sup>

1 Corinthians 12:14–17 – “<sup>14</sup> Even so **the body is not made up of one part but of many.** <sup>15</sup> Now if the **foot** should say, ‘Because I am not a **hand**, I do not belong to the body,’ it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. <sup>16</sup> And if the

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<sup>1</sup> Charles Caldwell Ryrie, *Basic Theology: A Popular Systematic Guide to Understanding Biblical Truth* (Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1999), 425.

ear should say, 'Because I am not an **eye**, I do not belong to the body,' it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. <sup>17</sup> **If the whole body were an eye**, where would the sense of hearing be? **If the whole body were an ear**, where would the sense of smell be?"

d. **Debate:** will my gift(s) line up with my **natural abilities**?

- YES – Many believe that a person's gift(s) **will line up with their natural abilities**. One popular idea today is to do a "**S.H.A.P.E. Profile**." This approach tries to find a person's spiritual gift(s) by also looking at their hear't's desire, abilities, personality and experience.
- NO – Others, like **Henry Blackaby**, strongly disagree with this. They believe God will call you and gift you to do something that is **completely outside your natural abilities** (called a 'Crisis of Belief').<sup>2</sup>

e. Spiritual gifts must be recognized, developed and exercised.

We are commanded and will be held accountable for how we used our gifts.

– 1 Peter 4:10 – "Each of you **should use whatever gift [i.e., this is a command]** you have received to serve others, as **faithful stewards** of God's grace in its various forms."

2 Timothy 1:6 (NKJV) "...I remind you to **stir up the gift of God** which is in you through the laying on of my hands."

- **Advice from Charles Ryrie (1925-2016):** Stay active in the Lord' work. Take opportunities to **explore** your gift. Don't turn down opportunities to serve, even if you think it's outside your natural abilities. At the same time, sharpen your natural talents and skills.<sup>3</sup>

**QUESTION: How did you discover your spiritual gift(s)?**

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<sup>2</sup> See Henry Blackaby, Richard Blackaby, and Claude King, *Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God* (Nashville, TN: B & H Publishing Group, 2008).

<sup>3</sup> Summarized from Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, 427.

## 2. What's the list of Spiritual Gifts in the New Testament?

a. Here's a good chart.<sup>4</sup> The “charismatic” gifts are in blue.

Romans 12:6–8 (AD 56)	Ephesians 4:11 (ca. AD 61)	1 Peter 4:10–11 (ca. AD 64)	1 Corinthians 12:8–10 (AD 55) <sup>5</sup>	1 Corinthians 12:28–30 (AD 55)	1 Corinthians 13:1–3 (AD 55)	1 Corinthians 13:8–9 (AD 55)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prophecy</li> <li>• Service</li> <li>• Teaching</li> <li>• Exhorting</li> <li>• Generous contributions (giving)</li> <li>• Leading</li> <li>• Mercy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apostles</li> <li>• Prophets</li> <li>• Evangelists</li> <li>• Shepherds / teachers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speaking</li> <li>• Serving</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utterance of wisdom</li> <li>• Utterance of knowledge</li> <li>• Faith</li> <li>• Gifts of healing</li> <li>• Working of miracles</li> <li>• Prophecy</li> <li>• Distinguishing between spirits</li> <li>• Various kinds of tongues</li> <li>• Interpretation of tongues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apostles</li> <li>• Prophets</li> <li>• Teachers</li> <li>• Miracles</li> <li>• Gifts of healing</li> <li>• Helping</li> <li>• Administering</li> <li>• Various kinds of tongues</li> <li>• Interpretation of tongues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tongues</li> <li>• Prophecy</li> <li>• Knowledge</li> <li>• Faith</li> <li>• Giving</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prophecy</li> <li>• Tongues</li> <li>• Knowledge</li> </ul>

b. The text for the major passages above:

Romans 12:6-8 – <sup>6</sup>We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is **prophesying**, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; <sup>7</sup> if it is **servicing**, then serve; if it is **teaching**, then teach; <sup>8</sup> if it is to encourage, then give **encouragement**; if it is **giving**, then give generously; if it is to **lead**, do it diligently; if it is to show **mercy**, do it cheerfully.

Ephesians 4:11-12 – <sup>11</sup> So Christ himself gave the **apostles**, the **prophets**, the **evangelists**, the **pastors and teachers**, <sup>12</sup> to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up...

<sup>4</sup> Chart adapted from John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, eds., *Biblical Doctrine: A Systematic Summary of Bible Truth* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2017), 380.

<sup>5</sup> Note the charismatic gifts are found in the earliest book (1 Corinthians, AD 55) while the later books only mention prophecy (Romans, Ephesians and 1 Peter).

1 Corinthians 12:8–10 – <sup>8</sup>To one there is given through the Spirit a **message of wisdom**, to another a **message of knowledge** by means of the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup>to another **faith** by the same Spirit, to another gifts of **healing** by that one Spirit, <sup>10</sup>to another **miraculous powers**, to another **prophecy**, to another **distinguishing between spirits**, to another speaking in different kinds of **tongues**, and to still another the **interpretation of tongues**.

1 Corinthians 12:28–30 – <sup>28</sup>And God has placed in the church first of all **apostles**, second **prophets**, third **teachers**, then **miracles**, then gifts of **healing**, of **helping**, of **guidance**, and of different kinds of **tongues**. <sup>29</sup>Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? <sup>30</sup>Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all **interpret**?

## Arguments for Cessationism

Cessationists believe the charismatic/sign gifts **in blue above** have “ceased.” Here are arguments for this view.

- a. **God used the sign gifts** for securing the foundation of the church. In short, God was using miracles to **confirm the apostle’s message** and **authority**. But once it was confirmed, the foundation was complete. A foundation is only built once.

Ephesians 2:20 – [the church] is “built on the foundation of the apostles and **prophets**, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone”

- b. The Bible says prophecy and tongues **ceased** when the **New Testament canon** was completed.

1 Corinthians 13:8-12 – <sup>8</sup>Love never fails. But where there are **prophecies**, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is **knowledge**, it will pass away. <sup>9</sup>For we know in part and we prophesy in part, <sup>10</sup>but **when completeness comes [i.e., the New Testament letters]**, what is in part disappears. <sup>11</sup>When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. <sup>12</sup>For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; **then we shall see face to face**. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.”

- Statements you'll hear:

John MacArthur: “**After AD 95**, God had no reason to perform miracles through men because he was **no longer revealing truth that needed to be authenticated; the canon closed** with the completion of Revelation.”<sup>6</sup>

- c. The **sign gifts decreased over time** in the New Testament. There are many miracles earlier in Acts but in later writings they are rare.

- **Look at the dates on the chart above.** Most of the talk about charismatic gifts are from 1 Corinthians, which is dated **earlier** than the other books.

- Paul:

Even Paul could not do miracles towards end of ministry. Paul, who previously could heal a **whole island** (Acts 28:9) could **not even heal Timothy** from a **simple stomach problem** (1 Tim. 5:23).<sup>7</sup> Earlier **Paul raised the dead**, but later he could not even raise **Trophimus from a sick bed** (2 Tim. 4:20). Neither could he heal **Epaphroditus** (Phil. 2:26).

Paul does not mention any spiritual gifts to **Timothy** and **Titus** when later discussing **church leadership** matters (1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9).

- James:

James said that those who were sick should be **anointed with oil** (James 5:14). He does not say they should seek a believer with the gift of healing.<sup>8</sup>

- d. Later New Testament books speak of the sign gifts in the **past tense**.

Hebrews 2:3b-4 – “This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was **confirmed [past tense]** to us by those who heard him. God also **testified [past tense]** to it by **signs, wonders** and various **miracles**, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit

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<sup>6</sup> MacArthur, *Biblical Doctrine*, 383, 384.

<sup>7</sup> Norman L. Geisler, *Signs and Wonders* (Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 1988), 137.

<sup>8</sup> MacArthur, 384.

distributed according to his will.” (Hebrews was written in early 60s or 80s).<sup>9</sup>

- e. Charismatic gifts are not central to **God’s revelation** for God’s church. The only two books mentioning tongues, for example, is Acts and 1 Corinthians. Mark 16:9-20 was certainly not part of the original.

## Arguments for Continuationism

Continuationists believe the charismatic/sign gifts **in blue above** “continue” today.

- a. Non-charismatic and charismatic gifts are **mingled together** in the biblical text. It is not biblical to create **artificial divisions**. If any gifts continue, then **they should all continue**.
- b. Paul expected all spiritual gifts to operate until Jesus’ **return**.

1 Corinthians 1:7 – Therefore **you do not lack any spiritual gift** as you **eagerly wait** for our **Lord Jesus** Christ to be revealed.

(Note: he says this in 1 Corinthians which focuses on the charismatic gifts, so certainly he is thinking of those gifts.)

- c. Since **Jesus does not change**, there is no change in his gift of tongues.

Hebrews 13:8 – “**Jesus Christ is the same** yesterday and today and forever.”

- d. The **church fathers testified** that the charismatic gifts **did continue** after the apostles (e.g., Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Tertullian, Origen).<sup>10</sup>

## “Open but Cautious” View

Some are **open to charismatic gifts** but think we should be very discerning because of obvious abuses. This is a form of continuationism above.

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<sup>9</sup> D. Guthrie, “Hebrews, Epistle to the,” ed. Geoffrey W Bromiley, *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*, Revised (Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1979–1988), 668.

<sup>10</sup> Graham A. Cole, *He Who Gives Life: The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit*, ed. John S. Feinberg, *Foundations of Evangelical Theology* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2007), 254, 255.

- a. Chuck Smith's opinion is in his book *Charisma Vs. Charismania*.<sup>11</sup> In short, he believed the charismatic gifts continue today, but he warned people against **abusing** them.

“Charismania is an endeavor in the flesh to simulate charisma. It is any effort to do the work of the Spirit in the energies or abilities of the flesh – the old, selfish nature of a person. It is a spiritual hype that substitutes perspiration for inspiration.”<sup>12</sup>

- b. Evidence gifts continue.

- Many have stories that seem to confirm the gifts are at work today.
- Person diagnosed with **cancer** – just before operating, tumor gone.
- My story – Possible ‘Word of Knowledge’ at **Mesa College**.
- Ted Leavenworth – Knew somebody about to attack his **son in bathroom**.
- Wedding attendant could barely speak English – **heard Gospel perfectly** in own language at wedding.

- c. But there are many **examples of abuse**.

- **Peter Popoff** in 1986 was caught using a wireless earpiece to dupe his audience into thinking he had the power of God to **heal**. It turned out **his wife** was reading the details of the prayer cards to her husband over a radio transmission.<sup>13</sup> A man with a wireless scanner recorded Popoff's wife transmitting the data to him in real-time and **revealed the scam** on the Johnny Carson Show.
- **James Randi**, the same magician that exposed Peter Popoff, exposed **hundreds upon hundreds** of such fake miracles in his book *The Faith Healers*.<sup>14</sup> For example, televangelists have been caught telling healthy people to **sit in wheelchairs** and wait until they're told to **stand**.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> See Chuck Smith, *Charisma Vs. Charismania* (Costa Mesa, CA: Word for Today, 1983).

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*, 10.

<sup>13</sup> Robert A. Steiner, “Exposing the Faith-healers,” The Committee for Skeptical Inquiry, accessed July 8, 2018, [https://www.csicop.org/si/show/exposing\\_the\\_faith-healers](https://www.csicop.org/si/show/exposing_the_faith-healers).

<sup>14</sup> See James Randi, *The Faith Healers* (Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books, 1989).

<sup>15</sup> Geisler, *Signs and Wonders*, 64.

- **New Apostolic Reformation** (NAR) leaders who are heavily into **signs and wonders** were caught **planting gemstones** to “seed peoples’ faith” in charismatic activity. The **gold from three ‘glory cloud’ events** has been tested by a gemologist and found to be **mylar** (synthetic man-made plastic) and **mica** (fool’s gold).<sup>16</sup>

d. The Bible says spiritual **deception** will increase in the last days.

- **Jesus** said about the end times: “Take heed that no one deceives you... many **false prophets** will rise up and deceive many.” (Matt. 24:4, 11). He also said, “A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a **sign**” (Mt. 16:4).
- **Paul** indicates that the end times will be characterized by “deceitful spirits and teachings of demons” (1 Tim. 4:1). He echoed this same thought elsewhere when he said that “the coming of the lawless one is according to the **working of Satan**, with **all power, signs**, and **lying wonders**, and with all **unrighteous deception...**” (2 Thess. 2:9,10).
- **John** writes about a beast in the last days who “performs great signs” and “deceives those who dwell on the earth” with great miracles (Rev. 13:13,14).

1 Thessalonians 5:21 (NKJV) – “**Test all things**; hold fast what is good.”

## Question & Answers

### 1. What are tongues? Are there different ideas?

Yes! There are many.

- a. Some say **tongues is a way to preach** to people of other languages. (Acts 2:6–11).

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<sup>16</sup> Shawn Nelson, “Six Big Problems with the New Apostolic Reformation,” Nelson.Ink, July 1, 2018, <https://nelson.ink/six-big-problems-with-the-new-apostolic-reformation>.



Acts 2:6, 11 – “When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one **heard their own language being spoken...** we hear them declaring the wonders of God **in our own tongues!**”

- b. Others say tongues are for **self-edification**.

1 Corinthians 14:4 – “**Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves**, but the one who prophesies edifies the church.”

- c. Others say tongues are **our spirit/heart speaking directly to God**.

1 Corinthians 14:14 – “For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful.”

1 Corinthians 14:2 – “For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people **but to God**. Indeed, no one understands them; they **utter mysteries** by the Spirit.”

1 Corinthians 14:15 – “So what shall I do? I will **pray with my spirit**, but I will also pray with my understanding; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my understanding.”

- d. Others say tongues is a way for the **Holy Spirit to intercede for us in prayer**.

Romans 8:26 – “In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the **Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.**”

- e. Others believe tongues should be accompanied with **interpretations**, and together they **edify the church**.

1 Corinthians 12:10 – “...to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues.”

- f. Some who hold to a “second blessing” think speaking in tongues is evidence of the **Baptism of the Spirit**. (Acts 2:4, 10:45, 46, 19:6).

- g. Cessationists believe **tongues have ceased**. They might say tongues was merely to fulfill prophecy (Isaiah 28:11; Joel 2:28) or **proof of Jesus' resurrection and sending of the Holy Spirit** (Jn. 16:7, Acts 2:22, 25, 32, 33).

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