



SOUTH COAST LIFE CHURCH

Spiritual Gifts Policy

Introduction

The Bible uses the terms gifts (Greek: *charisma* = “gift of grace or free gift” in Romans 12:6 and 1 Peter 4:10; Greek: *doma* = “gift or present” in Ephesians 4:10) and manifestation of the Spirit (Greek: *phanerosis* = “manifestation or disclosure” in 1 Corinthians 12:7) to describe the supernatural abilities that God has given to His followers to do His work both in His Church and the world. The Bible teaches us that the spiritual gifts are:

1. Given by the grace of God (Romans 12:6, 1 Peter 4:10);
2. Apportioned by Jesus (Ephesians 4:7);
3. Distributed by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:11);
4. Given to every believer (Romans 12:3);
5. Different for each believer (Romans 12:4)
6. For the common good (1 Corinthians 12:7);
7. To equip believers for works of service (Ephesians 4:12);
8. To build up the body of Christ, i.e. the Church (Ephesians 4:12);
9. To bring unity in the Church (Ephesians 4:13);
10. To bring maturity to the Church (Ephesians 4:13);
11. Convict inquirers or unbelievers of sin (1 Corinthians 14:24); and
12. To bring praise to God (1 Peter 4:11).

The Spiritual Gifts

1. Prophecy – Romans 12:6; 1 Corinthians 12:10, 28; 13:2; 14:1-5, 22-25

Definition: From the Greek word *propheteia* which means prophecy or the gift of communicating revealed truth, properly “what is clarified before”. It involves divinely empowered forthtelling (asserting the mind of God) or foretelling (prediction).

Gift: To communicate God’s will by divine inspiration

2. Serving – Romans 12:7

Definition: From the Greek word *diakoniaia* which means service or ministry, properly “to run on errands”. It involves providing voluntary aid, attendance on others and executing the commands of others.

Gift: To minister to the physical needs of others.

3. Teaching – Romans 12:7; 1 Corinthians 12:28

Definition: From the Greek word *didasko* which means to teach or instruct, properly “to cause to learn”. It usually refers to teaching the scriptures.

Gift: To instruct others in the scriptures.

4. Encouragement- Romans 12:8

Definition: From the Greek word *parakaleo* which means to call to or for, exhort, or encourage, properly “make a call from close beside”. It is related to the word *parakletos* which means helper or comforter, properly legal advocate and is the name given to the Holy Spirit.

Gift: To entreat, exhort, admonish, comfort and console others.

5. Giving – Romans 12:8

Definition: From the Greek *metadidomi* which means to give a share of, properly “to offer so that a change of ownership is produced”.

Gift: To share with others so as to give them ownership.

6. Leadership – Romans 12:8

Definition: From the Greek word *prostiemi* which means to preside, maintain, or rule over and refers to a protector or guardian. It properly means “pre-standing” or having a pre-set (well-established) character which provides the need model to direct others, i.e. positively impact them by example.

Gift: To preside over or direct others by example.

7. Mercy - Romans 12:8

Definition: From the Greek word *eleeo* which means to have pity or mercy on, or to show mercy to, properly “to show mercy as God defines it”, i.e. as God has demonstrated with His covenant-loyalty or covenant-love. It involves being compassionate in word or deed, especially by divine grace.

Gift: To be compassionate in word or deed.

8. Word of Wisdom – 1 Corinthians 12:8

Definition: From the Greek words *logos* (a word, as embodying an idea, speech, divine utterance, or analogy) and *sophias* (wisdom, insight, human or divine skill, or intelligence, properly “clarity”). Knowledge is the understanding of truth and wisdom is applying reasoning to knowledge.

Gift: To communicate insight or clarity from God.

9. Word of Knowledge – 1 Corinthians 12:8

Definition: From the Greek words *logos* (a word, as embodying an idea, speech, divine utterance, or analogy) and *gnosis* (knowing, knowledge, doctrine, wisdom or personal knowledge). By implication knowledge is only as accurate or reliable as the relationship from which it is derived. Knowledge is the understanding of truth and wisdom is applying reasoning to knowledge.

Gift: To communicate understanding of God’s truth.

10. Faith – 1 Corinthians 12:9

Definition: From the Greek word *Pistis* which means faith or faithfulness, properly persuasion, i.e. be persuaded or come to trust. It implies belief with the predominate idea of trust (or confidence) whether in God or in Christ. Faith is a gift from God.

Gift: To trust in God or Christ.

11. Healing – 1 Corinthians 12:9, 28

Definition: From the Greek word *iama* which means healing, curing, or to make whole, particularly as supernatural and bringing attention to God as the source of all healing. In the New Testament it is always plural, i.e. healings

Gift: To perform supernatural healing.

12. Miracles - 1 Corinthians 12:10,28

Definition: From the Greek word *dunamis* which means miraculous power, might or strength, powerful deeds, deeds, showing physical power, or marvellous works, properly the "ability to perform". For the believer, the power to achieve by applying the Lord's inherent abilities, i.e. "power through God's ability".

Gift: To perform extraordinary deeds through the power of God.

13. Discernment of Spirits – 1 Corinthians 12:10

Definition: From the Greek words *diakrisis* (the act of judgment, distinguishing or discerning, and hence deciding or passing sentence on) and *pneuma* (wind, breath or spirit), properly a thorough judgment, i.e. a discernment (conclusion) which distinguishes between things that appear to be the same (see Hebrews 5:14).

Gift: To distinguish between good and evil.

14. Tongues – 1 Corinthians 12:10

Definition: From the Greek word *glossa* which means tongue or language. It is used for the ability to speak in an unlearned foreign language, i.e. a foreign tongue (see Acts 2:4) or a spiritual language, i.e. a new tongue (see Mark 16:17).

Gift: To speak in either an unlearned foreign language or a spiritual language.

15. Interpretation of Tongues – 1 Corinthians 12:10

Definition: From the Greek word *hermeneia* which means translation, interpretation or explanation, i.e. giving an interpretation of what has been spoken in a more obscure way by others. It involves giving an equivalent meaning, rather than a literal translation.

Gift: To provide a translation of a message spoken in tongues.

16. Apostleship – 1 Corinthians 12:28

Definition: From the Greek word *apostolous* and therefore from the word *apostello* which means a delegate (especially an ambassador of the Gospel), properly someone sent or commissioned by another to represent them (especially those sent by Jesus to preach the Gospel).

Gift: One sent by Christ to preach the Gospel.

17. Helping – 1 Corinthians 12:28

Definition: From the Greek word *antilempsis* which means to lay hold of, help, ministrations, or one who aids. It is properly a plural i.e. helps. From the Greek word *antilambanomai* (from *anti* which means corresponding and *lambano* which means to take hold of with initiative) which properly means to take hold of in a proportional or fitting way, i.e. one that matches the need of the situation.

Gift: To provide help or aid as needed.

18. Guidance/Administration – 1 Corinthians 12:28

Definition: From the Greek word *kyberneseis* which means governing or government, literally steering or piloting. From the Greek word *kubernao* which means pilotage, i.e. directorship or properly someone who steers or guides a ship. Figuratively this is applied to the divine calling which empowers someone to govern or lead the affairs of the Church.

Gift: To govern or lead the affairs of the church.

19. Voluntary Poverty – 1 Corinthians 13:3

Definition: From the Greek words *psomizo* (to feed with morsels, to nourish, or to feed the poor) and *hyparxo* (am in possession of or properly already have possession of).

Gift: Sacrificial giving to the poor.

20. Martyrdom – 1 Corinthians 13:3

Definition: From the Greek words *aradidomi* (to hand over, to give or deliver over, properly to give into the hands of another or to give over into another's power or use) and *soma* (body or flesh).

Gift: To hand the physical body into the power of another.

21. Evangelism - Ephesians 4:11 and Missionary – Ephesians 3:6-9

Definition: From the Greek word *euaggelistes* which means an evangelist, missionary or a bringer of good news, properly someone with a vocational call from God to announce or proclaim the good news of the Gospel.

Gift: To be a preacher of the Gospel.

22. Pastoring - Ephesians 4:11

Definition: From the Greek word *poimen* which properly means a shepherd ("pastor" in Latin), the feeder, protector, or ruler of a flock of men, figuratively someone whom the Lord raises up to care for the total well-being of His people.

Gift: To spiritually feed and care for God's people.

23. Hospitality - 1 Peter 4:9-10

Definition: From the Greek word *philoxenos* which means hospitable, literally loving strangers, i.e. fond of guests or generous to guests.

Gift: To welcome and be generous to guests

24. Preaching or speaking the words of God – 1 Peter 4:11

Definition: From the Greek word *laleo* (to talk, speak, say, preach, use words in order to declare one's mind and disclose one's thoughts) and *logion* (an oracle, divine response or utterance).

Gift: To declare or disclose the word of God.

The Use of Spiritual Gifts

The Bible encourages believers to both use their own gifts (1 Corinthians 12:15-20) and allow others to use their gifts (1 Corinthians 12:21-26).

The Bible teaches us that the gifts should be used:

1. With humility (Romans 12:3);
2. In love (1 Corinthians 13);
3. To serve others (1 Peter 4:10); and
4. In a fitting and orderly way (1 Corinthians 14:33,40).

The Bible also teaches us that:

1. The Gift of Prophecy should be used in accordance with the faith;
2. The Gift of Giving should be used generously;
3. The Gift of Leading should be used diligently;

4. The Gift of Mercy should be used cheerfully;
5. The Gift of Preaching should be used with the very words of God; and
6. The Gift of Serving should be used with the strength God provides.

Specifically on tongues and prophecy, the Bible teaches that during a church gathering:

1. Only two or three should bring a message in tongues (1 Corinthians 14:27);
2. The speakers should speak one at a time (1 Corinthians 14:27);
3. The message must be interpreted by the speaker or another (1 Corinthians 14:5, 13, 27);
4. If there is no interpreter then the speaker should remain quiet and use the message in private worship (1 Corinthians 14:28);
5. Only two or three should bring a prophecy (1 Corinthians 14:29);
6. The speakers should speak one at a time (1 Corinthians 14:30-32);
7. The prophecy should be to edify the church (1 Corinthians 14:3-4, 31); and
8. The spirit of prophecy is subject to the control of the prophet (1 Corinthians 14:32);

Other Guidelines

It is also important to note that the use of Spiritual Gifts should:

1. Be under the leadership of Jesus as the Head of the Church (Romans 12:5; 1 Corinthians 12:12, 27; Ephesians 4:15-16)
2. Take place under the authority of the leaders of the church (Hebrew 13:17); and
3. Adhere to the Safe Church Policy.

Biblical References

Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31; 13:1-13; 14:1-40; Ephesians 3:6-9; 4:11-15 and 1 Peter 4:9-11.

Adopted by Elders on 08/10/2024.