

Discovering Your Ministry Within The Kehilah: Living A Spirit-Filled Life Part 8-B

Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts¹

In my last post, we looked at what God wants you to be by addressing seven questions to help us lay a foundation for discovering our spiritual gifts. In this post, I want to outline how many gifts are mentioned in the Bible and an ancillary issue dealing with those gifts.

How Many Gifts Are There?

Just as the human body is made up of many parts, so too is the spiritual body – the Kehilah. Everybody knows the basic parts of the human body such as our toes, legs, hips, fingers, arms, ears, nose, mouth, brain, heart, lungs, etc. We need to be equally familiar with the body parts of the Kehilah, characterized by the spiritual gifts that God has distributed.

The great majority of the spiritual gifts mentioned in the Bible are found in three key chapters: Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4. Several secondary chapters also provide other important details, including: 1 Kefa 4, 1 Corinthians 7, 13-14 and Ephesians 3. Let's take a look at the gifts listed in these passages:²

Romans 12:6-8:

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| 1. | Prophecy (preaching, inspired utterance) |
| 2. | Service (ministry) |
| 3. | Teaching |
| 4. | Exhortation (stimulating faith, encouraging) |
| 5. | Giving (contributing, generosity, sharing) |
| 6. | Leadership (authority, ruling, administration) |
| 7. | Mercy (sympathy, comfort to the sorrowing, showing kindness) |

1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 28 adds without repeating those above:

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| 8. | Wisdom (wise advice, wise speech) |
| 9. | Knowledge (studying, speaking with knowledge) |
| 10. | Faith |
| 11. | Healing |
| 12. | Miracles (doing great deeds) |
| 13. | Discerning of spirits (discrimination in spiritual matters) |
| 14. | Tongues (speaking in languages never learned, ecstatic utterance) |
| 15. | Interpretation of tongues |
| 16. | Apostle |

¹ I am indebted to the Ruach and the Word of God for my knowledge and understanding of this whole issue of discovering the third Person of the Trinity, His ministry and His gifts. In addition, in my studies, I have also come to appreciate the work of C. Peter Wagner. Most of the material for this and subsequent postings in this series are from his book "Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts." I have also been heavily influenced by the writings of Catherine Marshal, especially her book "The Helper."

² "Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts" by C. Peter Wagner, Pages 20-23. Words in parentheses are variant translations found in several English versions of the Bible.

17.	Helps
18.	Administration (government, getting others to work together)
Ephesians 4:11 adds without repeating those above:	
19.	Evangelist
20.	Pastor (caring for God's people)
Other Gifts Mentioned in the Brit Hadashah:	
21.	Celibacy (see 1 Cor. 7:7 NLT)
22.	Voluntary poverty (see 1 Cor. 13:3)
23.	Martyrdom (see 1 Cor. 13:3)
24.	Missionary (see Eph. 3:6-8)
25.	Hospitality (see 1 Kefa 4:9)
The following Gifts are based on C. Peter Wagner's personal experience:³	
26.	Intercession
27.	Deliverance (exorcism, casting out demons)
28.	Leading Worship (music)

Distinguishing Gifts from Office

The listing in Ephesians 4 is slightly different from the other two lists because it speaks of *offices* rather than *gifts*. When it speaks of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers – which are collectively frequently called the “Five-fold Ministries” given to the Kehilah – we focus on gifted people who have also been recognized in such ‘official’ positions. We can certainly have a gift without an office, but you should never have an office without the corresponding gift. Many hyphenate pastor and teacher into one gift of pastor-teacher. Personally, I believe that they are indeed separate and distinct giftings. Some are excellent pastors, but lousy teachers and vice-versa. Now, I will acknowledge that some may indeed have both gifts and the hyphenation is appropriate, i.e. they are excellent pastors and excellent teachers.

In my next post, I will discuss some danger signs to avoid regarding this issue of spiritual gifts.

Your challenge until then is to read the passages cited above and identify the gifts that are listed.

³ As I expand upon the definition and use of each of the gifts in later posts, I will explain Mr. Wagner's rationale for listing these three gifts based upon experience rather than pointing to specific scriptural references. I will leave it to the reader to determine if these are supernatural giftings or natural talents/abilities.