

“The Passion of Elisha: Desiring Spiritual Gifts”

2 Kings 2:5-15
1 Corinthians 12:7-11

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Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit. —2 Kings 2:9b

But eagerly desire the greater gifts. And now I will show you the most excellent way.
—1 Corinthians 12:31

Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy.
—1 Corinthians 14:1

What is a Spiritual Gift?

1. Spiritual Gifts are Special **Abilities**

But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. ⁸This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men.
— Ephesians 4:7-8

Spiritual Gifts are special abilities given by the Holy Spirit and distributed to every believer according to God's design and grace for the common good of the body of Christ.

- They are divine endowments given by God.
- They are used for spiritual purposes.
- They are tasks or functions.
- They enable us to do meaningful service.

Who gives Spiritual gifts?

2. Spiritual Gifts are given by the **Holy Spirit**

To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit ... All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.

—1 Corinthians 12:8-11

- God gives these gifts to His children.
- Every believer has at least one Spiritual Gift.
- We do not earn them or choose them.
- Without the Holy Spirit, there are no Spiritual Gifts.

Spiritual gifts are distributed to every believer according to God's design and grace.

- They show us how we can make our unique contribution.
- They reveal a part of God's will for our lives.
- They confirm that every believer has a place of service.
- They are given for power and purpose in our ministry.

Who are Spiritual Gifts for? What are their purpose?

3. Spiritual Gifts are for others.

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. —1 Peter 4:10

For the Common Good of the body of Christ.

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. —1 Corinthians 12:7

- My gifts aren't for me, they are to benefit others.
- They are given to build up other believers.
- They help us to serve one another better.
- They empower believers to expand the Kingdom of God.

Purpose: to Glorify God and to edify others.

Love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength;
Love your neighbor as yourself. (Luke 10:27)

Ten Commandments: First 4 commandments, glorify God.
Last 6 commandments, edify others.—Exodus 20:1-17