**Romans 11:29 New International Version (NIV)**

**29**for God’s gifts and his call are irrevocable.

Your giftings are for your calling.

Your calling is your destiny, your reason for being born, your unique way of contributing to the world and making it a better place.

David Livingston - a missionary, explorer who has and continues to inspire 1000s of missionaries to take Jesus to foreign countries

Mother Teresa - Albanian-Indian Nun who impacted the whole world simply by serving the poorest of the poor. She founded the Missionaries for Charity which now has over 4,500 nuns in 133 countries.

William Wilberforce - a British politician lead the movement to abolish slavery after he became a Christian.

Livingston’s call was to go.

Mother Teresa’s call was to serve.

Wilberforce’s call was to stand up.

Each were gifted accordingly.

You are statistically 1 in 33 million. God has placed an aspect of Him in us that only we can show. The world will only see it while we are alive and it will be gone when we die. (Sarah) Each person has a specific of God’s personality that only we can show

Your destiny is as unique as you are, and so is your anointing from God.

Rienhard Bonnke: “God is not a duplicator, He is a Creator. God only produces originals…Nobody on earth can serve God exactly as you. You are unique and so is your anointing.”

Bonnke: who passed away last year was missionary to Africa through his missionary crusades lead 79 million people to Christ. God called him and equipped him with the needed spiritual gifts.

2 Peter 1:3 Evangelical Heritage Version (EHV)

3 His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and excellence.

Don’t compare yourself to other or try to be like someone else! - your first step

Sampson’s gifts were unique.

David - leader, warrior, song writer, administrator

Solomon - scientist, architect, author, visionary

Moses - judge, eloquent speech-writer, magician

Joseph - administrator, dream-interpreter, leader

Esther - beauty queen, strategist, influencer

Ruth - diligent, risk taker, entrepreneur

Their gifts weren’t for their fame, they were for their God-given destiny in that time of history.

Acts 13:36 New International Version (NIV)

**36**“Now when David had served God’s purpose in his own generation,

How did David do it? With God’s gifts in his life.

You can only see God’s gifts flourish in your life as you are filled with the Holy Spirit. Don’t mistake talents for gifts.

Michael Jackson had talent as an entertainer, but absolutely no spiritual giftings.

Diego Maradona had talent as a soccer player, but absolutely no spiritual giftings.

Piccasso had incredible talent as an artist, but absolutely no spiritual giftings.

J.K. Rowling has incredible talent as an author, but has absolutely no spiritual giftings.

Can you imagine if these people had chosen Christ and had entered into their destiny and received their unique combination of spiritual gifts?

But better still, can you imagine if you would start letting God’s calling take priority in your life and you started operating in the spiritual gifts God has for you???

If you are called to pastor, God is going to give you pastoral gifts such as the gifts of teaching, administration, discernment.

If God has called you to be an entrepreneur, you might have the gift of leadership and faith (if God tells you can do something, you just believe Him) and generosity.

If God has called you to be a modern day evangelist, you might have the gift of persuasion and public speaking.

If God has called you to be a missionary, maybe God has the gift of learning other languages, the gift of hospitality and an apostolic gift so that you plant multiple churches.

Ex. Of a Ukrainian or Russian church planter who planted over 150 churches.

There is no comprehensive list in scripture of all of God’s spiritual gifts.

Romans 12:6 New International Version (NIV)

**6**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;

God’s grace is infinite and so are the spiritual gifts He gives.

Exodus 35:30-35 New International Version (NIV)

30 Then Moses said to the Israelites, “See, the Lord has chosen (God has called) Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, 31 and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills— 32 to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, 33 to cut and set stones, to work in wood and to engage in all kinds of artistic crafts. 34 And he has given both him and Oholiab son of Ahisamak, of the tribe of Dan, the ability to teach others. 35 He has filled them with skill to do all kinds of work as engravers, designers, embroiderers in blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen, and weavers—all of them skilled workers and designers.

Dallas Jenkins - Director of, “The Chosen.” A gifted movie director.

TobyMac - gifted singer, songwriter, singer, entertainer

Do try to put God in a box with the gifts that He gifts and limit the gifts to the lists that you see in the Bible.

With this in mind, let’s look at what the Bible tells us about the gifts of the Spirit, in particular those relating to church.

How can you begin to have the gifts of the Spirit operating in your life?

**John 4:10 New International Version (NIV)**

**10**Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.”

1 Corinthians 14:1 New International Version (NIV)

**14**Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy.

**Matthew 7:11 New International Version (NIV)**

**11**If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

3 keys to receiving the gifts of the Spirit:

1. Know about them
2. Desire them
3. Ask for them

Here are 7 other important aspects of operating in the gifts of the Spirit:

**Romans 12 New International Version (NIV)**

**12**Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. **2**Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

**3**For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. **4**For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, **5**so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. **6**We have different gifts, according to the grace (don’t earn, receive the gift of grace) given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; **7**if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; **8**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.

**1 Corinthians 1:4-7 New International Version (NIV)**

**4**I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus.**5**For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge— **6**God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. **7**Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed.

**1 Corinthians 12 New International Version (NIV)**

**Concerning Spiritual Gifts**

**12**Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. **2**You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. **3**Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus be cursed,” and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.

**4**There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. **5**There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. **6**There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

Gifts are about service, not self promotion, they are about work, not delegation

**7**Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.**8**To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, **9**to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, **10**to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues,[[a](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians+12&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28645a)] and to still another the interpretation of tongues.[[b](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians+12&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28645b)] **11**All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

**Unity and Diversity in the Body**

**12**Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. **13**For we were all baptized by[[c](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians+12&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28648c)] one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. **14**Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

**15**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. **16**And if the 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. **17**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? **18**But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. **19**If they were all one part, where would the body be? **20**As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

You are gifted according to your function within the body of Christ. Your purpose drives the gifts you will find inside yourself.

Seek your calling as a priority over your giftings. This will keep your feet on the ground so you don’t fall in love with your gifts.

**21**The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” **22**On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, **23**and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, **24**while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it,**25**so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. **26**If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

**27**Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. **28**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.

Apostle - The man or women who planted the church.

Prophet - the person who hears and speaks God’s word for the present

Teacher - impart spiritual knowledge and how to apply that knowledge

THEN miracles, healing.

THEN service, counseling, tongues

I believe this order doesn’t what is higher or more important, but rather the priority and what should be kept at the forefront.

Apostle - God’s special messenger, missionary, church planter, overseer of multiple churches.  For me this is my dad and pastor Lee.

Prophet - God’s mouth piece for the here and now

Teacher - imparting God’s knowledge and wisdom

Notice all 3 of these have to do with God’s word which is the most important in the church.

Subordinate to this is the gifts of healing and miracle. I really think it is a mistake to build the move of God on a miracle man or women. These people are to be praying for people in the alters, on the streets…unless they are teachers or prophets, they should be instructing because people come for a spectacle and not for the truth. These should have the same level of attention as the gift of service, counseling, and tongues.

**29**Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? **30**Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues[[d](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians+12&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28665d)]? Do all interpret? **31**Now eagerly desire the greater gifts.

**Psalm 37:4 New International Version (NIV)**

**4**Take delight in the Lord,

    and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Your desires for specific gifts is usually placed their by God. You can tell if it is from God when there isn’t some selfish aspect.

**1 Corinthians 2:9-10 New International Version (NIV)**

**9**However, as it is written:

“What no eye has seen,

    what no ear has heard,

and what no human mind has conceived”[[a](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+2%3A9-10&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28404a)]—

    the things God has prepared for those who love him—

**10**these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit.

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.

When you start to desire a gift, it means God has conceived that in you. Start praying for it, studying about, practicing it, analyzing it in other people.

Desire the greater gifts - translated best gifts, higher gifts, more important gifts, most helpful gifts

Greek - stronger, large, more mature gifts, important to the whole (filling a gap that is missing), desiring the excellence of

Through the last statement of 1 Cor 12 and the theme of 1 Corinthians 14 is the purpose of the gifts must shine through the gifts themselves.  Love, edifying those around you.

**Love Is Indispensable**

And yet I will show you the most excellent way.

Romans 1:11 New International Version (NIV)

11 I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong—