

Introduction:

Supreme Court hears gay marriage issue this Tuesday. PRAY.
DYMI

I. The Bible and Spiritual Gifts**A. What is a spiritual gift?**

1. A spiritual gift is a God-given ability that enables a believer to effectively serve the body of Christ. Grace is God's ability in me to do the things I cannot do in and of myself.
2. The gifts are not natural talents or trained abilities. They are supernatural endowments given by God.
3. Spiritual gifts are not fruit of the Spirit.

B. Helpful insights:

1. Paul is not teaching on spiritual gifts because he is trying to get the church activated in these things. The church is already activated. Corinth was so activated they needed instruction on how to operate in the gifts efficiently. They needed instruction in what they were experiencing in abundance. 1 Cor 1:5-7. Any vital information given in scripture about the gifts presupposes a participation in them.
 - a) The lack of experience in the local church in spiritual giftings is result of people and leaders trying to distance themselves from their operation.
 - b) That is why some churches teach that gifts of the spirit ended with the apostles.
 - c) Some seek to distance themselves because they are ignorant in the operation of the gifts and they are afraid of the possible messes they might cause.
 - d) ***Let me say this with conviction: The church cannot be fully or freely the church without the presence and operation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
2. In Romans, Paul is facing the same thing. The church is active in the gifts they are just having trouble with the 'flesh' like they were in Corinth.
3. In Ephesus Paul was providing understand to the church about the gifts that were given to the church so that it would be equipped to do the work of the ministry.
4. Paul is the one who speaks the most about gifts. Peter is the only NT writer to address the subject.

C. Where do you find spiritual gifts in the Bible?

1. 1 Cor 12, 13, and 14.
 - a) They are specifically listed in 1 Cor 12:8-10. There are nine gifts listed there.
 - b) We must note though something Paul says before he lists the gifts.
 - (1) There are different kinds of *pneumekata charismata* spiritual gifts
 - (2) There are different kinds of *service/diakonia*
 - (3) There are different ways God works. God works in mysterious ways.
2. Romans 12:4-11.
 - a) In this passage they are not called spiritual gifts. They are just called gifts.
 - b) The implication is that they do come from God though. 12:6
3. Eph 4:7-14
 - a) These are not called spiritual gifts either.
 - b) They are called gifts but it is Christ who gave them.
 - c) The actual gift to the church are those who are called to five fold ministry (apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, and teacher)

- D. Do I have a spiritual gift?
1. If you are born again, yes!
 2. *“God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.”* (1 Peter 4:10, NLT)
 3. *“In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well...”* (Romans 12:6, NLT)
 4. *“However, he has given each one of us a special gift through the generosity of Christ.”* (Ephesians 4:7, NLT)
- E. Why are spiritual gifts given?
1. Ro 12:4-6 to serve the body of Christ. We are all like members of the body. Each part plays a significant role in serving the other parts of the body. Gifts are given to you to fulfill your God given roll in serving the other members of the body of Christ.
 2. When God was ready to establish the church, He did not set up a dictatorship for one person to Lord it over all. He did not set up a democracy so that people would rule. He set us up as a body so we would be interdependent with the rest of the member of the body and in so doing we would be loving each other with the grace that only we can supply.
 3. They are given so that you have a sense of destiny and purpose in this life. They allow you to be supernatural as you are connected to Christ.
 4. When you are manifesting the gifts God has given you, you bring glory to God. *“... Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.”* (1 Peter 4:11, NLT)

II. Spiritual Manifestations of Holy Spirit

- A. *“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:”* (1 Corinthians 12:7, NKJV) Gr *phaneros* - to shine forth, make visible. A visible expression of...God. The gifts are not given to make you and me shine. They are given to make God SHINE!
1. The gifts are the self expression of God. They happen in a moment.
 2. The fruit of the Spirit is the character of God that people see in us but we grow in that over time.
- B. To deny the Holy Spirit the opportunity to shine through you causes you to miss out on working with God to bless the church. You miss out on the dynamic reality of Holy Spirit working through you.
- C. The manifestation of the Spirit is through people. To be permitted to have some share in this is beyond comprehension and in this experience is great rejoicing and glorifying of God.

III. Spiritual Gifts The Divine and Human

- A. In all the gifts of the Holy Spirit there is both a divine and human activity. *“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:”* (1 Corinthians 12:7, NKJV) *“A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.”* (1 Corinthians 12:7, NLT) Manifestation- Gr. *phaneros* - to shine forth, make visible. A visible expression of...God. The Holy Spirit or gifts (divine activity) is given to each (human aspect).
1. Each gift is a manifestation of the spirit.
 2. Each gift is expressed through human beings.

3. In the operation of the gifts of the Spirit, the Holy Spirit expresses himself through human activity...people.
- B. The Divine side
1. Since we are dealing with a manifestation of the Holy Spirit (a spiritual gift) the divine aspect/the God activity is primary. Therefore, all the gifts are supernatural or extraordinary. So a 'word of knowledge' is just as supernatural/extraordinary as a miracle.
 2. The gifts are not natural talents or learned trained abilities. They are not a spiritually infused talent.
 3. They are gifts of the Holy Spirit, endowments not enhancements ...apportionment of the Holy Spirit. A gift is manifested when set free by the Holy Spirit.
 4. A manifestation of the Spirit may occur with someone regardless of background, experience or education. Therefore, they may occur through most anyone...anyone who is willing to believe and be used by God.
- C. The human side of the gifts.
1. Human activity is involved in the manifestation of the Holy Spirit. "*To each one is given*" signifies that it is a person who is receiving the gift. It is the person who 'acts' not the Holy Spirit. Ie. "*On the day of Pentecost*" they began to speak not the Holy Spirit. They Holy Spirit 'gave them' to 'speak out' but He himself did not speak out.
 2. Nothing was forced by the Holy Spirit, nothing was automatic. The human element was partnering/participating with the Divine.
 3. They Holy Spirit can use well-educated and studied people and He can use unlearned/unschooled people.