

Basic Principles Concerning Spiritual Gifts

- The Holy Spirit gives all the gifts necessary to accomplish His work in a local church according to His will and plan.
- Every believer has at least one gift and possibly more than one.
- The degree and effectiveness of one believer's gift and the way he or she exercises it may differ from another believer having the same gift.
- Some gifts may be used primarily at certain times or in certain situations, where other gifts may be used more regularly or continuously.
- Some gifts require development before they can be used wisely and effectively (e.g., teaching, leadership, administration, evangelist).
- Each member with his or her gift(s) is necessary to the property functioning and vitality of the body (the church) as a whole, so the active use of one's gifts is important for others as well as for the individual.
- The gifts emphasize service to the body of Christ (the church).
- The goal of the exercise of our gifts is to build up the body of Christ, strengthen our faith, knowledge, and maturity as Christians, and result in praises to God.
- Love is to be the motivation behind the exercise of a gift.
- We are each to evaluate our ministry within the body in light of our God-given gifts.
- We should recognize that our gifts will differ, and we should grant ourselves and others the freedom to serve in accordance with our respective gifts.
- We should exercise our gifts in faith according to the faith God has given us.
- *How* we exercise our gifts (that is, the motivating spirit behind the use of the gift and the attitude prevailing as we exercise the gift) is just as important as the fact that we *do* exercise our gifts.
- God should always receive the credit for our use of gifts whether they be leadership or supportive gifts.
- No one should think more highly of himself/herself than he/she ought to think. We are not to be exalted because we have gifts and use them. The glory belongs to God.

