

IN &  
OUT

*Spiritual  
Gifts*

IN & OUT®  
SPIRITUAL GIFTS

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## **“As each one has received a *special* gift . . . .”**

We can be grateful to the Lord for those who have provided Christian literature for the body of Jesus Christ on the subject of spiritual gifts. Yet with all the literature available, how many of us can speak with confidence and authority on the subject? As you read, you will find varied teachings on these gifts. These variations include their number, their operation within the body of Christ, and even their definitions.

If we read any two of these authors and they vary in their teaching on the gifts, how can we know which interpretation is correct?

O Beloved, we will never be sure of what is true until we know truth for ourselves. God’s Word is truth. Jesus’ prayer was, “Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth” (John 17:17).

Our approach to this subject of spiritual gifts will be to search out what the Word of God says; then we will compare what we have seen with the insights of other men of God. Having searched out truth for ourselves, we will be better qualified to evaluate what we read or hear from others; and above all, we will be able to walk in the light we have received from the Spirit of God through the truth of God’s Word.

So, let us begin . . . with the Word. Observation is the key that unlocks the door to correct interpretation of Scripture. Be diligent this week to lay a strong foundation through observation of these passages on spiritual gifts. It will make all the difference to a biblical understanding of the gifts.

### TAKING IT IN

1. Always begin your study with prayer asking God to reveal truth to you so you can live in a way that pleases Him.
2. We’ll begin our study with one of the New Testament passages about spiritual gifts. But first, a little setting for the passage. Peter was one of the twelve apostles chosen by the Lord Jesus Christ to be with Him during His earthly ministry. Peter wrote two letters that are part of the Bible. We’re going to observe part of his first letter to believers.

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- a. In the Appendix you'll find a 1 Peter 4:10-11 Observation Worksheet. Read it and mark *gift* with a box. Also mark *God*. On the back of your workbook you'll find a Key Word Bookmark with suggestions for marking words used frequently in the Bible. The suggested marking for *God* is listed there.
- b. Now let's answer some key questions.
- 1) Who receives the gifts?
  - 2) How are they to be exercised?
  - 3) What are the two categories of gifts?
  - 4) What instructions does Peter give concerning the gifts?
  - 5) Why are the gifts given?
- c. There is a chart in the Appendix entitled "General Information About Spiritual Gifts" that we'll use for each of the passages we study. So when you finish this course, you'll have a page with all of this information about gifts.

Fill in what you observe about gifts under the appropriate heading on the chart. Don't be concerned if there is not something for each header.

- d. The Greek word translated “gift” in verse 10 is *charisma* meaning “gift of grace”<sup>1</sup>; “a (spiritual) *endowment*.”<sup>2</sup>
3. Now our focus will be on another passage about spiritual gifts, Ephesians 4:1-16.

Ephesians 4 begins a new segment in this letter. In the first three chapters of Ephesians Paul explains what believers have in Christ—in essence, the spiritual wealth of a Christian. In Ephesians 4–6 he then discusses the walk of the Christian, our walk in light of our wealth. If you observe Ephesians 4–6, you will see that *walk* is a key repeated word in this segment of the book.

Ephesians 4:1-16 is printed in the Appendix as an Observation Worksheet.

- a. Using this worksheet, read these verses and do the following:
  - 1) Mark *love*.\*
  - 2) Mark *Spirit*.\*
  - 3) Draw a stick figure over the word *body* and its pronoun.

\*Words with suggested markings on the Key Word Bookmark are noted with an asterisk [\*].
- b. Read the worksheet again and mark the following words:
  - 1) Put a large 1 over the words *one* and *unity*.
  - 2) Mark *grace*.\*
  - 3) Put a box around *gift*, *gifts*.
- c. Now read this text one more time and number on your Observation Worksheet the gifts or gifted men listed in verse 11.
- d. Note how Paul integrated spiritual gifts with this context. How does his teaching on gifts relate to what he said at the beginning of the chapter?

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<sup>1</sup>Timothy Friberg, Barbara Friberg and Neva F. Miller, *Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament*, Baker’s Greek New Testament Library (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 2000), p. 407.

<sup>2</sup>James Strong, *The New Strong’s Dictionary of Hebrew and Greek Words* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1996), G5486.

- e. According to this passage:
- 1) Who gives the gifts?
  - 2) When were gifts first given?
  - 3) Who receives the gifts?
  - 4) What is the purpose of these gifts?
4. According to 1 Peter 4:11:
- a. Which category of gifts do the ones in Ephesians 4:11 fit into?
  - b. What or how are the speakers to speak?
5. Next let's add to the chart "General Information About Spiritual Gifts." Draw a line under the information you wrote from 1 Peter 4:10-11. Below the line add to the chart from Ephesians 4:1-16.
6. Now we begin a second chart to help us understand spiritual gifts better. This chart titled "Spiritual Gifts as Listed in Scripture" is also in the Appendix. Simply list the gifts you've identified in the column for Ephesians 4:11. This might not seem beneficial at this point, but it will as we continue our study.
7. The Greek word translated "gifts" in Ephesians 4:8 is a different word from 1 Peter 4:10. "Gifts," verse 8, is *doma*, "gift, present"<sup>3</sup>; "lends greater stress to the concrete character of the 'gift,' than to its beneficent nature."<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup>James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages With Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).

<sup>4</sup>W.E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger and William White, *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1996), 2:264.



8. As we look at verse 11, we'll see men who have various spiritual gifts, which we'll study.

The first gift or gifted men is "apostle," *apostolos*, "a messenger"<sup>5</sup>; "one who is sent on a mission with full authority."<sup>6</sup>

So let's look at some cross-references about apostles. Read the following and note what you learn about this gift. Who had the gift, and what did they do with it? How did they use it?

a. Acts 13:1-5 and 14:14-15

b. Romans 16:7

c. 1 Thessalonians 1:1; 2:1-6

9. We're going to study prophets and prophecy in the next lessons, but let's look at a definition now. "Prophet," *prophetes*, is "a proclaimer of God's utterances"<sup>7</sup>; "one with a special gift and calling to proclaim the divine message."<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>5</sup>Robert L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries: Updated Edition* (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998, 1981), G652.

<sup>6</sup>Timothy Friberg, Barbara Friberg and Neva F. Miller, *Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament*, Baker's Greek New Testament Library (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 2000), p. 71.

<sup>7</sup>James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages With Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).

<sup>8</sup>Timothy Friberg, Barbara Friberg and Neva F. Miller, *Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament*, Baker's Greek New Testament Library (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 2000), p. 337.

10. Now we'll move on to "evangelist." "Evangelist" is *euaggelistes*, "a bringer of good news"<sup>9</sup>; "proclaimer of the gospel."<sup>10</sup>

Read the cross-references and note what is said about this gift. Who had the gift, and what did he do?

a. Acts 8:5, 12, 40

b. Acts 21:8

c. 2 Timothy 4:5 (Paul wrote this to Timothy.)

11. Our last gift to look at today is "pastor." "Pastor," *poimen*, is "Shepherd," *poimen*, is "a shepherd, one who tends herds or flocks . . . Pastors' guide as well as feed the flock."<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>9</sup>Robert L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries: Updated Edition* (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998), G2099.

<sup>10</sup>James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).

<sup>11</sup>W. E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger and William White, *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* (Nashville: T. Nelson, 1996), p. 462.

- a. Look at how this gift is listed compared to the others in Ephesians 4:11. Some think that this gift is the combination of pastor and teacher, but others think they are two separate gifts. What do you think?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b. Now read these cross-references to see what they say about pastors—shepherds—and note what you learn. (We’ll study “teacher “more later.)
  - 1) Acts 20:17-28
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - 2) 1 Peter 5:1-4

LIVING  
IT OUT

1. What do you learn from 1 Peter 4:10-11 that applies to you?
  - a. In evaluating your spiritual gift(s), are you drawn more to minister by speaking or serving in the Church?

- b. How are you serving other believers?
  
  
  
- c. Are you being a good steward of God’s grace by using your gift(s)?
  
  
  
- d. According to this passage, what will be the result of speaking from God’s Word?
  
  
  
- e. What effect will serving according to God’s strength have on “burnout”?
  
  
  
  
  
- 2. How might the spiritual gifts in Ephesians 4:11 be exercised today?
  - a. What did you learn that apostles do, and how do you see that happening now?
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. What do evangelists do? Who are they drawn to—believers or unbelievers? How do you see this gift working today?

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- c. How do you see your pastor working? How can you better support him?
3. Do you think you have any of the speaking gifts listed in Ephesians 4? Why? A couple of questions you might ask in evaluating which spiritual gifts you have are:
- a. Are you drawn to a particular gift?
  - b. As you serve the body, do other believers recognize a particular spiritual gift in you and comment to you about it?

*“As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another...” (1 Peter 4:10). “And He gave some as...until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:11, 13).*

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***Spiritual Gifts***

*Lesson 1, 1 Peter 4:10-11 and Ephesians 4:1-16*

## 1 PETER 4:10-11

### Observation Worksheet

- 10 As each one has received a *special* gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.
- 11 Whoever speaks, *is to do so* as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves *is to do so* as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.





EPHESIANS 4:1-16  
Observation Worksheet

- THEREFORE I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,
- 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love,
  - 3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
  - 4 *There is* one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling;
  - 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
  - 6 one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.
  - 7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.
  - 8 Therefore it says,  
    "WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH,  
    HE LED CAPTIVE A HOST OF CAPTIVES,  
    AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN."
  - 9 (Now this *expression*, "He ascended," what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth?
  - 10 He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.)
  - 11 And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers,
  - 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

- 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.
- 14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;
- 15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ,
- 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Ref.	Who gives	Who receives	What	How employ/use	Results	When given	When received



SPIRITUAL GIFTS AS LISTED IN SCRIPTURE

<p><b>Ephesians 4:11</b></p>	<p><b>Romans 12:6-8</b></p>	<p><b>1 Corinthians 12:8-10</b></p>	<p><b>1 Corinthians 12:28-30</b></p>

