

Discover Your Giftedness
Series of Articles by Dr. Mels Carbonell #7
Paul admonishes members of the early church to be aware of . . .

The following is part of a series of articles to help you Discover Your Giftedness in Christ. The first portion is just an introduction to this article. The rest of the article can be read on the internet.

Identifying our spiritual giftedness is key to understanding our function in the church. The Lord desires to bless and benefit us by using our giftedness for His glory, but He wants us to learn how to do this within the context of a body of believers. Therefore, as we learn how to identify and use our spiritual gifts, we will begin to enjoy the life God has given us. We also will enjoy being with others and working alongside one another for God's glory.

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Paul admonishes members of the early church to be aware of the grace and the spiritual gifts God has given: “For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another (Romans 12:4-8). Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.”

Scripture confirms that God gave gifts to Christians, and He gave gifted Christians to the church. “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers” (Ephesians 4:11).

God gifted all Christians “for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:12-13). Every child of God possesses at least one spiritual gift with which to serve the Lord and His church better.

There are many gifts listed in the Bible. We're going to concentrate on 23 of them. This is not to conclude that the other gifts are not important. The aim of this article is to help you discover your giftedness in a practical and functional way.

Some of the many gifts in Scripture are similar—such as the gifts of helps, hospitality, and serving. They are described in similar terms. The gift of ruling, administration, and leadership are also similar. They may be described in a similar way, but some lists point out the difference between the gift of administration and ruling and the gift of leadership. We'll take a look at each of these.

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