

General Principles Concerning The Gifts

Matt. 7:7-11

A biblical examination of the “gifts” unveils the heart of a Father desirous of bestowing specialized, personalized gifts or graces upon His own. A careful examination will also unveil that while these gifts/graces are free, they are not cheap nor are they toys to be played with but rather tools for the service of leaders and believers in their goal of glorifying God and building up the body of Christ (I Cor. 12:7, 14:12, Rom. 1:11).

Every Born Again, Heaven-Bound Believer Is Charismatic! - Rom. 6:23

This verse states graphically the contrasting rewards for serving sin or serving God. All men, sinner or saved, is destined to receive wages (gr. opsonion = provision or pay for soldiers).

Gift in the KJV is changed to “free gift” in revised versions. The word “gift” here is charisma, from charis meaning “grace.” The definition then means something graciously and freely given as a gift. Salvation and its accompanying gift of eternal life are thus described as God’s first and foremost charismatic gift/grace to any believer thus every born again believer can be biblically, spiritually and relationally defined as “charismatic.”

The Gospels - Mk. 16:17-20

Beyond salvation and the gift of eternal life, the primary reference to spiritual gifts in the gospels is set forth in Mark 16:17-20. However, the term “gifts” is not used in this passage, rather, these manifestations are called “signs” (gr. Semeia = sign, miracle, token or wonder).

The Gifts and The New Testament

The stated biblical purposes for which we study and desire spiritual gifts include the following admonishments.

- I Cor. 12:1 “Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant.”
- I Cor. 12:7 “But the manifestations of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all.”
- I Cor. 14:1 “Pursue love and desire spiritual gifts.”
- I Cor. 14:12 “Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel.”
- I Cor. 12:31 “But earnestly desire the best gifts.”
- I Cor. 14:40 “Let all things be done decently and in order.”
- Rom. 1:11 “For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established.”
- Rom. 12:6 “Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them.”
- II Tim. 1:6 “Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.”

Greek Words Related to Spiritual Gifts

1. Charismata - used to describe all spiritual gifts/grace. - I Cor. 12:4, I Cor. 12:31, Rom. 12:6, I Pet. 4:10
2. Domata - used to describe the leadership/ministry gifts of Ephesians 4:8 and Ephesians 4:11 designed to equip the saints.
3. Dorea - normal Greek term for gifts. - Acts 2:38, Acts 10:45, Eph. 3:7, Eph. 4:7
4. Phanerosis - to lay bare, unveil shine forth, reveal, manifest. - I Cor. 12:8-10
5. Pneumatica - the spirituals. - I Cor. 12:1
6. Diakoniai - the administration, to minister. - I Cor. 12:5
7. Energemata - the operations. - I Cor. 12:6