

Natural Talents, Fruits & Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Natural Talents:

Every human being, by virtue of being made in the image of God, possesses certain natural talents. As with spiritual gifts, the natural talents have different variations and degrees.

Having natural gifts has nothing directly to do with being a Christian or being a member of the Body of Christ. Many unsaved persons possess superb talents in one thing or another. Thus, they can be said to have natural talents but they do not have spiritual gifts of the Holy Spirit because those are reserved and given to Believers only.

Believers, like anyone else, also have natural talents. But they should not be confused with their spiritual giftings. It is technically incorrect for Believers to say their gifting is fixing cars, gourmet cooking, telling jokes, painting pictures or playing basketball. Spiritual gifts are not to be regarded as dedicated natural talents.

Natural talents and spiritual gifts however have discernible relationship, because, in many cases God utilizes both to accomplish His will through the Believer. But in such cases the spiritual gift is more than just a souped-up natural talent. Because it is God given, a spiritual gift can never be cloned.

Consider, for example, the natural talent of teaching. There is a significant segment of the population that are teachers by profession. But, as most of us would commonly know, not every well-trained, college degreed and competent public teacher is likewise as effective in spiritual instruction. Why? In some cases it could be that God did not choose to transform the talent of teaching into the gift of teaching. But in other cases He does that very thing.

Fruit of the Spirit: (Gal.5:22-23)

The fruit of the Spirit is the normal, expected outcome of Christian growth, maturity, holiness, Christlikeness and the fullness of the Holy spirit.

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Apostolic Strategies

Because all Believers have the responsibility of growing in the their faith, all have the responsibility of developing the fruit of the spirit. Fruit is not discovered as are the gifts, it is developed through the believer’s walk with God and through yieldedness to the Holy Spirit. While spiritual gifts help define what a Believer does, the fruit of the Spirit helps define what a Believer is.

The fruit of the Spirit is the indispensable foundation for the exercise of spiritual gifts. Gifts without fruit are worthless. The church at Corinth serves as an example of this (ICor.1:7; ICor.13:1-3)
Gifts without fruit are like a tire without air.

Gifts of the Holy Spirit:

The great majority of the spiritual gifts mentioned in the Bible are found in three key chapters: Romans 12, I Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4. Several secondary chapters provide other import details. They include mainly 1 Corinthians 7, 13-14, Ephesians 3 and 1 Peter 4.

Romans 12:

1. Prophecy (preaching, inspired utterance)
2. Service (ministry)
3. Teaching
4. Exhortation (stimulating faith, encouraging)
5. Giving (contributing, generosity, sharing)
6. Leadership (authority, ruling, administration)
7. Mercy (sympathy, comfort to the sorrowing, kindness).

I Corinthians 12

8. Wisdom (wise advise, wise speech)
9. Knowledge (studying, speaking with knowledge)
10. Faith
11. Healing
12. Miracles (doing great deeds)
13. Discerning of Spirits
14. Tongues (speaking in languages never learned)
15. Interpretation of Tongues
16. Helps
17. Administration

Ephesians 4: (Ascension Gifts)

18. Apostles
19. Prophets
20. Evangelists
21. Pastors
22. Teachers

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Apostolic Strategies

Spiritual Gift Functions:

Prophecy: The gift of prophecy is the special ability that God gives certain members of the Body of Christ to receive and communicate an immediate message from God to His People through a divinely anointed utterance.

Service: The gift of service is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to identify the unmet needs involved in task related to God's work, and to make use of available resources to meet those needs and help accomplish the desired goals.

Teaching: The gift of teaching is the special ability that God has given to certain members of the Body to communicate information and knowledge that relevant to the health and maturation of the Body through the process of learning.

Exhortation: The gift of exhortation is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body to minister words of comfort, consolation, encouragement and to counsel other members in such a way that they felt helped and healed.

Giving: The gift of giving is the special ability that God gives certain members of the Body to contribute their resources to the work of the Lord with liberality and cheerfulness.

Leadership: ...to set goals in accordance with God's purpose for the future and to communicate these goals to others in such a way that they voluntarily and harmoniously work together to accomplish those goals for the glory of God.

Mercy: ...to feel genuine empathy and compassion for individuals, both for Christians and non-Christians alike, who suffer distressing physical, mental or emotional problems, and to translate that compassion into cheerfully done deeds that reflect Christ's love and alleviate the suffering.

Wisdom...the know the mind of the Holy spirit in such a way to receive insight into how given knowledge may best be applied to specific needs arising in the Body of Christ.

Knowledge: to discover, accumulate, analyze and clarify information and ideas that are pertinent to the growth and well-being of the Body.

Faith: ...to discern with extraordinary confidence to act upon, the will and purposes of God.

**Definition for
Activation:**

“An exercise to challenge God's people to receive the truth and manifest the grace to do what the Bible says they can do. A means of arousing, triggering, stirring, and releasing God's ability within the Saints. Gifts are given by the Holy Spirit but activated within an individual until he or she believes in the heart and confesses the Lord Jesus with the mouth”
(Bill Hamon).

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1. Noteworthy of the Apostle, is his inordinate understanding of leadership and government. With crystal clear insight, they are able to peer through organization and operational muddle to swiftly identify problems and their root cause. Aptly, they sum up needs and uncover solutions to help put wandering institutions back on God's tract.
 2. Apostles are missions and outreach minded and, have global emphases to their work. Also, realizing that theirs is a work of duration, their efforts center on the here and now and, the hereafter.
 3. God's good pleasure is the chief motivation of their service. Apostles, undoubtedly, have gone through painful separation processes before being trusted with their missions. The dis-entanglements are strenuous and taxing in their inner self. Most are bruised inside from the events that led to, and culminated in, their call. Alienation and isolation from the masses propels them to the comfort and friendship of the Lord. Upon finding his place, and space in the Godhead, he soon recovers to make Christ his all in all, and centralizes Him as the chief reason for his being in ministry.
 4. Apostles, for all reasons mentioned above, possess a deep affection for the Lord. It ends up being the single impetus behind their slavish devotion to Him and their work. The apostolic anointing will have, as a result, exceptional experiences with the Lord outside of duty demands and ministry requirements. A genuine flame of friendship and camaraderie and fellowship exists between the two.
 10. Authority is the main feature of credibility for the office. It is the convincing factor that announces this is not your every day run of the mill preacher. Apostles command respect, and capture the attention of even the most indifferent observer with their skillful articulation of the word of the Lord. Their revelations are stirring and tend to overwhelm those who hear them for a varied of reasons.
 11. The nature of the office is judicial, not judgmental as many would like to contend, executive and administrative. Apostles are more than dual strata officers, they are multi-strata. The divine mandate equips them for spiritual, eternal, supernatural and demonic encounters.

* Information taken from the Fivefold Ministry Offices manual authored by Paula A Price*