

RELEASING THE GIFTS



What is a spiritual gift?

a supernatural working of the Holy Spirit
through a believer
to accomplish God's kingdom purpose,
resulting in the building up of the body of Christ

apostle

evangelist

leading

tongues

prophet

showing
mercy

interpretation
of tongues

teacher

pastor

word of
knowledge

prophecy

encouraging

word of
wisdom

helping

administrating

faith

serving

gifts of
healings

discerning
of spirits

giving

miracles

Spiritual gifts are a critical part of God's strategy for building up his church.

God wants every believer to be a conduit through which his gifts can flow to others.

Each believer doing their part is how "the body grows and builds itself up in love."

We are actually commanded in Scripture to "earnestly desire" spiritual gifts.

Love for God and others is to be the primary motivation for this desire for the gifts.

We cannot produce spiritual gifts but we can be responsive to the Holy Spirit who does.

What empowers the effective release and functioning of spiritual gifts?

*a church culture that
highly values spiritual gifts,
values character even more,
and embraces the honesty,
tension, experimentation and
messiness necessary to enable
believers to mature in both*

Romans 12:3 ESV/SWT

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you
not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think,
but to think with sober judgment,
each according to the measure of conviction that God has assigned.

literally,
bitter zeal

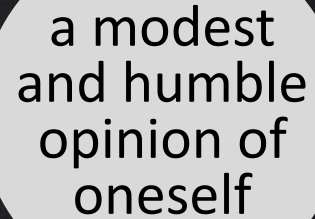
a desire to
put one's
self forward

James 3:14-16 ESV

But if you have **bitter jealousy** and **selfish ambition** in your hearts,
do not boast and be false to the truth.

¹⁵ This is not the wisdom that comes down from above,
but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.

¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist,
there will be disorder and every vile practice.



a modest
and humble
opinion of
oneself

1 Peter 5:5b-8 ESV

Clothe yourselves, all of you, with **humility** toward one another,
for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

Do nothing from
selfish ambition or
conceit, but in **humility**
count others more
significant than
yourselves.

Philippians 2:3 ESV

1 Peter 5:5b-8 ESV

Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another,
for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God
so that at the proper time he may exalt you,
⁷ casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

And I will show
you a still more
excellent way.
1 Corinthians 12:31b

Pursue love,
and earnestly
desire the
spiritual gifts....
1 Corinthians 14:1

1 Corinthians 13:4-6 NIV

Love is patient, love is kind.

It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking,
it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.