

THE GIFTS IN ROMANS 12

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Our Service With Respect to Gifts—Romans 12:3-8

A. Pauline passages which mention lists of gifts/gifted men—Ro 12:3-8; 1Co 12:7-10, 28-31; Eph 4:11

Gift	Passages	Character
prophecy (comp. prophet)	Ro 12:6; 1Co 12:10	supernatural (1Co 13:8-13)
ministry (diakonia) (comp. deacon)	Ro 12:7	natural
teaching	Ro 12:7	natural
exhorting	Ro 12:8	natural
giving	Ro 12:8	natural
ruling (comp. overseer)	Ro 12:8; 1Co 12:28	natural
showing kindness (eleao)	Ro 12:8; 1Co 12:28 (helps)	natural
Spirit-wisdom	1Co 12:8	supernatural (1Co 13:8-13)
Spirit-knowledge	1Co 12:8	supernatural (1Co 13:8-13)
faith	1Co 12:9	supernatural (1Co 13:8-13)
healing	1Co 12:9, 28, 29	supernatural (1Co 13:8-13)
working of miracles	1Co 12:10, 28, 29	supernatural (1Co 13:8-13)
discerning of spirits	1Co 12:10	supernatural (1Co 13:8-13)
kinds of tongues	1Co 12:10, 28, 29	supernatural (1Co 13:8-13)
interpretation of tongues	1Co 12:10, 29	supernatural (1Co 13:8-13)
apostles	1Co 12:28; Eph 4:11	supernatural
prophets	1Co 12:28; Eph 4:11	supernatural
teachers (teaching-pastors)	1Co 12:28; Eph 4:11	natural
evangelists	Eph 4:11	natural

B. The Miraculous/Sign Gifts (an overview)

1. Passages—1Co 12:1-12; Mk 16:16-20; At 2; 3:11; 4:14,16
 - a. Mk 16:9-20 is not in the better manuscripts and is likely not scripture.
2. Significance of the sign gifts
 - a. Promised to Israel—Isa 35:5,6; 1Co 1:22; Mt 8:16-17
 - b. Christ, a minister of the Jew—Ro 15:8; Mt 12:26-28; 10:5-
3. Sign gifts withdrawn
 - a. The more excellent way—1 Co 12:31; 13:8
 - b. Signs were needed at first for the Jew—1Co 1:22
 - c. NOW
 - i. No promise of physical blessings but every spiritual blessing—Eph 1:3
 - ii. James' prescription—Ja 5:14-16
 - iii. Sick people Paul could not or did not heal—2Co 12:7-10; 5:2; 4:16; Ph 2:25-27; 2Ti 4:20; 1Ti 5:23
4. Signs and spirituality
 - a. The Corinthian church
 - i. Was not a spiritual church—1Co 3:1-3; 5:1; 6:7, 8; 9:11-14
 - ii. The had the gifts in abundance—1Co 1:7; 12:8-11; 14:12, 18, 26
 - b. Paul
 - i. Was an apostle and under inspiration when he wrote 2Co 12:7-10
 - ii. Was told NO. God gave a reason which might be a reason in any person's life

C. The Holy Spirit and His miraculous gifts to men

1. In the NT, often 'pneuma hagion' without the article is a reference to gift(s) of the Spirit
 - a. Note: At 1:4 compared with Luke 24:49 where 'holy spirit' (no article) is the same thing as 'power from on high'
 - b. With the article or sometimes after a preposition, it is the person of the Holy Spirit. Otherwise, it is usually his gifts. That is, it is the Spirit manifestly, not the Spirit personally.
 - i. They were filled with the Spirit in the sense that they were empowered.
 - ii. His power came upon or left
 - c. Various gifts-'power', 'tongues', etc.—(see 1Co 12:7-11) e.g. At 2:4; Mt 1:18, 20; 3:11; Mk 1:8; At 4:8; 6:3, 5; 8:15, 17, 19; 10:38; 11:16; Jn 20:22, 23; At 10:45

- d. Even certain gifts that are not miraculous (physically)—e.g. Ro 5:5; 9:1; 14:17; 1Co 6:19; 12:3; Tit 3:5
- 2. In the O.T., the Hebrew word(s) often used of gifts
 - a. Expressions—coming on (upon), clothing, falling on, poured out
 - b. Examples: Ex 28:3; 31:3; Nu 11:17,25,26,29; Ju 3:10; 6:34; 1Sm 10:6; 11:6; 16:13,14; 19:20,23; Joel 2:28-29
- 3. In this sense only did the Spirit ever leave mean such as Saul
 - a. Saul had gifts—1Sm 10:6,10 (? in v. 9 the new birth or another figure for gifts. Note: Baalim, Judas, Mt 7:23 had gifts but was lost.)
 - b. Spirit left—1Sm 16:13,14
 - c. Saul unable to get (supernatural) spiritual wisdom—1Sm 28:5,6
 - d. Saul consults a witch—1Sm 28:7-12
- 4. This work not done NOW—1Co 13:8-13
 - a. Examples
 - i. Languages (we will have this in heaven)
 - ii. Healing—2Ti 4:20; 1Ti 5:23; 2Co 12:7-10
 - b. We groan—2Co 4:16-17; Ro 8:22-23; 2Co 12:7-10
 - c. Note: 1Co 13:8-13; Col 1:25
 - d. Present Pentecostal movement is not of God
 - e. Actual miracles could be
 - i. deception (some have been shown to be—light in eyes)
 - ii. natural
 - iii. demonic (witch doctors do have success)
 - f. Paul's Prayer for healing: proof that the sign gifts were passing—2Co 12:7-10
 - i. Israel called out—Gen 11:1-9 comp Ro 1:20-32
 - 1. Land—Gen 15:18-21
 - 2. Physical Blessings—Gen 28:1-13
 - ii. Signs for Israel
 - 1. Promise of health—Dt 7:15; Ex 15:26; 23:25
 - 1. Conditioned on obedience
 - 2. not to Gentiles—Dt 7:15 comp 4:8; 5:3
 - 3. perfect health when brought out of Egypt—Ps 105:37
 - 2. The earthly kingdom—Mt 3:2
 - 1. people will be righteous—Isa 60:21 (therefore healthy)
 - 2. see also Dan 2:44; Zech 14:16, etc.
 - 3. Explains the twofold meaning of Isa 53:6
 - 1. spiritual—1Pt 2:24
 - 2. physical—Mt 8:17
 - 4. note: Isa 1:1; Mt 15:24; Gal 2:9 comp 7
 - 3. Christ's earthly ministry—Mt 4:17, 23
 - 1. To Israel—Ro 15:8; Gal 4:4,5; Mt 15:24; 10:5-6
 - 2. Attested by miracles—Mt 11:2-5 quotes Isa 35:5-6; At 2:22
 - 4. The book of Acts—Lk 23:34; At 3:17
 - 1. Wait for the power=spirit—Lk 24:44 comp At:5-8
 - 2. Pentecost (≠ Eph 1:3; 3:1-9)
 - 1. Jews—At 2:22, 36
 - 2. Signs—At 2:11 comp Isa 32:15; Ezk 39:28, 29. [Mk 16:15-18]
 - 3. Joel's prophecy—At 2:16-21 comp Joel 2:28-32
 - 4. Consummation of ages—Heb 9:26
 - 5. At 3:19-21
 - 6. Heb 2:3-4; At 5:12,31,32
 - iii. The Gifts Withdrawn—1Co 10:11 (ends of ages)
 - 1. Israel's Judicial Blindness
 - 1. When were they broken off?—beginning of Paul's Body ministry (At 13)
 - 1. not Acts 2 (see above)
 - 2. It is (revealed) in Acts 13 (see outline on Romans 11)—Gal 2:7-9
 - 1. The Unpardonable Sin—Matt 12:31; Mk 3:28,29; Lk 12:10 comp Ro 5:20

2. At 7:51—resisting the Holy Spirit, not blaspheming the Holy Spirit (as your fathers did) comp. At 13:45—blaspheme
 3. At 7:60 (Ja 5:16) comp 1Jn 5:16 pray for sin
 4. Slander (Gk—blasphemos) requires three parties—accused (slandered), accuser (slanderer), The one to whom the accusation is made
 5. Acts 13 is the first reference in Acts to such events—At 13:6-12, 44-46
 6. God's wrath on Israel after they had rejected Paul—1Th 2:14-16
 7. Verb tense—At 13:46—present comp. At 28:28—perfect
 8. Blinding of Israel—Ro 11:25 comp. At 13:6-12
2. Formally told—(cursed not blessed)—At 28:25-
 1. There were gifts before Acts 28—Gal 3:5; 1Th 5:19,20; 1Co 1:7; Ro 15:19; 1Co 12-14
 2. 1Co 13:8-12; 1Co 1:7 ('revelation' or 'apokalupsis' in Ro 16:25; 2:5; 1Co 14:6,26; 2Co 12:1,7; Gal 1:1; 2:2 is TRUTH not APPEARANCE)
 1. Full revelation of today's truth—Col 1:25
 2. Full cessation of kingdom offer to Israel—At 18:25
 3. No miraculous gifts after Acts 28 (except prophecy which was needed until the scriptures were completed)—1Ti 5:23; 2Ti 4:20; Phil 2:25-27
 1. Yet, during this period, Paul could say that the Spirit was mighty in Paul—Col 1:29 and contrast this with Acts 19:11,12. Paul was still receiving revelation since the scriptures weren't fully written.
 3. Why Gentiles occasionally had gifts
 1. Cornelius in kingdom, not in the body—At 10:44-48
 2. Corinthian church was next to synagogue—At 18:7. They were very carnal but had the gifts anyway.
 3. During this period, God was provoking Israel to jealousy—Ro 11:11
 4. Sign to unbelieving (Jew)—1Co 14:21,22; 1Co 1:22 compare Isa 28:11
5. Addendum on 1Co 13:10-12
 - a. Prophecy, knowledge, and tongues (ability to understand and/or speak in another language without benefit of study) do not cease at the time of the rapture.
 - b. These three gifts are representative of the entire list in 1Co 12
 - c. Face to face as opposed to seeing poorly in a mirror is a perfection of knowledge—Col 1:25-28. In a mirror we see ourselves. In the full revelation of the mystery, we see ourselves in the plan of God and we see that perfectly.
 - d. No healing after At 28
 - e. NOW—1Co 13:13 comp. 1Co 12:31
 - f. At 28:25—'departed' is from 'apeluonto'
 - i. This is the third person, plural, imperfect, passive
 - ii. Nestle-Marshall interlinear has, "They were dismissed."
 - g. Although Israel was set aside in At 13, God still gave Israel opportunity. After Acts 28, there was no more opportunity. Of course, in the light of the doctrine of God's sovereignty, Israel could not have repented nationally without the enabling of God.
- D. The text of Ro 12:3-8
1. Introduction—12:3-6a
 - a. Paul an apostle—"I say through the grace given to me"—no other apostle so thoroughly documents his unique calling and apostleship.
 - i. Paul not one of the 12—1Co 15:5-8
 - ii. Paul called apart from the 12—Gal 1:1-2, 11-12
 - iii. The TWELVE
 1. Are Israel's judges—(comp.-Isa 32:1); Mt 16:18-19; 18:18-20; 19:28; 21:43; Lk 22:27-30; Jn 20:23; At 5:1-11; 8:20-24
 2. Are Israel's chief priests—(above); Lk 24:53; Jn 21:15-17; At 1:26 (comp. 1Sm 23:9 etal.); 2:46
 3. Are the foundation of Israel—Rev 21:14
 4. Ministry to Jews and Gentiles according to OT—At 15:13-17; Amos 9:10-12
 - iv. Paul

1. Body Apostles—Paul—Ro 11:13; Gal 1:1; Sosthenes—1 Co 1:1; 4:9; Epaphroditus—Php 2:25; Silvanus—1Th 1:1; 2:6; Timothy—1Th 1:1; 2:6; Titus & 'our brethren'—2Co 8:23
2. Mystery to these not the 12—1Co 2:7,12-16 and 4:9,1,2; Eph 3:5 cp. Gal 2:1-9; 1Co 3:10-15; 9:16,17
3. Following Paul—Ro 16:25; Gal 1:11,12; 2:2-9; Eph 3:1-4,8-9; Col 1:25-26; 2:1-3; 1Ti 2:4-7; 2Ti 1:9-11; 2:7,8
4. my gospel, our gospel
- v. Paul magnifies his office—Ro 11:13
 1. So should we!!!
 2. Only Paul's epistles are for the Body of Christ— Ro 16:25; Gal 1:11,12; 2:2-9; Eph 3:1-4,8-9; Col 1:25-26; 2:1-3; 1Ti 2:4-7; 2Ti 1:9-11; 2:7,8
 3. What about you?—Paul says more about his apostleship than any other apostle says about that apostle's position—yet people ignore what Paul has to say!
- b. To understand where you fit in the service of God (compare with 'understanding where Paul fits into the service of God')—12:3-6a
 - i. A proper assessment of your gifts in the service of God—3
 1. 'huperphroneo'—(Englishman's—only here) (Arndt-Gingrich) "*think too highly of oneself, be haughty*"
 2. 'sophroneo'—(Englishman's—6 times) (Arndt-Gingrich) "*be of sound mind*": 1. (of mental health)— "*to be in one's right mind*" (Mk 5:15; Lk 8:35; 2Co 13:5), 2. "*be reasonable, sensible, serious, keep one's head.*" (the meaning they give here, 1Pt 4:7; Tit 2:6).
 3. God has divided a measure of faith to each one
 1. 'divided' or 'dealt'—1Co 7:17; 2Co 10:13
 2. 'faith'—similar construction to Ep 4:7 (context similar—Ep 4:11).
 1. In Ep it is 'grace'. Frankly, 'grace' is easier to explain in this type of context than 'faith'. In Ro 12:6, it is also 'grace'.
 2. Up to this point in Romans, 'faith' always that which leads to justification.
 3. Here, it is clear, that this justification has also service as a consequence.
 4. Assess your gifts appropriately—comp. aptitude tests given in the secular world—the burden of the assessment falls on you, not on the elders in the assembly. They must approve your service however.
 5. Compare even with Phil 2:5-8 (the subject there is not gifts.)
 - ii. All believers are not created equal—Ro 12:4-5
 1. All members of one body—equality of position and eternal blessing—Ep 3:6
 1. This is the cardinal teaching of the nature of the body of Christ—1Co 10:17; Ep 1:23; 4:4-16
 2. These things require no personal assessment other than the conviction that we are called of God—2Co 13:5
 3. We rejoice in these things and should.
 2. All do not have the same office (or gifts)—comp. 1Co 12:12-31 where the point of differing members leads to a mention of gifts (most there are supernatural).
 1. Paul magnifies his unique office in the service of the body of Christ—Ro 11:13
 2. These matters require a personal assessment.
 3. We should then take our place(s) in the service of God—Comp 1Ti 3:1-
 4. Where do you fit?
 5. Are you really assessing this?
 6. In the Plymouth Brethren, each adult man aspired to eldership (1Ti 3:1-).
 1. Do each of you men aspire to teaching the Word?
 2. Why not?
 3. If you know, you should give?
 7. If you have time, you can help in various ways
 1. Bible Treasures
 2. ads
 3. letter writing
 8. If you have any money, you can give more than normal.
 9. Each should be looking for opportunities to serve

- iii. Having then gifts—Ro 12:6a
 - 1. Differing
 - 2. According to ‘grace’ given
 - iv. Addendum on service
 - 1. Resolve—1Co 16:13
 - 1. Be on your guard
 - 2. Stand firm in the faith
 - 3. Be men of courage
 - 4. Be strong
 - 2. Sacrifice & Commitment
 - 1. Where are your loyalties?
 - 2. Where is your commitment?
 - 3. What if this were your last month on earth?
2. The Gifts we have and those we don't have—12:6b-8
- a. We don't have the supernatural gifts.
 - i. prophecy** (comp. prophet)—Ro 12:6; 1Co 12:10
 - ii. Spirit-wisdom—1Co 12:8
 - iii. Spirit-knowledge—1Co 12:8
 - iv. faith—1Co 12:9
 - v. healing—1Co 12:9, 28, 29
 - vi. working of miracles—1Co 12:10, 28, 29
 - vii. discerning of spirits—1Co 12:10
 - viii. kinds of tongues—1Co 12:10, 28, 29
 - ix. interpretation of tongues—1Co 12:10, 29
 - x. apostles—1Co 12:28; Eph 4:11
 - xi. prophets—1Co 12:28; Eph 4:11
 - b. We do have the natural gifts.
 - i. ministry** (diakonia) (comp. deacon)—Ro 12:7
 - ii. teaching**—Ro 12:7
 - iii. exhorting**—Ro 12:8
 - iv. giving**—Ro 12:8
 - v. ruling** (comp. overseer)—Ro 12:8; 1Co 12:28
 - vi. showing kindness** (eleao)—Ro 12:8, 1Co 12:28 (helps)
 - vii. teachers (teaching-pastors)—1Co 12:28; Eph 4:11
 - viii. evangelists—Eph 4:11