



## Spiritual Gifts

# Are All Spiritual Gifts for Today?

### PREFACE

Thank you for taking the time to read this instruction, I pray that the Ruach Ha'Kodesh (Holy Spirit) is present with you as you read and check with you own Bible the validity of its contents. The contents of this instruction are based entirely on God's word the Bible, to challenge your current beliefs in the spirit of love that Yeshua spoke of in John 13:35.

Irrespective of our current religious beliefs we can all agree that the Word of the God of Abraham is the medium by which all truth is defined and we must realise that, in its entirety, it is the ultimate source of authority. The information contained within these pages are primarily aimed at the three Abrahamic faiths, Judaism, Christianity and Islam but is not limited to these faiths. The word of Almighty God is for ALL nations and not one nation has the exclusive rights to its contents. (Genesis 22:18). If we take this attitude in our worship and are obedient to the creator of the universe we shall certainly be blessed.

If we find in our studies that what we read in His word does not fit with what we believe then the error is with us and not God's word, if we truly love Almighty God, we must be prepared to adjust our way of life in order to be approved by Him, just as His friend Abraham did.

Please remember that I have no religious affiliation other than to Yeshua Ha'Mashiach and the Almighty God that sent Him, therefore I am bound by the Ruach and not by a manmade religious practice or tradition, assuring you that I have no ulterior motive other than the spreading of the truth that can only be found in Almighty God's word via His gift to us all... the Bible. I pray that this instruction will help you in your quest for truth.

Numbers 6:24-26

## Introduction

In recent times there has been much debate on the subject of what Christendom widely calls the “Gifts of the Spirit” which are mentioned predominantly in the Brit ha’Dashah (New Testament). The debate concerns whether the gifts they were granted to the Apostles in the first century are still active today.

Like all things, we are all entitled to our own opinions on the subject but there can only be one truth whichever way we take.

As always, when we study the word of Almighty God there are some important things to consider, firstly we must remember that both the Tanakh and Brit ha’Dashah were written by Hebrews for Hebrews with a Hebrew mindset, not for the Western gentile culture that we in the west always seem to assume. Secondly, we must have in mind that Almighty God Y<sub>e</sub>H<sup>o</sup>V<sub>a</sub>H has a purpose contained within His will and He does nothing unless its purpose is to enhance that which He wills, this includes physical and spiritual events. Thirdly, we must be able to differentiate that which is important with those things that seem to us to be important, one way to do this is to ask yourself “does the thing we are questioning have any bearing on salvation”? for example, which do you consider to be of a higher importance, ‘belief that Yeshua is the Mashiach’ or ‘what colour were Jesus’ sandals when he attended the wedding at Cana’. That might be a slight oversimplification but I’m sure you get the point. The last important step we must take in our study is to pray for His guidance as, if we are left to our own devices, we are sure to lean on our own understanding. Some say follow your heart but this advice should be avoided at all costs as Jeremiah 17:9 states *“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it”*?

If we find that what we read from His word does not fit what we have been taught then it is our error and not God’s word and we must be humble enough to change our way of thinking to that which Father approves and not eisegesically insert our own thoughts and doctrines as though they were a part of scripture like some have to their demise.

This little guide is designed to help you discover the true word of Almighty God Y<sub>e</sub>H<sup>o</sup>V<sub>a</sub>H and, like all the guides it is based on the only reliable source available to us, His word, which is always the foremost authority when wishing to know the truth. John 17:17; 2Timothy 3:16, 17. I hope that you will find it useful in your quest to seek the truth.

*Mark Percival.*

## What Are the Gifts of the Spirit?

### List of "Gifts of the spirit"

1. Administration
2. Being an Apostle
3. Discernment
4. Evangelism
5. Exhortation
6. Faith
7. Giving
8. **Healing**
9. Helps
10. Hospitality
11. **Knowledge**
12. Leadership
13. Mercy
14. **Prophecy**
15. Serving
16. **Speaking in tongues**
17. Teaching (sometimes known as shepherding)
18. Wisdom

Table 2

There are numerous accounts in the Bible that highlight "spiritual gifts" the main ones are found in table 2.

Although there is mention of spiritual gifts in the Tanakh they are mostly found in the Brit ha'Dashah, the contents of which are shown below. You will notice that some of the gifts in each portion of scripture are repeated but this is to be expected as 80% of the scriptures cite the gifts accounts can be attributed to Sha'ul (Paul).

These gifts were initially given to the ones that were in attendance at the feast of Shavuot (Pentecost) 33C.E. when the Ruach ha'Kodesh descended upon the Apostles in order to assist them in their obedience to the Masters declaration that the gospel be taught "to the ends of the earth. Matthew 24:14.

All the gifts listed in the table represent the basic requirements for a successful ministry regime, but some of the gifts listed can be identified as special gifts that would

Romans 12:6-8	1 Corinthians 12:8-10	1 Corinthians 12:28-30	Ephesians 4:11	1 Peter 4:11
1. <b>Prophecy</b>	1. Word of wisdom	1. Apostle	1. Apostle	1. Whoever speaks
2. Serving	2. <b>Word of knowledge</b>	2. <b>Prophet</b>	2. <b>Prophet</b>	2. Whoever renders service
3. Teaching	3. Faith	3. Teacher	3. Evangelist	
4. Exhortation	4. <b>Gifts of healings</b>	4. <b>Miracles</b>	4. Pastor	
5. Giving	5. Miracles	5. <b>Healings</b>	5. Teacher	
6. Leadership	6. <b>Prophecy</b>	6. Helps		
7. Mercy	7. Distinguishing between spirits	7. Administration		
	8. <b>Tongues</b>	8. <b>Tongues</b>		
	9. <b>Interpretation of tongues</b>			

Table 1

draw those with the right heart condition into the ecclesia (fellowship/church). These special gifts are what are commonly called the "Sign" gifts, these include the gifts of: **Prophecy, Miracles, Tongues** (both speaking and translation), **Knowledge** and **Healing**. Another gift is identified as "Apostle" and this I sin a category of its own which we will deal with a little later. See Appendix A.

Whilst the majority of “gifts” show the basic requirements for a successful continuation of an orderly form of governance there are five gifts that do not fall into the structural category, these are known as the special “Sign” gifts that were granted to the Apostles in order to help them to attract new brothers and sisters into the ecclesia. It is these “sign” gifts that cause such high interest in the hotly debated issues concerning the “Gifts of the Spirit”, there are some that believe that all the gifts are still in operation and some that consider that the “Sign” gifts have now ceased, these are usually identified as Cessationist. Let us take an unbiased, Biblical approach in order to prove to ourselves whether the “sign” gifts are still active or have been withdrawn. Please keep in mind, whatever our answer is, it will not have any impact on our salvation so, with this in mind there are no “winners”.

### **Is there any evidence that the Sign Gifts have ceased?**

Before we start it must be noted that, whatever your present opinion is, all sides must agree that, Y<sub>e</sub>H<sup>o</sup>V<sub>a</sub>H can do whatever He chooses to do. Psalms 115:3 *“But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased”*. This means that, if He decides to perform any of the sign gifts through an individual he will do it at His pleasure and according to His will. Let us now look a little deeper into the purpose of the sign gifts and how they helped the mostly gentile (pagan) converts to understand the power of the one that spoke the whole universe into existence.

### **Evidence for the Cessation of the Sign Gifts.**

- **Knowledge and Prophecy.**

These gifts are on the edge of the scale; one can still gain knowledge of the One True God Y<sub>e</sub>H<sup>o</sup>V<sub>a</sub>H by prayer and study. Daniel 12:4 tells us *“But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased”*. But this doesn’t fall into the “gift” category, it is more on a personal basis, being brought about by the presence of the “set apart” spirit. It is likened to a snowball effect, the more we learn the more we want to know and we know that wisdom is knowledge correctly applied. Wisdom is the driving force that brings us ever closer to Almighty God and His son in spirit and truth. To say that knowledge is a gift is not contextually correct as the quest for Godly knowledge is the result of the action of the Ruach ha’Kodesh that gives us the “want to” spirit.

Like knowledge, the gift of prophecy can only be identified by the Biblical definition. It is not to say that prophesying cannot happen at any time but evidence shows that there has been no true prophets of Almighty God for many hundreds of years who have spoken a prophesy that has come true so, by using the Bible principle concerning true and false prophets there has been a distinct lack of true prophets so, with this in mind we can safely assume that the gift of prophecy has been suspended for a certain period of time.

Deuteronomy 18:20, 22 <sup>20</sup>*“But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the*

*name of other gods, even that prophet shall die ”. <sup>22</sup> “When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him ”.*

The Bible does indicate that true prophets will return but, like knowledge this prophesying will be a direct result of the inspiration of the Ruach ha’Kodesh rather than a specific gift.

- **Miracles**

If it be the will of the Father a miracle will happen and it will happen according to His will and not by the possession of a special gift. Even Yeshua did not personally have what can be described as “the gift of healing”, all Yeshua’s miracles were performed by his Father and through him by the Ruach ha’Kodesh, that is why Yeshua, before performing a miracle, prayed to his Father for permission to use the authority he had been given... and afterwards he always thanked his Father for hearing his prayer... such was his humility... a lesson for us all.

The evidence shows that there is no human being in recent history that has performed what can truly be described as a Biblical miracle so, based on this evidence we can be sure that the gift of performing miracles has ceased.

- **Healing**

Due to the lack of evidence that anyone in recent history has healed anyone of any ailment, I consider it safe to assume that the gift of healing has also ceased, this is also proven by the Biblical account. All the Apostles were given these “sign” gifts to use in their ministry and missionary work to spread the gospel of Yeshua to all peoples to all nations. the Apostles also had authority over life and death in the early stages of their mission. There are Biblical accounts where Kefa (Peter) and Sha’ul healed people, even bringing people back to life so there is proof that the gift of healing is certainly factual however, this brings us to question the continuation of the gift of healing. To illustrate this, we have the account recorded in 1 Timothy 5:23, Sha’ul’s closest and loved companion Timothy suffered with some stomach complaint and Sha’ul told him to take wine instead of water... *“Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach’s sake and thine often infirmities”*. In another account recorded at 2 Timothy 4:20 where Sha’ul had to leave Trophimus in Miletum due to sickness which was possibly life threatening... *“Erastus abode at Corinth: but Trophimus have I left at Miletum sick”*. Both these accounts happened between 50 and 50C.E.

The question is, why Sha’ul did not heal both Timothy and Trophimus, he had the gift of healing, the proof of which he displayed more than once. There can be only two answers to this question, either Sha’ul had no empathy with both Timothy and Trophimus and believed that they should suffer or was it that the gift of healing had already ceased by that time?

- **Speaking in/Translation of Tongues**

This gift is by far the most popular and hotly debated topic in Christendom and even the Messianic sects still hang on to certain beliefs concerning the meaning of the word “Tongues”. Before we dig deeper into this topic let us reason from the

scriptures the true meaning of this much used but little understood word.

An accurate Biblical definition of speaking in tongues would be that it is a... special ability given through the Ruach ha'Kodesh to some disciples of Yeshua that enabled them to preach or otherwise to glorify Y<sub>e</sub>H<sup>o</sup>V<sub>a</sub>H in a language other than their own native tongue.

The most prolific example of this is found in the account of Shavuot (Pentecost) of 33C.E. Acts 2:4-6 *“And they were all filled of the Holy Spirit, and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave ability to them to speak. <sup>5</sup>And Jews were living in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation of those under the heaven. <sup>6</sup>And when that sound occurred, all the people gathered and were perplexed because they were hearing each man among them who were speaking in their own language”*.

When you reason with the scriptures it does not take someone with a PhD to arrive at the conclusion that, in accordance with the great commission in Matthew 28 it would be helpful, if we are to go to the corners of the earth to spread the gospel message to a people of a different tongue it would be best to speak to them in the tongue that they were accustomed too would it not? Remember, Y<sub>e</sub>H<sup>o</sup>V<sub>a</sub>H is a God of order and not of chaos.

Depending on the sect or denomination the word “tongues” has a different meaning, some say that is it proof that you have the “Holy Spirit”, others say that, to speak in tongues gives proof that you are saved but there is absolutely no evidence for these theories recorded in God’s word. Furthermore, speaking in tongues is not babbling away using strings of incomprehensible gobbledygook as in Hindu Kundalini.

Some in the Messianic movement consider speaking in tongues is a form of personalising your prayers to Abba Yah in a language that only He and the person praying knows, or that the speaking in tongues is the language of angels. **BE WARNED!!!!** If you think on these lines you are treading on thin ice and close to demonic influence!

Consider why the human race speak in different languages... it was Y<sub>e</sub>H<sup>o</sup>V<sub>a</sub>H Himself that created all the languages, you do not need to speak to Almighty God in anything other than a language that He designed, you can be assured that Yeshua and Abba Yah will understand you so do not be misled.

**THE SPEAKING IN TONGUES IN NOT FOUND IN THE TaNaKh**

## **Conclusion**

As I stated at the beginning the debate is pretty meaningless as whichever side you take it does not change or alter Y<sub>e</sub>H<sup>o</sup>V<sub>a</sub>H's purpose or will for mankind, it only serves as a matter of contention and division between those who should know better. I would suggest that babbling unintelligible gibberish when you don't know what you think you are saying could be demonic in its origin and for all you know you might be insulting the one that you intend to glorify. I take the view that, if you don't know what you are saying or you can't say Amen to it, it is better to say nothing.

The sects in Christendom that teach such nonsense and support this verbal diarrhoea certainly follow another gospel, not the gospel of Yeshua that is for certain. Following the Mashiach Yeshua is not based on charismatic euphoria or by copying ideology borrowed from pagan religious ceremonies, the very ceremonies that Yah Himself warned the Israelite nation not to follow when they entered the promised land, they disobeyed Him and look what happened to them! (Deuteronomy 12:30, 31). Following Yeshua is a way of life for those that are compos mentis and obedient to our heavenly Father through Yeshua our Master.

On the whole, the evidence for the cessation of the "Sign" gifts is quite overwhelming, there is a saying that you should never trust a faith healer that has glasses or takes medication. In the Word Faith movement, there are so many false prophets that even I am embarrassed when I hear them, they are charlatans and extortionists that rob people of their hard-earned money to finance their lavish lifestyle, by their fruits you shall know them! I wouldn't like to be in their shoes when they stand before the King on judgement day.

The main object that we should be focusing on is Yeshua and the coming kingdom, anything that detracts us from that goal is from the opposer who does not want us to glorify our wonderful heavenly Father. It is a fool's errand to concentrate on such trivial matters that distract us from the real truth, our quest is to remain obedient to our wonderful Abba and to endure to the end. Let us not let these matters become stumbling blocks for us in our walk but more importantly, let us not make stumbling blocks for others weaker in faith than us. Mattherw 18:6.

Our heavenly Father showers down blessings and gifts each and every day on His children in such copious amounts, He also shows us miracles each and every day too but most people are too busy arguing about trivial matters to realise that life is the most wonderful miracle which is so unrealised by people, even brothers and sisters in Yeshua that have too much to do in pursuit of personal goals, this makes me truly sad.

### **Remember the golden rules:**

**Mark 12:30-31** And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.  
<sup>31</sup>And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

These are the things we should be focusing on.

Shalom



## **Appendix A**

<b>GIFT</b>	<b>Description</b>
ADMINISTRATION	The ability to help steer the church, or a ministry, toward the successful completion of God-given goals, with skills in planning, organization, and supervision.
<b>APOSTLE</b>	There are three Biblical criteria to be satisfied in order to be recognised as a true Biblical Apostle, these are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Must be an Eyewitness of the Resurrected Christ. (Acts 1:21–22).</li> <li>2. Be directly called by Yeshua. (Mark 3:13–16).</li> <li>3. Capability to demonstrate signs of a true Apostle. (2 Corinthians 12:12).</li> </ol>
DISCERNMENT	The wisdom to recognize truth from untruth by correctly evaluating whether a behaviour or teaching is from God or another, ungodly source.
EVANGELISM	The ability to successfully communicate the message of the gospel, especially to nonbelievers.
EXHORTATION	Competence in offering encouragement, comfort, and support to help someone be all that God wants them to be.
FAITH	People with this gift have such great confidence in the power and promises of God that they can stand strong in their belief, no matter what may try to shake them. They can also stand up for the church and for their faith in such a way as to defend and move it forward.
GIVING	Those who have this gift are particularly willing and able to share what resources they have with pleasure, and without the need to see them returned.
<b>HEALING</b>	A capability used by God to restore others, be that physically, emotionally, mentally, or spiritually.
HELPS	Someone with this gift is able to support or assist members of the body of Christ so that they may be free to minister to others.
HOSPITALITY	A natural ability to make people—even strangers—feel welcome in one’s own home or church as a means to minister to them.
<b>KNOWLEDGE</b>	This is the gift of someone who actively pursues knowledge of the Bible. This person may also enjoy analysing biblical data.
LEADERSHIP	This aptitude marks a person who is able to stand before a church, to direct the body with care and attention, and to motivate them toward achieving the church’s goals.
MERCY	This is the defining trait of a person with great sensitivity for those who are suffering. It manifests itself in offering compassion and encouragement, and in a love for giving practical help to someone in need.
<b>MIRACLES</b>	The ability to perform seemingly impossible feats that cannot be explained by common reason, science and/or understanding. A supernatural event.
<b>PROPHECY</b>	The ability to speak the message of God to others. This sometimes involves foresight or visions of what is to come. This skill should be used only to offer encouragement or warning.
SERVING	A talent for identifying tasks needed for the body of Christ and using available resources to get the job done.
<b>SPEAKING IN TONGUES</b>	The supernatural ability to speak in another language (one that has not been learned). Also includes translation of tongues.
TEACHING	The skill to teach from the Bible and communicate it effectively for the understanding and spiritual growth of others.
WISDOM	The gift of being able to sort through facts and data to discover what needs to be done for the church.



## GLOSSARY

- **YHVH** [ יהוה ] The personal Name of Almighty God. Y<sub>e</sub>H<sup>o</sup>V<sub>a</sub>H.
- **Yehoshua** (Yeshua) The personal name of Almighty God's son. (Modern: Jesus).
- **Ruach Ha'Kodesh** Y<sub>e</sub>H<sup>o</sup>V<sub>a</sub>H's motive force. (Holy Spirit).
- **Kohan Gadol** High Priest.
- **Shaúl** Saul (Paul).
- **Israel** The nation comprising the 12 tribes of Jacob (Israel) including people of the nations grafted into Israel.
- **Gentile** Any person that does not follow the Abrahamic Religion (Pagan).
- **Tanakh** The books of the Hebrew scriptures. (Old Testament).
- **B'rit HaDashah** The Renewed Covenant. (New Testament)
- **Torah** The instructions or laws given to the Israelite Nation by Y<sub>e</sub>H<sup>o</sup>V<sub>a</sub>H to Moses.
- **Oral Torah** The additional instructions added by the Pharisaic (Rabbinic) Jews which form the basis of the Mishnah, Talmud, Gemara and other Jewish religious Books.
- **Gospel** Good News.
- **Christendom** All religions that profess belief in Jesus Christ.
- **Apostolic Fathers** The group of gentiles that directed the formation of the early church after the last apostle (John) died.