

Week 21: Spiritual Gifts

Grudem_{ST} 52-53; Grudem_{BD} 29-30; Ryrie 65

A. Definition: (Grudem, 1016)

1. Any ability that is empowered by the Holy Spirit and used in any ministry of the church
2. Greek word here for “gifts” is *charisma*. It “denotes the result of *charis* (grace) viewed as an action with no sharp distinction from this term: ‘proof of favor,’ ‘benefit,’ ‘gift.’” (TDNT)

B. Recipients

1. At least one given to all believers (1Cor. 12:7, 11; 1Pet. 4:10)
2. Not all believers have the same gift(s) (1Cor. 12:29-30 – negative questions in Greek)
3. Not given in relation to Spiritual maturity, but strictly according to His will (1Cor. 12:11, 18)

C. Purpose: (Grudem, 1019)

1. Equip the church (1Pet. 4:10) & carry out its ministry until Christ returns (1Cor. 1:7; Eph. 4:11-13)

D. Kinds of Gifts (Rom. 12:6-8; 1Cor. 12:8-10, 28) (Ryrie, 429-432) *****NOT a complete list*****

1. Apostleship (1Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11) – ‘office’ of Apostle is not given by God today
 - a. Given for the founding of the church, accredited by special signs (2Cor. 12:12; Eph. 2:20)
2. Prophecy (Rom. 12:6; 1Cor. 12:10; 14:1-40; Eph. 4:11)
 - a. Able to proclaim God’s message and predict future through God’s revelation (Ryrie, 429)
 - b. Widely given for the founding of the church (Acts 11:27-28; 13:1; 21:9; 1Cor. 14)
 - c. Telling something that God has spontaneously brought to mind (Grudem, 1050)
 - d. Not the same as OT prophecies which was equal to Scripture (Grudem, 1052-1055)
 - e. Can include any edifying content (Grudem – 1Cor. 14:3-4, 25)
 - f. Should be earnestly desired (1Cor. 14:1, 39)
3. Miracles (1Cor. 12:28)
4. Healings (Acts 19:11-12; 1Cor. 12:9, 28, 30)
5. Tongues/Interpretation of Tongues (1Cor. 12:10; 14)
 - a. Greek word *glossa* can mean physical “tongue” or “language”
 - b. God-given ability to speak in another earthly language unknown to speaker (Ryrie, 430)
 - c. Prayer or praise spoken in syllables not understood by the speaker (Grudem, 1070)
 - d. Spoken to God (1Cor. 14:2), but a sign for unbelievers (1Cor. 14:22)
 - e. Pentecostal teaching that tongues are the necessary sign of having been baptized by the Spirit is wrong (Ryrie, 431)...Not all speak in tongues (1Cor. 12:30)
6. Evangelism (Eph. 4:11)
 - a. Ability to proclaim the gospel message with exceptional clarity (Ryrie, 431)
7. Pastor (Eph. 4:11)
 - a. Ability to shepherd, provide for, care for and protect God’s people (Ryrie, 431)
8. Serving (Rom. 12:7; 1Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:12)
9. Teaching (Rom. 12:7; 1Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11 cf. 2Tim. 3:16)
 - a. The ability to explain Scripture and apply it to people’s lives (Grudem, 1061)
10. Faith (1Cor. 12:9)
 - a. Ability to believe God for the supply of specific needs (Ryrie, 431)
11. Exhortation (Rom. 12:8)
 - a. Ability to encourage, comfort and admonish people (Ryrie, 431)
12. Distinguishing Spirits (1Cor. 12:10)
 - a. Ability to recognize the influence of the Holy Spirit or of demonic spirits (Grudem, 1082)
13. Showing Mercy (Rom. 12:8)
 - a. Involves succoring, particularly those who are sick and afflicted (Ryrie, 432)
14. Giving (Rom. 12:8)
 - a. Ability to be very generous with what means one has...with no thought of return or self-gain (Ryrie, 432)
15. Administration (Rom. 12:8; 1Cor. 12:28)
 - a. Ability to rule in the church (Ryrie, 432)
16. Words of Wisdom and Knowledge (1Cor. 12:8)
 - a. Ability to speak with wisdom or knowledge in various situations (Grudem, 1082)

E. Discovering and Seeking Spiritual Gifts (Grudem, 1028-1030)

1. Ask what the needs and opportunities for ministry are in the church
2. Self-examination: interests, desires and abilities – seek advice, encouragement from others
3. Try ministering in various areas and see where God brings blessing
4. Earnestly desire the “higher” gifts (1Cor. 12:31) (higher = gifts that most edify the church)

F. Have Some Gifts Ceased? (Cessationism vs. Continuationism): Miraculous or Non-Miraculous?