

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF TAMPA

INTRODUCTION

TO SPIRITUAL GIFTS



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A SUPPLEMENTAL COURSE

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INTRODUCTION TO SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Imagine that you were applying for a job as a carpenter. At the appointed time, you show up for the interview. After asking you a series of questions about your skills, experience, and so forth, the interviewer asks you to follow him. You walk through the administrative offices and turn into a room that is empty except for a small pile of lumber in the middle of the floor.

“Alright,” says the interviewer. “This pile of lumber contains enough wood to build a rocking chair. Go ahead and build a rocking chair for me.”

The pile of lumber appears to contain enough material to build a chair, but as your eyes dart around the room you begin to notice what is not there rather than what is.

“Is there a problem?” asks the interviewer.

After explaining that you don’t have the tools you need to build the chair, the interviewer responds, “Oh, no. You don’t get any tools for this task.”

Do you think that this is a fair task? Why or why not?

Being a follower of Christ means much more than simply attending church. Truly following Jesus requires you to bring Him glory—and one of the best ways you can do that is by serving Him. God has specifically called you to be part of a God-sized task. He has singled you out and has made plans for you to serve Him in ways that no one else can or will. That’s exciting isn’t it! However, God is not like the interviewer in the preceding illustration. He has not called you to a task without equipping you to carry it out. Everyone who God calls, He also equips.

Think of Moses.

Do you think it was an accident that God called a man who had grown up with a special understanding of Egyptian life and culture to deliver His children from

Egyptian bondage? Do you think it was coincidence that God called a man who had fled and lived in the wilderness to lead His children to the Promised Land through that exact same wilderness? Do you think it was just for the sake of theatrics that God provided Moses with the ability to turn his hand leprous and to transform his staff into a serpent?

Think of Paul.

Do you think it was God's good fortune that the one of the church's greatest theologians had been trained in one of the finest rabbinical schools of his day? Do you think that God got lucky when he stumbled across Paul—a person with Roman citizenship that freed him up to have greater access to the Roman empire?

How has God Equipped You for Ministry?

One of the greatest ways that God has equipped you for ministry is by giving you the Holy Spirit. If you are a born-again believer in Jesus Christ, you have been given the Holy Spirit. He indwells you, guides you, and empowers you. While the Holy Spirit carries out a variety of ministries, one of His primary ones is to administer spiritual gifts. These spiritual gifts are the tools that God gives you so that you can serve Him. Every Christian has at least one spiritual gift, and perhaps more.

Definition of *Spiritual Gifts*

Spiritual gifts are not to be confused with natural skills, talents, abilities, or interests. In other words, a person may have a natural talent that is not a spiritual gift given by God. Instead of being a natural talent, spiritual gifts are divinely given to equip the church to minister to each other and to the world.

What does the term "spiritual" suggest?

What does the term "gift" suggest?

The New Testament uses three different words to describe spiritual gifts:

Pneumatikos literally translates to “spiritual things.” This phrase emphasizes the divine nature and origin of the gifts. They are not natural skills or talents but are instead supernaturally given to the believer by the Holy Spirit (1 **Corinthians 12:1**; 1 **Corinthians 12:11**).

Charisma literally translates to “grace gift” and emphasizes that these gifts are given freely to believers and are not earned (1 **Corinthians 12:4**; **Romans 12:6**).

Domata simply means “gift” (**Ephesians 4:8**).

These three terms help us to understand spiritual gifts a little more. The gifts are primarily listed in four key passages: **Romans 12**, **1 Corinthians 12**, **Ephesians 4**, and **1 Peter 4**.

Distribution of Spiritual Gifts

Spiritual gifts are not given randomly or without purpose. There are several important points to notice about the distribution of these gifts.

No Man can Give Gifts

The Holy Spirit distributes gifts, not man. As Paul interacts with the topic of spiritual gifts in his letter to the church at Corinth, he pens this:

But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

1 Corinthians 12:11

What is the significance of the Spirit distributing gifts “individually?”

Whose will is involved with the distribution of gifts?

The phrase, “just as he wills” is emphatic in the Greek text and stresses the fact that the Spirit gives gifts according to His agenda, not man’s. There is nothing a person can do to acquire a gift. Believers may recognize the gifts in others (such

as the laying on hands in **1 Timothy 4:14** and **1 Timothy 5:22**), however, this is not to be confused with giving gifts.

No One should Covet a Gift He does not Possess

The church in Corinth was a carnal group of believers who were allowing the world to influence them instead of influencing the world. In 1 Corinthians Paul confronts several mistakes the church was making, one of which was an improper view and usage of spiritual gifts. Understanding this context is essential in understanding the longest passage concerning spiritual gifts. In the middle of this passage, Paul writes this:

But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And I show you a still more excellent way.

1 Corinthians 12:31

While on the surface it seems that this passage is suggesting that we should covet gifts we do not have, the context disproves this. Reading this verse in context reveals that Paul was actually admonishing the entire congregation, not an individual, to “earnestly desire the greater gifts.” The Corinthian church was fixated on speaking in tongues (what Paul calls a lesser gift) and his challenge to them is to focus more on the greater gifts (apostles, prophets, teachers) and to use the gifts selflessly and out of love.

We are to be content in the gift(s) that God has given us and trust Him that the gifts He has given are according to His will.

Every Believer has at Least One Gift

Peter tells us that each Christian has been at least one gift:

As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

1 Peter 4:10

No One has a Gift to be Used for Himself

Spiritual gifts are always to be used to build up the body of Christ and to serve others (**Ephesians 4:12**; **1 Peter 4:10**). Looking at the gifts reveals this emphasis. One teaches others. One serves others. One leads others. One exhorts others. There is no indication in Scripture that any spiritual gift is to be used toward oneself. Your spiritual gift is not for your benefit; it is to benefit others.

Design of Spiritual Gifts

It was just mentioned that spiritual gifts are to be used for others. Let's look at two key passages to see how God intends for you to use your spiritual gift.

¹¹And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, ¹²for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fulness of Christ. ¹⁴As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; ¹⁵but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

Ephesians 4:11-16

What is the purpose of using gifts according to verse 12?

What is the goal of using gifts according to verse 13?

What is the result of using gifts according to verses 14-15?

What is the attitude of using gifts according to verse 16?

¹⁰As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. ¹¹Whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves, let him do so as by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 4:10-11

What is the purpose Peter offers for gifts in verse 10?

What does it mean to be a good steward?

What is the source of authority/power Peter offers in verse 11?

One final word warrants mentioning in this section. While it is true that spiritual gifts are given from God and not earned. And while it is true that they are to be used in accordance with the power of the Holy Spirit. This does not mean that we are not to work at developing your gift that God has already given to you. Just because you were given the gift of teaching, for example, does not mean that you are automatically a great teacher. Effort is still required.

OVERVIEW OF THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

There is some discussion and debate about how many different spiritual gifts there are and if they are all in existence today. Here is a brief description of the gifts that are generally universally accepted. Each gift is described in its Biblical context and then some general abilities that a person with this gift might demonstrate are offered along with general ministry opportunities and a few words of caution in using this gift.

The Gift of Evangelism

Ephesians 4:11

The term “evangelism” means “proclamation of good news.” A person who has the gift of evangelism then has an abnormal ability to effectively share the gospel and to see people respond. A person with this gift has a burden for the lost, a strong desire to be used to help the lost come to Christ, a probable history of seeing people respond to the gospel, and a sense of sheer delight in watching people come to Christ.

General Abilities: The ability to comfortably and passionately share the gospel with results. Generally, a person with this gift will be a “people person.” Compassion is often a part of this person’s temperament.

General Ministry Opportunities: Visitation; outreach; missions

Words of Caution: While not all believers have the gift of evangelism, all believers are called to proclaim the gospel (Matthew 28:18-20). Be careful to understand that not everyone will be as passionate about evangelism as you are. Do not be tricked into thinking that the results of evangelism are up to you; especially if you have seen results. Do not neglect your own spiritual growth.

The Gift of Teaching

Romans 12:7; 1 Corinthians 12:28

This gift is demonstrated by people who have a passion for God's Word and who commit themselves to disciplined study of it. People with this gift also have the ability to clearly communicate the truths of Scripture and apply the Bible to everyday life.

General Abilities: The ability to simply and meaningfully clarify Biblical truth. Generally, a person with this gift will have a strong appreciation for sound doctrine. Strong communication skills also often accompany this gift.

General Ministry Opportunities: Bible Study Core Group teacher; Missional Life Institute instructor; Community Life Group leader; librarian

Words of Caution: Be careful not to neglect studying Scripture for personal edification and growth. Understand the seriousness of being called as a teacher. Realize that not everyone else is as serious about studying the Bible. Not all school teachers have this gift.

The Gift of Service/Helps

Romans 12:7; 1 Corinthians 12:28

This gift is manifested by people who tangibly help others who are in physical need (e.g. sick, poor, widows, orphans). Sometimes the gifts of service and helps are delineated with the gift of service being directed toward believers and helps being directed toward unbelievers. People with this gift tend to be less conspicuous as they demonstrate their gift in private or in one-to-one relationships.

General Abilities: The ability to meet practical needs. Generally, a person with this gift will prefer to use it behind the scenes and shies away from recognition. Humility and compassion often accompany this gift.

General Ministry Opportunities: Outreach; in-reach; nursery; deacon; benevolence

Words of Caution: It is easy for a person with this gift to take on more than they can handle. This often leads to burn-out or at least less effective ministry. Learn to say, "no." It is important to recognize a person's spiritual needs amidst their physical needs. It is often difficult to separate a person's true needs from artificial ones or desires. It might be easy for a person with this gift to get frustrated at times by a church's lack of action in this area; either a real lack of action or perceived lack of action.

The Gift of Faith

1 Corinthians 12:9

While all Christians must demonstrate faith to receive salvation and to sustain their walk with Christ, not all believers have the spiritual gift of faith. This gift involves the unusual ability to see what needs to be done and to believe and trust God for what seems to be the impossible.

General Abilities: The ability to place great faith and trust in God. Generally, this person dreams big and is an optimist. Often a person with this gift will offer compelling challenges and/or encouragement to others about following God's leading.

General Ministry Opportunities: Ministry development; ministry planning; finance

Words of Caution: Understand that it may be easy for you to step out in faith, but others may be reluctant. Try not to look down on people for what you perceive as a lack of faith. Make sure that you maintain a godly balance of walking by faith and making wise choices.

The Gift of Exhortation

Romans 12:8

The word "exhortation" comes from the Greek word, *parakalon*, the same word used of the Holy Spirit. It means "called alongside to help." A person with this gift would be used by God to urge others to pursue a particular course of action or just to continue their walk with Christ. People with this gift may also console, comfort and encourage others in daily life.

General Abilities: The ability to share particular steps of action and to encourage and motivate others. Generally, a person with this gift will be a "people person" and will have strong communication skills.

General Ministry Opportunities: Counseling; ministry placement; deacon

Words of Caution: Understand that words are powerful. Choose them carefully. As you advise someone (or even encourage them) be aware of how they might be hearing what you say. Understand the influence you might have over a person and use it carefully. Be aware that not everyone responds to exhortation the same way. What might motivate one person might frustrate another. Understand that you must "practice what you preach."

The Gift of Mercy

Romans 12:8

To show mercy is to feel compassion or pity. Thus, a person with the gift of mercy would have compassion for and a desire to help the sick, poor, troubled, distressed and suffering. A person with this gift would offer assistance with joy, not drudgery. While the gift of service would focus more on what practical actions can be taken to help someone, a person with the gift of mercy would focus more on the person's emotional and spiritual well-being.

General Abilities: The ability to extend empathy and sympathy to others. Generally, a person with this gift will have an amazing concern for people and understand how important a person's emotional well-being is. Someone with this gift is often a "people person." They are quite content to, and see the value in, simply sitting with someone.

General Ministry Opportunities: Counseling; benevolence; in-reach; hospital visitation; shut-in ministry; crisis ministry

Words of Caution: Because you are probably more sensitive and compassionate, it might be easy for others to take advantage of you. Also you might become easily frustrated if you cannot help someone or if they do not want to share with you. Be careful not to look down at others who do not demonstrate the same compassion that you do. Be careful to maintain a Biblical foundation as you interact with others.

The Gift of Giving

Romans 12:8

This gift involves the unusual ability and desire to share one's own possessions with others. There is an eagerness, liberality and joy in sharing. A person with this gift will often give sacrificially and often lives below their means in order to have more to give away.

General Abilities: The ability to use your resources to help meet the needs of others and to fund ministries. Generally, a person with this gift will have a solid control of their finances and be glad to find ways to give more. People with this gift often demonstrate humility and desire for their giving to be as anonymous as possible.

General Ministry Opportunities: Finance; ministry planning; missions; peer financial counseling; benevolence

Words of Caution: While some believers have the spiritual gift of giving, all believers are called to give. Do not substitute your giving for action. God has called you to participate in ministry, not just fund it. You might become frustrated when you cannot give more to meet a need.

The Gift of Administration

Romans 12:8; 1 Corinthians 12:28

The gift of administration, or leadership, is often related to leading a church or specific ministry within the church. A person with this gift would have a clear vision for ministry and God-given wisdom to structure the ministry to fulfill its purpose. In addition, a person with this gift often has an understanding of people and how to motivate them and equip them to reach their full potential in ministry.

General Abilities: The ability to organize ministry and motivate people. Generally, a person with this gift will be organized, detail oriented and may be logic-driven.

General Ministry Opportunities: Ministry leadership; office support; personnel

Words of Caution: Understand that not everyone will have the same determination and vision for ministry that you have. Be careful not to over-simplify ministry to the point of believing that if the ministry is just structured well, it is guaranteed to succeed. Keep in mind that it is God who leads ministry, not a person. Do not lose sight of people amidst the structure of ministry.

Potential Ministry Opportunities

As you prayerfully consider the ministry or ministries that has called you to, keep a few things in mind:

You may be currently involved in the wrong ministry: Many people become involved in a ministry because the need is cast and no one else steps up. So they "take one for the team" and begin serving. The issue you might need to consider is "good versus best." Is it good for you to serve in that ministry? Sure it is. But is it best? It might not be. If God has called and equipped you to participate in a different ministry that probably should be the one you are primarily involved with. Do not be afraid from stepping away from a ministry to which God has not called you. First, no one is that indispensable. Second, according to Ephesians 4, God uses all of the members of His church to carry-out our purpose. God has called someone to the ministry you might need to walk away from.

Your spiritual gift ought to be used in ministry: While your spiritual gift should be used in ministry (that is its purpose) not every ministry you are involved with necessarily requires your spiritual gift. As you consider ministry, ensure that your gift is being used somewhere, somehow.

God often directs your heart and passion toward your ministry: God will often burden a person's heart and/or mind concerning a particular ministry. This is a great indicator of God's leading. However, it is not a requirement. God called Jonah to a ministry he didn't care for. Moses resisted God's calling at first. Peter was reluctant to share the gospel with Gentiles at first. There may be times when God is leading you to a ministry you are less than enthusiastic about. But you still need to follow His leading. Passion is not a definitive litmus test in ministry.

Consider whether you want your ministry involvement to be deep or wide: Some people will struggle to find one ministry into which they can invest. Others will struggle with a desire to be involved with several. If this is the case, you need to consider whether you want to be involved in several ministries and spread your time, energy, and resources around or limit your involvement and pour more of yourself into fewer ministries. What matters more to you? A wide range of ministry that impacts many people on a potentially shallower level, or a narrow range of ministry that might impact fewer people but on a potentially deeper level?

EXPLANATION OF THE SIGN GIFTS

It is the belief of many theologians that not all of the spiritual gifts are presently in effect. Those that are no longer in effect today are often referred to as "sign gifts." These gifts were provided to the church during a special period called the *Apostolic Age*. Understanding this special period of time is necessary for understanding why these gifts no longer exist.

What is the *Apostolic Age*?

The *Apostolic Age* was a unique period of time in church history from about A.D. 30-100. During this time of transition between the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ and the completion of the New Testament, there was a need to validate the messengers of the gospel. The issue centered on why a person should believe the person who proclaimed the gospel. Unlike today, the *Apostolic Age* believer could not take the skeptic to the New Testament, so God provided sign gifts to be used during this time to validate the message (and credentials) of the apostles. They are called "sign gifts" because they were used as a sign of the veracity of the apostles.

What are Sign Gifts?

The "sign gifts" include apostleship, prophecy, miracles, healing, discerning spirits, wisdom, knowledge, tongues, and interpreting tongues. There are five key considerations in evaluating and understanding the sign gifts.

(1) Sign Gifts Were Foundational Gifts During the *Apostolic Age*

Ephesians 2:20 tells us that the offices/gifts of apostle and prophet were foundational for the formation of the church with Christ as the cornerstone.

This imagery reveals the temporary nature of the sign gifts. The cornerstone (Christ) and foundation (apostles and prophets) of a building (the church) is laid only one time. You do not lay one foundation upon another. You lay one foundation and build upon it. Therefore, just like Christ is not given again in the development of the church, neither are the gifts of apostle and prophet. Now that the foundation has been laid and the church is being built, the gifts of apostle and prophet do not exist.

...having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone...

(2) **Sign Gifts were the Mark of an Apostle**

After Paul wrote 1 Corinthians to the church in Corinth (a letter in which he addressed the church's sinful behavior) many of the Corinthians questioned his authority to challenge their behavior. At stake was whether Paul was an apostle. Second Corinthians is Paul's response and is largely a defense of his apostleship. In **2 Corinthians 12:12** Paul indicates that the proof that he is an apostle was the signs that he performed for them. Unlike a false prophet who would have no such validating signs, Paul proved his apostleship through them. Therefore, signs served a specific function of validating an apostle (similar to Christ's signs that served to authenticate His deity).

The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles.

2 Corinthians 12:12

(3) **Apostles do not Exist Today**

After the ascension, the eleven apostles selected a replacement for Judas. Their criteria is recorded in **Acts 1:21-22**, specifically that an apostle would be a person who saw Christ. Paul affirms this criteria in **1 Corinthians 9:1** and was eligible for apostleship because he saw the resurrected Lord in **Acts 9:1-9** and was therefore a special apostle, as one "untimely born" (**1 Corinthians 15:8**). No one can meet this qualification for apostleship today and, therefore, there are no modern apostles. Furthermore, the Bible anticipates no apostles after Paul (**1 Corinthians 15:8**).

...After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, God also bearing witness with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.

Hebrews 2:3-4

(4) **Miracles did not Exist in the Second Generation of the Church**

The writer of Hebrews (written before A.D. 70) places himself outside of the age of miracles (**Hebrews 2:3-4**). He indicates that God revealed Himself to "them" (the first generation of the church) through Christ and the apostles and that this message was validated through signs. However, the second generation had no such signs.

(5) **Biblical Tongues have not Appeared in the Church Since the Apostolic Age**

Since the conclusion of the *Apostolic Age*, tongues have been absent from church history and writings. The modern charismatic movement (begun in 1900), is the first time tongues have really been considered since A.D. 100.

Does this Mean that God doesn't Heal or Perform Miracles?

The question is often asked, "if healing and miracles have ceased as spiritual gifts, does this mean that God no longer heals or performs miracles?" It is a great question that deserves a moment of consideration. With the end of the *Apostolic Age*, the spiritual gifts of healing and miracles ceased, but not necessarily God's use of healing and miracles. Without the spiritual gifts, God simply chooses to accomplish His will in this area without using a person. So can God still heal miraculously? Yes. Will He use a person to do so? No.

What about the Gift of Prophecy as Boldness?

Another common question concerns spiritual gift inventories that include the gift of prophecy. Many of these inventories will redefine this gift to mean "speaking boldly or being bold in addressing sin and wrong behavior."

To understand the gift of prophecy, we must investigate where God Himself established the parameters of a prophet:

¹⁸I will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. ¹⁹And it shall come about that whoever will not listen to My words which he shall speak in My name, I Myself will require it of him. ²⁰But the prophet who shall speak a word presumptuously in My name which I have not commanded him to speak, or which he shall speak in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die. ²¹And you may say in your heart, 'How shall we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?' ²²When a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not come about or come true, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.'

Deuteronomy 18:18-22

From these words of instruction, we can conclude that prophets received a message directly from God and spoke exactly what He told them to say. These messages from God centered on Him foretelling what He would do. The test of a prophet was 100% accuracy. This gift, along with all direct revelation, has ceased. It is not accurate to change the definition and emphasize only one portion of the role of the prophet (forthtelling) while ignoring the other (foretelling).

A Word on Tongues

With many modern churches placing an emphasis on tongues, it is worthwhile to interact with this sign gift for a few moments. Here are a few aspects of tongues to consider:

(1) Tongues were Known Languages

The tongues of **Acts 2:4** are defined in **Acts 2:6,9** and **11** as known languages. This is attested by the Jews who heard the tongues and understood what was being said (**Acts 2:11**). There is no Biblical support suggesting that these known languages in Acts are not the same tongues described in 1 Corinthians.

Many modern tongues seems to be nothing more than gibberish or babbling.

Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away.

1 Corinthians 13:8

(2) Tongues were a "Lesser Gift"

Paul explained very clearly that tongues were a lesser gift to the more important gifts of apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, and teacher (**1 Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 4:11-13**). Modern tongues are disproportionately elevated in many environments. Some even go as far to teach that tongues is mandatory for a believer. Others will even offer workshops on how to attain the gift of tongues (as if any of the gifts can be attained). Certainly a lesser gift would not merit this attention.

(3) Tongues were a Temporary Sign Gift

In **1 Corinthians 13:8**, we learn that tongues would cease. The phrase "tongues, they will cease" is in the Greek middle voice. This grammatical structure is used for a subject that acts in its own benefit and carries the meaning that tongues will cease themselves. It is therefore impossible to suggest that tongues would continue until Christ's second coming because this would require the passive voice (Christ acting on the tongues).

(4) **Tongues were Strictly Regulated**

In handling the Corinthians misuse of tongues, Paul sets forth very stringent rules for using tongues:

- 1) No more than three were to speak in tongues in service (**1 Corinthians 14:27**).
- 2) The tongues speaking was to be done in turn (one person at a time) and not all at once (**1 Corinthians 14:27**).
- 3) The tongues were to be interpreted. If there was no interpreter present, there should be no speaking in tongues (**1 Corinthians 14:27-28**).

These rules often are not followed by tongues-speaking groups.

(5) **Tongues were Controllable**

The instruction that if an interpreter is not present, one should not speak in tongues reveals that this gift was controllable just like the other gifts. One does not break out in teaching or into evangelism. Likewise, one does not break out into tongues.

(6) **Tongues were not Forbidden by Paul Because He Wrote During the Apostolic Age**

Paul does not forbid the use of tongues in 1 Corinthians because he wrote during the *Apostolic Age*. Just as the sacrificial system is detailed in Scripture because it was used at that time but not anymore, tongues were dealt with because it was available at that time but no longer.

(7) **Christ Never Mentioned Tongues**

There is not a single passage where Christ deals with tongues. If tongues were indeed central to the Christian's life, it seems odd that He would not have mentioned them at all. In fact, the gift of tongues is only mentioned in Acts and 1 Corinthians.

Why Isn't the Gift of Pastor/Teacher Included?

There is one spiritual gift not present in the inventory for a different reason. The gift of pastor/teacher is not a sign gift; it is still available. However, it is not included in the survey because this gift will be accompanied by God clearly calling a person to pastoral ministry. The design of this tool is to assist church members find their gift and place of ministry. If you believe that God might be leading you to pastoral ministry, talk with one of the pastoral staff about this. They would love to pray with you, help guide you, and offer any insight that they can.