



THE ELDERS AND SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Volume 5

Section A



General Conference
Ministerial Association

***“Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed... There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.*”**



Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit,



*to another miraculous powers,
to another prophecy, to another
distinguishing between spirits,
to another speaking in different
kinds of tongues, and to still
another the interpretation of
tongues. All these are the work
of one and the same Spirit, and
he distributes them to each one,
just as he determines.”*

1 Corinthians 12:1, 4-11





I. The great commission



We have been entrusted with a great mission, and with God's help, we must develop it. In order to do that, we need to have a clear understanding of what that commission is.

Matthew 28:19-20 contains the great commission which we can summarize as follows:



- 1. Going forth**
- 2. Making disciples**
- 3. Baptizing them**
- 4. Teaching them**
- 5. Benefitting from the divine presence**

*(“And surely I am with you... to the very end of the age.” **Matthew 28:20**)*

“To every one work has been allotted, and no one can be a substitute for another. Each one has a mission of wonderful importance, which he cannot neglect or ignore, as the fulfillment of it involves the weal of some soul, and the neglect of it the woe of one for whom Christ died.”

ChS 10





II. What is a spiritual gift?

Some definitions



- It refers to a supernatural ability provided by the Holy Spirit to equip Christian men and women in their work to serve and minister.
- Are special skills or abilities with which God empowers the believers (through talents) or gives to them after their baptism.



- **The gifts are not aptitudes with which we are born; they are qualities that God gives to us when we become His disciples and are baptized.**
- **The gifts are endowments from God so that His children may fulfill the great commission.**



- *“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”*

1 Peter 4:10

- *“For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function... We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.”*

Romans 12:4–6



- ***“God has set in the church different gifts. These are precious in their proper places, and all may act a part in the work of preparing a people for Christ’s soon coming.”***

GW 481



“Ignorance of spiritual gifts is the main cause that slows the growth of churches today. It is also the root of insecurity, frustration, guilt and despair that plagues many Christians and prevents them from being effective workers for God.”

Your Spiritual Gifts, p. 32



III. What are talents?

Some definitions



- **They are all the hereditary skills and abilities which God allots to us**
- **and which later on are developed by practice and/or instruction.**



- **They are the natural abilities with which a person is born.**
- **Synonymous with abilities, skills and virtues that a person has and that are a product of their genetic composition.**



IV. The official position of the church



Seventh-day Adventists believe that, “*God bestows upon all members of His church in every age spiritual gifts which each member is to employ in loving ministry for the common good of the church and of humanity. Given by the agency of the Holy Spirit, who apportions to each member as He wills,*

the gifts provide all abilities and ministries needed by the church to fulfill its divinely ordained functions. According to the Scriptures, these gifts include such ministries as faith, healing, prophecy, proclamation, teaching, administration, reconciliation, compassion, and self-sacrificing service and charity for the help and encouragement of people.



Some members are called of God and endowed by the Spirit for functions recognized by the church in pastoral, evangelistic, apostolic, and teaching ministries particularly needed to equip the members for service,



to build up the church to spiritual maturity, and to foster unity of the faith and knowledge of God. When members employ these spiritual gifts as faithful stewards of God's varied grace,





the church is protected from the destructive influence of false doctrine, grows with a growth that is from God, and is built up in faith and love.”

*Fundamental Belief, #17:
Spiritual Gifts and Ministries*



V. What we should know about spiritual gifts



- **The real test of spirituality is submission to Christ.**

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

- **All spiritual gifts are important, and when they operate together and in harmony, each contributes positively to the whole.**

1 Corinthians 12:12-27



- No particular gift, isolated from the others, is proof or evidence of spiritual maturity.

1 Corinthians 12:28-31

- A proper attitude of love is the essential ingredient for all things to work together accordingly.

1 Corinthians 13



- **The value of a spiritual gift stems from its usefulness in the context of the church as a whole.**
- **God can increase our spiritual gifts, if we use wisely those He has given us.**
- **God may withdraw spiritual gifts if we use them for selfish motives.**



- The gifts that God gives us, are intended to help the church in fulfilling its mission, and not for the glory of the persons who have the gifts.
- We may ask God to grant us gifts; the Lord will know whether or not to bestow them to us.

Conclusion



“They were then baptized in the name of Jesus, and as Paul ‘laid his hands upon them,’ they received also the baptism of the Holy Spirit, by which they were enabled to speak the languages of other nations and to prophesy.



Thus they were qualified to labor as missionaries in Ephesus and its vicinity and also to go forth to proclaim the gospel in Asia Minor.”
AA 283