

What is NewSong's stand on the Sign Gifts, like healing and speaking in tongues?

As already mentioned, the sign gifts are a part of the manifestational gift list, and we stated that they could be active today. We believe those gifts are distributed "as God wills, with a specific purpose." Therefore, they may or may not be seen in the life of a church or an individual believer. Yet it is important to note that some of the sign gifts, tongues in particular, are given very specific instructions which limit their operation in the Body (e.g. 1 Corinthians 14).

The better question to ask is – "Does God need to make those gifts known or operative today?" We would teach that many of those gifts were used to help authenticate the gospel and the written Word in the establishment of the church. In Hebrews 2:2-4, we are told that the Word of God was confirmed to man "both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will." Paul also alludes to the fact that some of the gifts will cease (1 Cor. 13:8).

Today, we have the completed, written, authenticated canon of Scripture; the sign gifts are not necessary. It would seem that some of the manifestational gifts would not be needed today.

Again, let us reiterate that these gifts are given "as God wills" and we rely on His sovereignty over these matters.

More Than Using Your Gifts?

Discovering and deploying your gifts is extremely important for you, the church, and the advancing of the gospel. However, each believer must guard against pride, superior attitudes, and doing ministry in the flesh. God desires each Christian to use their gifts under the Spirit's control and while demonstrating the fruit of the Spirit. We are to minister with selfless, servants' hearts, always demonstrating a humble, repentant tone. When this is done Christ is glorified and people are impacted! God has given us gifts – it is our task to get out of the pew and into the ministry!

A Word from Our Pastor

"Everything we need to grow and function as a church is sitting in the pew!" When I heard that proclaimed by a preacher, my mind began to consider all the saints who I have watched over years do nothing but *"sit in those pews!!"*

The Church of the Lord Jesus is supposed to be a powerful, potent force for ministry. The reason is that by receiving the Holy Spirit at the time of new birth we are empowered to do the work of the ministry with *Spiritual Gifts*. Yet to be effective in our service we must understand and practically engage our giftedness.

Over the past 30 years there has not been a more debated issue in the church and a less taught topic than spiritual giftedness. Our goal with this brochure is to clarify this issue, but more so to challenge you to use the supernatural ability God has given you, and together we can build up the Body of Christ!

With Much Joy,

Pastor Jamie Mitchell

SPIRITUAL GIFTS



Spiritual Gifts

609 Prospect Street
Lancaster, PA 17603

Phone: 717.393.9600
Fax: 717.393.6900

Email:
info@newsongfellowship.net

Website:
www.newsongfellowship.net

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

What are Spiritual Gifts?

Spiritual gifts are God-given enablements which believers in Christ receive at salvation. They are different than “natural abilities or talents,” wherein a person before Christ might not be able to show care or compassion, after new birth they might be spiritually empowered with a mercy gift due to the Holy Spirit’s presence.

Why is there such confusion?

In the aftermath of the Jesus Movement in the late 60’s and 70’s, the church rediscovered the concept of every-member ministry and the importance of using our gifts. Little teaching and lots of zeal led to an over-emphasis in regards to how the Holy Spirit works in our lives. Specifically, there were three issues that caused the lack of clarity.

The first had to do with when the *Baptism of the Holy Spirit* occurs. Some were teaching that the Baptism of the Spirit came after salvation and was marked by the expression of certain gifts. We teach that **at the moment of salvation** a believer is regenerated, indwelt, sealed, and empowered by the Spirit and that this is the one **Baptism of the Spirit**. (Ephesians 4:5)

The second point of confusion had to do with the actual list of gifts and how many gifts a believer receives. We will discuss this more completely later; nevertheless, we teach that each believer **receives one spiritual gift** which motivates and influences every ministry activity a believer is involved in.

The third issue had to do with the necessity of speaking in tongues as proof of the baptism of Holy Spirit. We do not believe that every believer will receive the same gift, just like we don’t believe that every one has to receive the gift of teaching, serving, leading, or giving. We will clarify our position on the sign gifts later.

So with the boundaries established, let’s begin to deepen our understanding...

What are the Purposes of Gifts?

It is crucial, when trying to understand spiritual giftedness, to realize that God’s gifts have been

given for specific purposes:

1. **Personal growth of each believer.** We will never reach full maturity in Christ if we don’t discover and use our gifts. There is a sense that spiritual growth is limited and stunted if a believer does not begin serving! We grow up to give out!
2. **Building up the Body of Christ.** When each believer is contributing to the programs and ministries of the church, the Body will reach its full potential. Many might be involved with various ministry activities, yet all of our efforts should be directly affecting the growth of the Church.
3. **Outreach to the Lost.** All members of the Church are to work in tandem and in concert with each other if effective evangelism is going to occur. We call it Team Evangelism!

Part of the development process of our giftedness is making sure these objectives and purposes are being fulfilled.

What Gifts Do I Have?

The Bible has three distinct lists that are labeled **Spiritual Gifts**: *Romans 12:3-8*; *I Corinthians 12:4-10*, and *Ephesians 4:11*. Some views have combined all three lists and cancelled out the *duplicates*. However, this violates laws of interpretation. Some have said that these lists are *incomplete* and have added to them, which jeopardizes the veracity of God’s Word. Others have even said that all of these gifts are not for today and that God is doing something new! Yet to be true to the Scriptures, we have to study the passages as written and draw our conclusions based on what we do know....

We teach that each of these lists represents a specific *group of gifts with three distinct applications*. The Ephesians 4 passage is the list of **Ministry Gifts**, or the functions through which we practice our giftedness. Not every believer will identify a specific ministry role and primarily these gifts are reserved for leadership.

The 1 Corinthians 12 list is called the **Manifestational Gifts**. These are one-time, special operations of God for a specific ministry event. Over a lifetime, a believer might never be given a manifestational gift, as it is based on a God-determined need in ministry.

Finally, we call the Romans 12 list the **Motivational Gifts**. This represents the gifts that influence the desires and unique ways in which individual believers minister. It is from this list that each believer will find the particular spiritual gift they received at new birth. The seven motivational gifts are:

- Prophecy
- Serving
- Teaching
- Exhorting
- Giving
- Ruling
- Mercy

Regardless of your role or function, it is the *motivational gift*, which is the impetus and inner drive that colors your decisions, style, and desires in ministry.

How Do I Discover My Gifts?

It is very unusual for any believer to just “wake up one day” and say they are fully aware of how God has wired them to serve. More times than not, it is through a *process of discovery*. We suggest the following steps are essential in the process:

Education: From time to time we offer classes and teaching, which assist believers in fully understanding the Biblical principles regarding gifted-ness. We suggest that believers read the pertinent passages and review Biblical accounts in regards to the operation of the gifts in the Body.

Evaluation – We have a *Basic Motivational Inventory*, which is a self-administered test to help identify your giftedness. We also suggest that a person ask their spouse, a close friend or a church leader to help evaluate what their giftedness might be. The more insights the better!

Engagement – We also encourage each person to try different ministries and see which one “fits them best.” Even if you think you know your giftedness, the proof is in your effectiveness in ministry. A lot of times while involved in ministry, clarity and confirmation occurs.