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## Unwrapping Your Spiritual Gifts

### 12: 4-26

**ADONAI** gives every believer **spiritual gifts** to be used in ministry (**Romans 12:4-8; First Corinthians 12:8-31a; Ephesians 4:8-15; and First Peter 4:10-11**). These are special **God-empowered** abilities for serving **Him** that are given only to believers. The Bible says: **Whoever does not have the Spirit cannot receive the gifts that come from God's Spirit (2:14 TEV)**.



You can't earn your **spiritual gifts** or deserve **them** - that's why **they** are called *gifts*! **They** are an expression of **God's** grace to you. **Messiah has generously divided out his gift to us (Ephesians 4:7 CEV)**. Neither do you get to choose which **gifts** you'd like to have; **the Ruach Ha'Kodesh** determines that. **Paul** explained: **It is the one and only Holy Spirit who distributes these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have (12:11)**. Most people have one dominant spiritual gift and a lesser, or secondary **spiritual gift**. Because **God** loves variety and **He** wants us to be special, no single **gift** is given to everyone (**12:29-30**). Also, no individual receives *all the gifts*. If you had them all, you'd have no need for anyone else, and that would defeat one of **God's** purposes - to teach us to love and depend on each other.

Your **spiritual gifts** were not given for your own benefit, but the benefit of *others*, just as other people were given gifts for your benefit. The Bible says: **A spiritual gift is given to each of us as a means of helping the church (12:7 NLT)**. **God** planned it this way so we would need each other. When we use our gifts together, we all benefit. If others don't use their gifts, you get cheated, and if you don't use your gift, they get cheated. This is why



we're commanded to discover and develop our **spiritual gifts**. Have you taken the time to discover your **spiritual gifts**? An unopened **gift** is worthless!

Whenever we forget these basic truths about **gifts**, it always causes trouble in the congregation. Two common problems are "gift-envy" and "gift-projection." The first occurs when we compare our **gifts** with others', feel dissatisfied with what **God** gave us, and become resentful or jealous of how **God** uses others. The second problem happens when we expect everyone else to have our **gifts**, do what we are called to do, and feel as passionate about it as we do. The Bible says: **There are different kinds of service in the Church, but it is the same Lord we are serving (12:5 NLT).**<sup>353</sup>