DAVID K. BERNARD

# SPIRITUAL GIFTS

A practical study with inspirational

accounts of God's supernatural gifts

to His church

# **Spiritual Gifts**

## by David K. Bernard

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# CHAPTER ONE

# SPIRITUAL GIFTS IN THE BIBLE

he Bible teaches that every believer is, and should function as, a vital part of the body of Christ. God has bestowed many gifts upon His church. He has endowed the members with special abilities and ministries for the benefit of the body as a whole, both locally and worldwide.

Three passages in the New Testament—Romans 12, Ephesians 4, and I Corinthians 12—list some gifts that God has granted the church. Romans 12 discusses abilities, talents, or functions that God gives to all believers. Ephesians 4 identifies special offices of leadership and ministry that God has given to the church. In I Corinthians 12 we find supernatural signs, wonders, and miracles that occur by the direct operation and power of the Holy Spirit. For the sake of clarity, we will label these three lists respectively as the service gifts, the ministerial office gifts, and the supernatural gifts. In this chapter

we will discuss the service gifts and ministerial office gifts; the remainder of the book will be devoted to the supernatural spiritual gifts of I Corinthians 12-14.

The three lists of gifts are as follows:

# The Service Gifts (Romans 12:6-8)

- 1. Prophecy
- 2. Ministry
- 3. Teaching
- 4. Exhortation
- 5. Giving
- 6. Leading (ruling in KJV)
- 7. Showing mercy

# The Ministerial Office Gifts (Ephesians 4:11)

- 1. Apostles
- 2. Prophets
- 3. Evangelists
- 4. Pastors
- 5. Teachers

# The Supernatural Spiritual Gifts (I Corinthians 12:8-10)

- 1. Word of wisdom
- 2. Word of knowledge
- 3. Faith
- 4. Gifts of healings
- 5. Working of miracles
- 6. Prophecy
- 7. Discerning of spirits
- 8. Different kinds of tongues
- 9. Interpretation of tongues

We also find in I Corinthians 12:28-30 a list that combines elements from each of the preceding categories:

- 1. Apostles
- 2. Prophets
- 3. Teachers
- 4. Miracles (also "workers of miracles," verse 29)
- 5. Gifts of healings
- 6. Helps (similar to "ministry")
- 7. Administrations ("governments" in KJV, similar to leading or ruling)
- 8. Varieties of tongues
- 9. Interpretation of tongues (verse 30).

### THE SERVICE GIFTS

"For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more
highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as
God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. For as
we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being
many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having then gifts differing
according to the grace that is given to us, let us use
them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our
faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he
who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with
diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness"
(Romans 12:3-8).