

1 Corinthians 12:7-8—A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. 8 To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge.

- **3 Considerations**

**1) Character vs Gifting**

Luke 2:52 (NLT) - Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and all the people

**2) Functionality & Balance**

Love Is the Greatest

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (NLT) - If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. 3 If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing.

1 Corinthians 13:8-10 (NLT) - 8 Prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will become useless. But love will last forever! 9 Now our knowledge is partial and incomplete, and even the gift of prophecy reveals only part of the whole picture! 10 But when the time of perfection comes, these partial things will become useless.

**3) ...while eagerly desiring more**

1 Corinthians 12:31 (NLT) - So you should earnestly desire the most helpful gifts. But now let me show you a way of life that is best of all.

**Study Guide**

1. What is your own personal experience and understanding of the Holy Spirit?
2. What has your experience been with regards to the gifts of the Holy Spirit? (See 1 Corinthians 12:8-10)
3. What is the difference between the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the Fruit of the Holy Spirit? ( 1 Corinthians 12 & Galatians 5:22-23)

**4. Which in the following list do you think best determines fruitful interaction with God's Spirit?**

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|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Serving others    | <input type="checkbox"/> Openness of mind               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Church attendance | <input type="checkbox"/> Observing the Spirit in action |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Solid teaching    | <input type="checkbox"/> Biblical knowledge             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A seekers heart   | <input type="checkbox"/> Length of time as a Christian  |

Why did you choose the way you did?

5. Take some time to pray and seek the Lord for a deeper friendship with Him. Ask Him specifically about the gifts of the Holy Spirit and receiving them.