The Gifts of the Holy Spirit
1 Corinthians 12:4, 7-11

Defining the word “gift”
There are nine different words translated “gift” in the Bible. The one used in the above text is the Greek word charisma kära’-is-mah (Strong's Greek Number 5486), it occurs 17 times in the Bible. On 15 occasions in the KJV it is translated – gift, twice it is translated free gift. Charisma kära’-is-mah is grace made definite, specific, effective, available in a certain form or operation in the life of a believer.

Table 1. Contrasts between ministry and spiritual gifts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ministry Gift</th>
<th>Spiritual Gift</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ephesians 4:8 &amp; 11</td>
<td>Rom 12:6; 1 Cor 12:8-10 &amp; 30; 1 Tim 4:14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The believer is the gift</td>
<td>The believer has the gift</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Every aspect of the believer’s life makes up the gift, i.e. whole life centres around the gift</td>
<td>A brief manifestation of the gift occurs in the believer’s life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Character is involved</td>
<td>Character is not involved</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Holy Spirit has 9 gifts and 9 fruit.
Gifts are received unconditionally, instantly (Christmas tree). Romans 11:29
Fruit come by a process of cultivation, growth and maturing (fruit tree). Galatians 5:22 – 23.

Table 2. The gifts of the Holy Spirit in three categories (1 Corinthians 12:8 – 10)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revelation</th>
<th>Power</th>
<th>Vocal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Word of wisdom</td>
<td>Faith</td>
<td>Prophecy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word of knowledge</td>
<td>Working of miracles</td>
<td>Kinds of tongues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discerning of spirits</td>
<td>Gifts of healings</td>
<td>Interpretation of tongues</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Important facts about the Gifts of the Holy Spirit
1. They are gifts; they cannot be earned or worked for;
2. In 1 Corinthians 12: 7 & 11 Paul says they are available to “each one”, i.e., to all believers;
3. Paul describes these gifts using a key word, “manifestation”, an open revelation to the senses (something that can be perceived by the 5 senses); 1 Corinthians 12:7
4. The gifts are supernatural.

The purpose for which the Gifts of the Holy Spirit are made available to us by God
1. The gifts make room for God’s sovereignty;
2. The gifts lift us above the realm of our natural abilities;
3. The gifts confirm our testimony of Jesus Christ - 1 Corinthians 1:4 – 8;
4. The gifts are one of the primary ways believers contribute to the common good of the Body of Christ - 1 Corinthians 14:26.

The church will be adorned with and exercising the gifts when the Lord Jesus returns
1 Corinthians 1:4-7, I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given to you by Jesus Christ; 5 that you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge, 6 even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: 7 So that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ:
The Word of Wisdom

The Word of Wisdom and the Word of Knowledge are different. Wisdom is directive; knowledge is informative.

The purpose of wisdom is to give us direction. Ecclesiastes 10:10, “but wisdom is profitable to direct”. Wisdom and knowledge are often interdependent. Proverbs 15:2, “The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly”.

An illustration from Acts 15

A council of all the leaders of the church held in Jerusalem to find a solution to a very difficult problem. Were gentile converts to the Christian faith required to be circumcised and come under the Law of Moses?

In Acts 15:19 & 20 a very simple and clear ‘Word of Wisdom’ was spoken by James. All that should be required of gentile Christians that they abstain from four things: idols, fornication, food strangled and food with blood in it. That word had a profound impact on the subsequent history of the church. The results were:
1. The mind of God was revealed to them at that vital turning point in church history;
2. It produced complete harmony amongst God’s people.

“It seemed good” - see Acts 15: 22, 25 & 28. The church had complete unity that was essential for the progress of God’s work.

The Word of Knowledge

Knowledge gives us the facts; wisdom tells us what to do about the facts.

Acts 4:34 & 35; Acts 5: 1 – 11. The Story of Ananias and Sapphira:
1. Peter received his knowledge directly from the Holy Spirit;
2. The results were dramatic and powerful.
   a. It kept the church pure and honest.
   b. It brought conviction on the unbelievers.

Distinguishing or Discerning of Spirits

DEFINITION: The ability to recognise, identify and distinguish between various kinds of spirits that confront us.

The purposes of this gift:
1. To lift the veil that covers the unseen spiritual world;
2. To enable us to see as God sees. Go below the outward appearance and see the heart - 1 Samuel 16:7;
3. To protect us from deception – sometimes Satan appears as an angel of light – 2 Corinthians 11:14;
4. To enable us to diagnose problems.

Table 3. Examples of Discerning Spirits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Spirit of God</th>
<th>John 1:32</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Angels</td>
<td>John 1:51; Acts 27:23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demons (unclean spirits)</td>
<td>Acts 16:16 - 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Human Spirit</td>
<td>John 1:47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The gifts of the Spirit are not a luxury, but a necessity to overcome wickedness and tests that the church will face in the last days.