

Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from Above and comes down from the Father of Lights” (Js 1:17)

The lists of spiritual gifts mentioned in the Bible are not exhaustive but only suggestive. There are undoubtedly several other gifts not mentioned explicitly in these lists. Here are some examples—

God has gifted many of His saints to compose and sing songs so sweetly and play extolling music. King David was one such unusually gifted person. He was called the “anointed sweet Psalmist of Israel” (2 Sam 23:1). In today’s mission world, Mr. Emil Jebasingh stands out as a gifted composer of many missionary challenge songs. A severe fever made Fanny Crosby (1823-1915) blind when she was six weeks old. She died at 92. The Lord unusually gifted her and she composed thousands of hymns which never grow old. *“Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine”* is one of them.



Both in celebration and the proclamation of His praise, God has used arts widely. He filled Bezaleel with His Spirit “in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge and in all manner of workmanship to design artistic works” for the House of Worship (Ex 31:1-5). Mr. Navaneethar of Friends Missionary Prayer Band is a modern example. His paintings and drawings have challenged so many and catapulted them to the mission fields. Joni, a quadriplegic because of an accident, paints beautiful pictures for the glory of God by holding the brush in her mouth!

Mastering new languages, in short durations at that, has been possible to pioneer missionaries and Bible translators because of God’s gifting. Otherwise how would it have been possible for William Carey (1761-1834), the English-speaking missionary, to translate the Bible into so many Indian vernaculars? God is sovereign. His resources are inexhaustible. Once a little boy was trying to empty the ocean with his bucket!

Someone may argue that singing, painting, learning languages, etc., are just talents and not gifts. But it is God who gives talents too. Whatever God gives is a gift. “Who makes you differ from another? It is God” (1 Cor 4:7). We must not think that speaking in tongues and performing miracles alone are the gifts of the Holy Spirit. This is one reason why we are lagging behind in writing, music and art. The songs of today are more in prose form than poetic. O God, give us hymnologists like Charles Wesley (1707-1788) and Ira Sankey (1840-1908)!

MARCH 10

PRAYER

Subject: Holy Spirit

Reading: 2 Cor 12:1-11

Memorising: Js 1:17

Gracious Heavenly Father,

We worship You as the Father of Lights from whom comes to us every good gift and every perfect gift. You have been a Giver from eternity past. We thank You for Jesus who is Your indescribable gift! We thank You for the Gift of the Holy Spirit! Apart from what we have received from You, we have nothing of our own, whether it's spiritual, physical or material. No one can outgive You, O God!

We thank You, O Lord, for Your impartiality in distributing gifts to us. You have bestowed them on each of us according to what You know about our capability. Help us, O God, not to bury them but use them for the glory of Your Name and the good of our fellowmen. Forgive us, O God, our laziness and sluggishness. Throw some fire in our hearts so we may rise up with a holy zeal to serve You.

Thank You, Father, for the gifts of the Ascended Lord on us in the Church. We long to see in operation the apostolic vision, prophetic insight, evangelistic zeal, pastoral concern and teaching ability in our assemblies. Free us, O God, from an independent spirit so we can work with an attitude of interdependence for maximum benefit. Help us, Father, never to despise anyone but encourage one another.

Thank You, Father, for the multifarious gifts of the Holy Spirit which He has distributed to us, as He wills, for the benefit of all. Help us, Father, to be unselfish and self-controlled in operating these gifts. Let the edification of the Church and evangelisation of the world be our sole aim. Help us, O Lord, not to be overoccupied with the gifts to the extent of neglecting to cultivate the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. Help us experience the outpouring of Your love with every fresh filling of Your Spirit.

We pray, O God, for the silent majority in the Church which does not speak for You or do anything for You. Send us a Revival, O Lord, so all the dead bones might become alive to march as a dynamic battalion. Let every Christian become a bold witness for Jesus with the power of the Holy Spirit. We claim the promise of Jesus that signs and wonders would follow those who believe.

This we ask for Your glory, in Jesus' mighty Name! Amen!

*(Js 1:17; 2 Cor 9:15; 1 Cor 4:7; 1 Cor 12:11; Eph 4:8,11-15;
Ezek 37:10; Mt 25:25; Acts 1:8; Mk 16:15-18)*