



### Does the Holy Spirit give gifts based on gender?

**NO!** Worldly-minded people may look at a person’s appearance or intellect to find a leader. But God looks deeper than skin and brains. People may consider a person’s age or strength, popularity, power, or bank account. The Lord, however, knows a person’s character.

1 Samuel 16:7 states:

*“But the Lord said to Samuel, ‘Do not look on his [David’s oldest brother] appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.’”*

**The Holy Spirit is God. He chooses. He gifts.**

Do not be confused about Who bestows spiritual gifts! A person with a spiritual gift receives that gift from GOD. God chooses which believer receives which gift to build the Church and complete his global mission. God gives gifts to whomever he sees fit.

#### Lists of spiritual gifts: Functions and People

The New Testament offers a few lists of spiritual gifts. Romans 12 lists seven gifts. 1 Corinthians 12 lists eleven gifts, and 1 Peter 4 mentions two gifts. These lists include specific functions or actions that the Holy Spirit empowers, not just natural human ability. In addition to spiritually empowered *actions*, another list in Ephesians 4:11-12 includes *people* who are the “gifts” to the Church. While some consider this list as “offices” rather than “gifts,” the text says, “The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles...” The list in Ephesians 4 reveals that the job of these gifted people is to equip the ministers (the whole Church). The apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers are tasked with equipping the Body of Christ. See the One-Pager, “Can you show me a good Bible example of a woman leading?” Whether gifted for spiritual function or spiritual equipping for ministry, the Holy Spirit determines it all!

#### Charismata = God’s gracious gifts

God’s grace (the Greek word *charis*) originates and overflows from God’s generous, overflowing character. God graciously gifts his Church with his favor, his blessings, and his empowering presence. Both men and women receive God’s grace, not based on our biology. We all receive spiritual gifts (grace) to build up and mature the Body of Christ.

***The Bible offers no “male spiritual gift list” nor “female spiritual gift list.”***

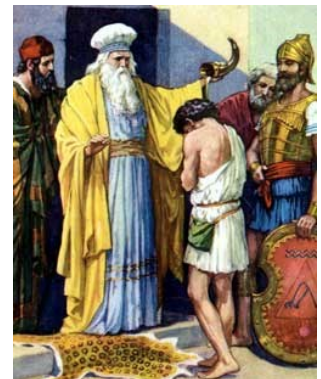
#### Conclusion

**Because God looks at the heart, all believers should exercise their God-given spiritual gifts for the benefit and building up of the Body of Christ. May we not dishonor the Holy Spirit by quenching or grieving or denying God’s daughters and sons from using their spiritual gifts. May we also consider the heart!**

#### Key Term

# χάρις

*charis* = grace; *charismata* = grace gifts



#### 4 Crucial Questions

1. What does this teach us about **GOD**?
2. What does this teach us about **PEOPLE**?
3. What command should I **OBEY**?
4. With whom can I **SHARE** this?