

DEVOTED

ACTS 2:42-47



ACTS 2

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Acts 2:42 ESV

Versetitel	
Verses 37-41	Conversion Experience
Verses 42-47	Corporate Experience

Speaking in Tongues

- Acts 2:4 “tongues” Greek root word is “dialektos” from which we get the English word dialect.
- Acts 2:8 “tongues” Greek root word is “glossa” from which we get the English word glossary.

In this historic record of the phenomena, it is evident that the tongues were a human language or dialect peculiar to a people. They were not a secret prayer language, or the “tongues of angels” cited from I Corinthians 13:1. What happened on the Day of Pentecost is nothing like what is seen practiced today associated with the charismatic and Pentecostal movements.

The 3 occasions in the book of Acts are both a) exceptional b) evidential.

- Acts 2: gave evidence to the Jewish believers having been indwelt by the Holy Spirit.
- Acts 10: gave evidence to the Gentile believers having been indwelt by the Holy Spirit.
- Acts 19: gave evidence of the Ephesians believers having been indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

Speaking in Tongues

According to 1 Corinthians 14

Tongues speaking is:

Verse 20-21 A sign of impending judgement

Isaiah 28:11-12 is quoted. Unbelieving Israel under judgment refusing to hear the prophets and characterized by sin and disobedience would hear the tongue/language of their Assyrian captor.

Verse 22 A sign gift to the unbeliever, no blessing to Israel or the Church, instead prophecy is of blessing.

Lists of Spiritual Gifts	
Romans 12	God is the giver
1 Corinthians 12	Spirit is the giver
Ephesians 4	Christ is the giver

Now concerning spiritual gifts...

A Gift Defined

A supernatural ability given by God at conversion for the service of others that God may be glorified. It is not the same as a talent (a natural ability e.g. musical, artistic, linguistic etc. which may be shared with unbelievers) although it may be used in conjunction with one – which talents are also to be rendered to the Lord for His use.

A Gift Delineated

Every believer has some but not all spiritual gifts. (1 Peter 4:10) Likely most believers only have one (see Timothy “stir up the gift {singular}”).

A Gift Developed

It appears that all Christians are commanded to do all of the ministries – as we simply obey and do with might what our hands find to do, the Spirit nudges us into a ministry commensurate with our gift. Most often, others notice our gift before we do.

The 21 Gifts of the Spirit

(Rom 12:6-8, 1 Cor 12:8-10, 28-30, Eph 4:11, 1 Pet 4:11)

PASSING GIFTS	PERMANENT GIFTS
<i>Passing Servant gifts</i> Apostle, Prophet	<i>Permanent Servant gifts</i> Evangelist, Shepherd, Teacher
<i>Passing Service gifts</i> Prophecy, Word of wisdom, Word of knowledge, Faith, Discerning spirits	<i>Permanent Service gifts</i> Government, Ministry, Rule
<i>Passing Sign gifts</i> Tongues, Interpretation of Tongues, Healing, Working of miracles	<i>Permanent Serving gifts</i> Exhortation, Helps, Giving, Mercy

The Difference Between a Talent and a Gift

There is a BIG difference between a natural talent and a God-given gift. As far as similarities, we can agree that ultimately God as creator is the source of both talent and gift. If we attribute talent to genetics and environment, we still give credit and acknowledge the source as God, the creator of genetics and environment.

Here are the major differences between a talent and a gift:

Talents are inherited, Gifts are received.

Natural talents are those abilities inherited from one's parents and nurtured in the context of one's family. Such natural talent is the result of genetics and environment. However spiritual gifts are given by the risen Christ. In the words of Ephesians 4:8, "He...gave gifts unto men" quoting from Psalm 68:8 when the ark ascended up mount Zion. Talents are inherited from natural birth, but gifts are received upon spiritual birth.

The Difference Between a Talent and a Gift

Talents are shared by the saved and unsaved / Gifts are only possessed by the saved

A natural talent, such as artistic, linguistic, musical, physical, can be shared by both the saved and unsaved. However, spiritual gifts are only possessed by the saved. John Heading says in "First Epistle to the Corinthians", "We must realize that these gifts are over and above any natural endowment that we may possess; they are possessed as a result of the Spirit dwelling within, and this applies only to converted men"

Where this blurring of distinction between talent and gift goes really sideways is when Christians focus in on talent alone (artistic, musical, etc.) and assume that this is what God has "gifted" them to do in His service. Practicing guitar because you are a talented musician is not developing your spiritual God given gift.

Good in the Secular Doesn't Mean Gifted in the Spiritual

Those who believe that there are no spiritual gifts but only natural talents provide an example of this in operation. An individual who is a capable teacher in the secular world, perhaps teaching in a school classroom, because they had a talent for teaching, could likely take on a teaching role in the assembly. This example confuses talent and gift. It is actually a distortion of an example that has been often given to prove the exact opposite.

The Difference Between a Talent and a Gift

John Heading in “First Epistle to the Corinthians” says, “It is sometimes thought that because a person is a school teacher, therefore he has the making of a teacher among the Lord’s people. It would be more appropriate if this were reversed, namely, because a brother has the beginnings of a gift in teaching in an assembly, he may also make a good school teacher”.

Richard Collins in Precious Seed, “Question Time – Can I Use My Natural Skills in the Service of the Lord” says, “we need to be careful. Natural talent alone is insufficient to qualify a person to hold a particular place of responsibility in the service of God. A man endowed with the gift of oratory does not necessarily make a competent Bible teacher. The managing director of a company, or the chief of a village, is not automatically qualified to be an overseer in the assembly. It is quite possible that within an assembly there may be a master and a servant fellowshipping together. In the realm of employment, the servant would be subservient to his master, yet within the assembly the servant might be an elder and the master might not.”

God takes into account our abilities, and that gift is given according to ability, and then grace is given according to gift (Ephesians 4:7). As John Heading says in “First Epistle to the Corinthians”, “ability (natural) is followed by gift (spiritual) and by grace.”