

# Spiritual Gifts: “Cookie Monster”

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Good morning, brethren. Today I have two questions for you.

- How many of you know that God has gifted you with one or more spiritual gifts?
- How many of you know what your spiritual gifts are?

Last week, Peter referred to the “Cookie Monster.” He talked about how the children seem to eat up all the cookies and donuts before services. So, I thought I’d take this opportunity to talk with you about spiritual gifts.

Cookie monsters and spiritual gifts.

Over the past year, we’ve explained many of the spiritual gifts that God has given to us. How we react to the Cookie Monster may provide insight into *which* gifts God has given to us. Look into your own heart as you listen to these responses.

## Dealing with the Children

The various spiritual gifts would probably respond to the actions of the children in different ways. For instance ...

- The gift of *prophecy* – known for speaking the truth – might say, “Children, don’t eat all the cookies. Other people are hungry, too.”
- But the gift of *mercy* – known for graciousness – might say, “Leave the children alone. Let kids be kids.”
- The gift of *knowledge* might acknowledge, “Kids will be kids.”
- And the gift of *wisdom* might advise, “Kids should be kids.”
- The gift of *love* might say, “Look at those precious children! My, aren’t they delightful?”
- While the gift of *joy* might exclaim, “Look at how happy those children are!”
- The gift of *fellowship* – known for sharing time with others – might say, “Children, come over here. Let’s eat together.”
- While the gift of *hospitality* – known for sharing homes with others – might say, “Children, come to my house to eat.”
- The gift of *teaching* – using everyday events as teaching examples – might say, “Children, let’s discuss this situation and see what we can learn from it.”
- And the gift of *exhortation* – giving correction and guidance – might say, “Children, you know there is a better way – a giving way.”

## Dealing with the Situation

We've seen that different spiritual gifts would respond differently to the *children*. Different spiritual gifts would also respond differently to the *situation*. For instance ...

- The gift of *intercession* might offer a prayer covering over the children, the cookies and the congregation.
- The gift of *administration* might set up practical procedures for how the cookies can best be distributed.
- The gift of *leadership* might direct the cookie distribution.
- The gift of *service* might personally serve the cookies.
- The gift of *giving* might buy more cookies to give away.
- The gift of *faith* might say, "The Lord will provide."
- The gift of *evangelism* might say, "Look at God's providence for His children. Salvation rests in Him."
- And the gift of *music* would worship the Creator in all things.

So we've seen some of the ways in which differing gifts respond differently to the same situation. Hopefully you have seen yourself in these gifts. If you haven't taken the spiritual gift survey yet – this is what it looks like! – please see me, or Paul James or Peter Whitting, so that you can find out more about these gifts that our gracious and loving God has given to us.

Brethren, God has given each of us different gifts to complement one another, to enrich one another, so that we might – all of us working together, using His gifts – become whole and complete. In Christ Jesus –through the working of the Holy Spirit and the spiritual gifts we have been given – the whole becomes greater than the sum of the parts.

It is through your gift and my gift and all the gifts *combined* that we can "all come to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." (Ephesians 4:13)

May God's Holy Spirit dwell richly in each one of us, and embolden and empower us to use these precious spiritual gifts to His glory.

Thank you.