

## IMPORTANT NOTES

### **Spiritual gifts:**

A spiritual gift is a new ability or divine empowerment of a natural ability, given by Holy Spirit as He determines, to all believers in order to serve others. This is so that God's Kingdom on earth can increase in size and maturity and bring Him glory.<sup>1</sup> We are all empowered by Holy Spirit. Through Him we have the ability to do anything He asks or calls us to do.

It can be hard to differentiate between having a spiritual gift and having occasional abilities or experiences: you may be an encouraging person and not have the spiritual gift of encouragement, you may give and not have the gift of giving, you may receive a word from God for others and not have the gift of prophecy. As humans, we like to be able to define things, to put them in categories. Holy Spirit doesn't work in the same ways we do, He is mysterious. Remember, sometimes things aren't as clear as we would like them to be. However, if your life is frequently marked by a specific ability and/or its use produces particularly abundant spiritual fruit, you most likely have been given that spiritual gift.

### **Fruit of the Spirit:**

It can be easy to mix up spiritual gifts and the fruit of the Spirit. While spiritual gifts are given for ministry and service, the fruit of the Spirit, found in **Galatians 5:22–23**, is the characteristics and evidence of a Spirit-filled life. The fruit of the Spirit is: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

### **Big "C" church:**

When Church with a capital "C" is used, it is referring to all believers worldwide, not a specific gathering of believers. A specific gathering of believers is referenced with a lower case "c."

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<sup>1</sup> Definition copied from Salem Alliance Church Discovery (Spiritual Gifts) Seminar materials.