Titus 2:11–14 (NKJV)
11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,
12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,
13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

12.20.15

Signs & wonders, Spiritual Gifts

Spiritual gifts do not need to be taught:

Spiritual gifts which are given at salvation, will naturally display themselves through spiritual maturity!

The believer must first orient his thinking to the authority of God, to grace, to doctrine, and to his own sense of eternal destiny

When you reach spiritual maturity you will by nature be operating in the maximum capacity of your spiritual gift!

It becomes the normal overflow of your spiritual advance

1 Corinthians 7:7 (NKJV)
7 For I wish that all men were even as I myself. But each one has his own gift from God, one in this manner and another in that.

1 John 4:1–3 (NKJV)
1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.
2 By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God,
3 and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

1) **Spiritual Gifts** — How does the Bible use the term **spiritual** in relation to **gifts**

Ultimately our source for understanding absolute truth is the Bible; and not our feelings or opinions or intuitions

1 *pneumatikos/* **spiritual gifts**

4461 πνευματικός (*pneumatikos*), ή (ē), όν (on): adj. [see πνευματικός (*pneumatikos*), οῦ (ou), ὁ (ho), just above]; = Str 4152; TDNT 6.332—1. LN 12.21 **from the Spirit**, pertaining to the Spirit (1Co 2:13ab; 12:1);

Relates to the source and spiritual life of the believer

1 Corinthians 12:1–7 (NKJV)
1 Now concerning **spiritual gifts**, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant:
2 You know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led.
3 Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.
4 There are diversities of **gifts**, but the same Spirit.
5 There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord.
6 And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.
7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:

a **The spiritual man is in right relationship with the Holy Spirit because he is saved, juxtaposed to the carnal unbeliever:**

1 Corinthians 2:12–14 (NKJV)
12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, **that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.**
13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing **spiritual** things with **spiritual**.
14 But the **natural man** does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

6035 ψυχικός (*psychikos*), ή (ē), όν (on): adj. [see ψυχικόν (*psychikon*), οῦ (ou), τό (to), just above]; = Str 5591; TDNT 9.661—1. LN 79.2 **physical** (1Co 15:44+); 2. LN 79.5 **natural**, pertaining to human nature (1Co 2:14; Jas 3:15; Jude 19+), for another interp, see next; 3. LN 41.41 **worldly**, pertaining to a behavior typical of fallen human nature (1Co 2:14+)

This believer is in right relationship with the Holy Spirit because he's walking by the Spirit

1 Corinthians 3:1–3 (NKJV)
1 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to **spiritual** people but as to **carnal**, as to babes in Christ.
2 I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able;
3 for you are still **carnal**. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not **carnal** and behaving like mere men?

4921 σάρκινος (*sarkinos*), η (ē), ον (on): adj.; = Str 4560; TDNT 7.98—1. LN 9.13 **of people**, pertaining to physical human beings (Heb 7:16+), for another interp, see next; 2. LN 26.8 **human**, pertaining to human nature (2Co 3:3; Heb 7:16+); 3. LN 79.4 **natural**, physical characteristics (1Co 3:1+; 2Co 1:12 v.r.), for another interp, see next; 4. LN 41.42 **worldly** (Ro 7:14; 1Co 3:1+)

2 *pneumatikos/* **Grace, spiritual gifts are freely given**

5922 χάρισμα (*charisma*), ατος (atos), τό (to): n.neu.; = Str 5486; TDNT 9.402—LN 57.103 **a gracious gift** (Ro 1:11; 5:15; 6:23; 11:29; 12:6; 1Co 1:7; 7:7; 12:4; 2Co 1:11; 1Ti 4:14; 2Ti 1:6; 1Pe 4:10)

1 Corinthians 12:1–6 (NKJV)
1 Now concerning **spiritual gifts**, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant:
2 You know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led.
3 Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.
4 There are diversities of **gifts**, but the same Spirit.
5 There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord.
6 And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.

We don't talk God into giving us a gift, or tarry for it

It's God who defines our reality.

Divine orientation: God determines our servitude

3 *merismos/* **Distributions of the Spirit**

3536 μερισμός (*merismos*), οῦ (ou), ὁ (ho): n.masc.; = Str 3311—1. LN 63.24 **division** separation (Heb 4:12+); 2. LN 57.89 **distribution** apportionment (Heb 2:4+)

Hebrews 2:4 (NKJV)
4 God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and **gifts of the Holy Spirit** **according to His own will**

Spiritual growth occurs through fellowship with the Holy Spirit and being positive to doctrine, the Holy Spirit takes that doctrine and energizes the spiritual man; thus growth occurs.

Doing doctrine is the exercise of that growth. The capacity to serve in the area of your giftedness is developed through the exercise of doctrine

Don't want to get the cart before the horse; growth first, then the natural outworking of the spiritual gift will occur

2) **God defines what spiritual gift are:** understanding the difference between natural ability inclinations and spiritual gifts

1 The context of spiritual gifts:
3 locations listing spiritual gifts:

Serving

1 Corinthians 12:1–11 (ESV)
1 Now concerning **spiritual gifts**, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed

2 You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led.
Summarizing a human viewpoint belief system
3 Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says **"Jesus is accursed!"** and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit.

Luke 5:21 (LEB)
21 And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, "Who is this man who speaks blasphemies? Who is able to forgive sins except God alone?"

Evaluation: no one who is in fellowship with the Holy Spirit has bad doctrine concerning Christ: they can not reject his humanity

In the context of spiritual gifts, good theology is Christ centered, and good understanding of the spiritual gifts is going to be Christ centered; it's going to be based on the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 2:3–8 (NASB95)
3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves;
4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.
5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,
6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,
7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.
8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;
5 and there are varieties of **service**, but the same Lord;
6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.
7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

8 For to one is given through the Spirit the **utterance of wisdom**, and
to another the **utterance of knowledge** according to the same Spirit,
9 to another **faith** by the same Spirit,
to another **gifts of healing** by the one Spirit,
10 to another the **working of miracles**,
to another **prophecy**,
to another the **ability to distinguish between spirits**,
to another **various kinds of tongues**,
to another the **interpretation of tongues**.

The key word is service, related to serving the local body

Romans 12:1–8 (NKJV)
1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.
2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.
4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function,
5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

6 Having then **gifts** differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them:
if **prophecy**, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;
7 or **ministry**, let us use it in our ministering;
he who **teaches**, in teaching;
8 he who **exhorts**, in exhortation;
he who **gives**, with liberality;
he who **leads**, with diligence;
he who **shows mercy**, with cheerfulness.

Every believer at the moment of salvation is in full time Christian service:

Ephesians 4:8–16 (NKJV)
8 Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And **gave gifts to men**."
9 (Now this, "He ascended"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?
10 He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

11 And He Himself gave some to be
apostles,
some **prophets**,
some **evangelists**, and
some **pastors** and
teachers,

12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, **for the edifying of the body of Christ,**
13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;
14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,
15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—
16 from whom **the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.**

3) **Spiritual Gifts are distributed by the Holy Spirit only in the church age:**

1 The church age begins when the Holy Spirit descended on the day of Pentecost, and it ends with the rapture of the church, prior to the great tribulation.

a Before the church age began, there was the
age of the Messiah, before that the
age of Israel, and before that the
age of the Gentiles

a) **During these previous ages there were prophets who prophesied and performed miracles. But the function and purpose of these miracles were manifested under an Old Testament economy.**

The prophecies and miracles were never classified as gifts

Spiritual gifts are uniquely designed and distributed by the Holy Spirit, for the service of each believer, to the edification and growth of each other, within the local body. They are for the maturing of the believer in preparation for the judgment seat of Christ; and that through these gifts, we will be equipped for our position in the millennial reign of Christ.

The believer must first orient his thinking to the authority of God, to grace, to doctrine, and to his own sense of eternal destiny, and it's all in relation to how we humble ourselves to God's methods for us to operate under these Spiritual Gifts

4)