

## XI. Summary of the Doctrine of Spiritual Gifts

In three scriptures the term "spiritual gifts" is mentioned: Romans 1:11; I Corinthians 12:1; and I Corinthians 14:1.

In Romans 1:11, Paul says: "I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong." The word translated "spiritual" is PNEUMATIKOS and the word translated "gift" is CHARISMA.

In I Corinthians 12:1, he writes "Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant." This verse simply uses the word PNEUMATIKOS ('spiritual') and supplies the word "gifts".

In I Corinthians 14:1, Paul urges: "Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy." This verse also uses only PNEUMATIKOS ('spiritual') and supplies the word "gifts".

- A. If spiritual gifts are defined as those natural, spiritual, or supernatural abilities, capabilities, and inclinations that the Holy Spirit bestows on human beings to enable them to accomplish specific functions in the outworking of God's purposes, then certain questions of a general nature arise.
1. Can natural gifts, spiritual gifts, and supernatural gifts (distinguished in terms of the time of communication and the kind of enablement) be viewed as distinct varieties of spiritual gifts?

In order even to discuss this question we must attempt a definition for each of these varieties:

Natural Gifts may be defined as those aptitudes, abilities, and attitudes communicated by the Spirit of God at physical birth and/or acquired, nurtured, and expressed during earthly life, by means of providential enablement.

Spiritual gifts may be defined as those aptitudes, abilities, and attitudes communicated by the Spirit of God at spiritual rebirth, and/or acquired, nurtured, and expressed during the Christian life, by means of spiritual enablement.

Supernatural gifts may be defined as those aptitudes, abilities, and attitudes communicated by the Spirit of God at His anointing for a specific vocation or task, and acquired, nurtured, and expressed during the exercise of ministry, by means of supernatural enablement.