

QUESTION: Do Giftings Overlap?

The standard Charismatic and Pentecostal premise is that a person only has one spiritual gift. That is false.

Also, giftings don't overlap. That's because of the reality that sons can operate in many spiritual gifts. If a person isn't 'blinker'ed by biblical teaching, so they can only see the most predominant gift operating in other people's lives, it is quite clear that multiple gifting is more common than expected.

Let me justify my response to the question from two perspectives:

(1) Jesus is our prototype.¹ He was the first Spirit-filled human being and he's the one we are to model ourselves after. He operated in all spiritual gifting – every type and at a high level. Now, most will say that he was God, which is why he had those abilities. However, he gave up (didn't use) his deity when he became a man by limiting what he could do, even though he was The Son in a human body.² Therefore, with those restrictions in place, he did anything that a fully mature Spirit-filled person (a son) can do, and so, he's the perfect exemplar of the way we can operate, once we mature spiritually.

On the other hand, after his death, he gave the 5 Ascension Gifts³ to his *ekklesia* so they could come to spiritual maturity. That being said, it is patently clear that Jesus of Nazareth operated in all of those gifts, according to what we 'see' in the Gospels. So, unless a person adheres to *sola scriptura*,⁴ and only believes what the Bible has written about those "5-Fold" gifts, we can definitely add those five to all the giftings he had.

REMEMBER: There are more spiritual gifts than the Ascension Gifts.⁵ Spiritual gifts are endowments or abilities that Heaven gives to all people and which the Spirit supports.⁶

(2) The testimony of the life experience of mature spiritual people demonstrates that we can operate in many gifts, albeit, at different levels. For example: Smith Wigglesworth had a gift of faith, operated as an apostle, an evangelist, a healer and a teacher, not just a prophet.⁷

For myself, I operate apostolically, prophetically, didactically⁸ and pastorally, and I have the gift of administration⁹ – although, none are at the maximum level. I still have a great deal to learn about these specific gifts, and a lot of experience growing in them as Father trains me day-by-day.

In conclusion, we can't be myopic about spiritual gifting. We need to allow Father to release any number of spiritual gifts in each of us as he plans and allow him to train us in those so we can be as effective as possible for the Kingdom.

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(Readers will need to look up for themselves any scriptures alluded to in this document)

1 – “33b-See Me As Your Prototype” canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/33b-See-Me-As-Your-Prototype.pdf
2 – Use the MIRROR bible to research these - John 1:14; Colossians 2:9; Philippians 2:5-9; Luke 2:52; Matthew 24:36; John 17:5
3 – Apostle, prophet, pastor, teacher, evangelist.
4 – “The End of *Sola Scriptura*” canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/The-End-of-Sola-Scriptura.pdf
5 – e.g. 1 Corinthians 12:28
6 – e.g. Romans 12:3-8
7 – Robert Liardon (1993) “God’s Generals” Chapter 7 ‘Smith Wigglesworth: Apostle of Faith’
www.amazon.com.au/Gods-Generals-They-Succeeded-Some-ebook/dp/B00867VL4S
8 – i.e. ‘Teaching’
9 – 1 Corinthians 12:28 (NKJV)