



18. The Gift of Evangelism

You *don't* have the spiritual gift of evangelism. Neither do I. Do you know why? That's because nobody has the gift of evangelism. There is *no* such gift. The gifts of the Spirit are found in Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12-14. Every believer has at least one of those empowering special abilities. But you won't find evangelism mentioned in those chapters. You *will* find the word "evangelist" in the gifts mentioned in Ephesians 4:11-13. But those are *not* gifts of the Spirit. Those gifts are given by Jesus. They are people given by Jesus to equip the Body of Christ ... to equip you and me. They are *specialized people* given by Jesus. They are not special abilities given by the Spirit.

Listen to those verses from Ephesians 4, “*He [that is Jesus] ... He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints [that’s all of us believers] for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ.*” Jesus gives those leaders to equip you to serve God and serve people as you use your Spirit-given empowering abilities. Those people aren’t given to steal your ministry from you. They are given to equip you to do your ministry.

Even though there isn’t a gift of evangelism, evangelists are given empowering gifts of the Spirit. Maybe they have the gift of exhortation or teaching. And like evangelists, you have been empowered by the Spirit to do your part in fulfilling the Great Commission using your gift or gifts in serving God, believers, and the lost people in your world. Evangelism isn’t a spiritual gift. It’s a responsibility.