

makes frequent reference to what are designated the gifts of the Spirit.

Should motivation -- inclination, desire, and willingness -- be considered part of a spiritual gift, so that the Spirit of God not only gives us the ability to do a thing but also the desire to do it?

This ties in with another question: If we possess a spiritual gift, do we need, not only the ability and the motivation to use it, but also the power to make that gift effective as service to God?

The idea of power to make a spiritual gift effective for God suggests the need to seek the enabling of the Holy Spirit. This suggests the need of prayer, which in turn suggests that we need to feel our helplessness to accomplish anything for God in our own ability, motivation, and power; and our great need to seek the filling of the Holy Spirit, as we use our gift in conscious dependence on His grace.

Can a person have a gift but not use it? What happens to the gift in such a case?

It would seem that, in the nature of the case, some gifts may be lost or their usefulness diminished through failure to exercise them, or through abuse of them, or through simple inability to perform their intended functions.

B. The Main Scripture Passages Relevant to the Subject

Romans 12:6-8
 I Corinthians 12:1-31
 I Corinthians 13:1-3, 8-10
 I Corinthians 14:1-6
 I Corinthians 14:26-33
 Ephesians 4:11-12
 I Peter 4:10-11

C. Specific References employing Key Greek Words in the New Testament

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Romans 1:11 -- "For I long to see you in order that I may impart some spiritual gift to you, that you may be established"