

Proverbs 25:14

“Like clouds and wind without rain is a man who boasts of a gift he does not give.”

This proverb gives a simple but powerful image: someone who claims to have something valuable to offer — a “gift” — but in the end, produces nothing. In the church today, false representation of spiritual gifts is a real issue. People claim to be prophets, pastors, or carriers of special anointing, but when examined spiritually, they're empty — lacking fruit, purpose, and true calling.

This is not just a personal flaw; it's a theological issue. The Holy Spirit gives gifts “as He wills” (1 Corinthians 12:11), not as we choose. Claiming a gift without receiving it from God is not only deception — it's rebellion against the order of the Spirit.

1. True Gifts Lead to Spiritual Maturity

A genuine gift of the Spirit has one main goal: to help believers

grow in Christlikeness.

Ephesians 4:11-12

“And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.”

This reveals the purpose of spiritual gifts — not personal fame or enrichment, but the sanctification and maturity of the Church. Anyone claiming to operate in a spiritual gift but not bearing fruit in holiness (Hebrews 12:14) or helping others grow in reverence for God is likely misusing or falsely claiming the gift.

Hebrews 12:14

“Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.”

The fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22–23) must accompany the gifts of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12). Without fruit, gifts are empty.

2. True Gifts Are Given to Serve Others Freely

A key biblical principle is that ministry is service, not a business. True spiritual gifts serve others without demanding payment, reflecting the heart of Christ, who came to serve (Mark 10:45).

Ephesians 4:12 tells us gifts are given:

“...for the work of ministry...”

That word *ministry* meaning *service*. Ministry is meant to give, not take.

Matthew 10:8 — when Jesus sent out the disciples:

“Freely you have received; freely give.”

When someone requires money to sing, preach, or prophesy, they treat the gift as a product, not a grace — and that contradicts the New Testament theology of spiritual gifting. The Holy Spirit is not for sale (Acts 8:20-21).

3. True Gifts Build the Body of Christ Through Unity

The Church is the Body of Christ, and no gift works in isolation.

1 Corinthians 12:14-21

“For the body does not consist of one member but of many...
The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I have no need of you’...”

Each gift is part of a mutual ecosystem. A person who isolates themselves from other believers — working alone or refusing accountability — is not functioning as part of the Body, regardless of their title or charisma.

Ephesians 4:16

“From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love...”

The gift is not just for display, but for edification. A true spiritual gift must contribute to the strengthening and unity of the whole Church.

When someone fakes a spiritual gift — or boasts of one they never received — it's like promising rain to dry land and delivering nothing.

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Such people look spiritual, but have no power to refresh or

transform. They are unreliable and spiritually dangerous.

Let us examine our hearts, seek the authentic work of the Holy Spirit, and use the gifts we've truly been given for the glory of God and the good of His Church.

“Each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.” — 1 Peter 4:10

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