

The Pros and Cons of Spiritual Gifts

Ensure that you give serious attention to what you do with the gifts that the Lord has been gracious to give you. If you do not fully understand why you have them, spend time alone with Him to ask questions: "What would you have me do for You, Lord?". It is also important that you follow His leading - obedience is key!

Having spiritual gifts is a good thing, if they are used for the purpose for which they were given. You are indeed blessed if you have them. They are given for God's glory and for the benefit of the Body of Christ. If you have them already (or when you do have them), be on the lookout for two *little foxes*: Self-Idolatry and Pride. Your gifts could also potentially advance the activities of the kingdom of darkness if you are not intentional about using them to honor God.

Spot the Danger

If you misunderstand the purpose for which spiritual gifts have been given to you, and become engrossed with your own desires and the cares of the world, you will end up misusing them. The Lord will not take them back from you - His gifts and calling are without repentance (Romans 11:29). However, satan will make use of them to ruin you. If you don't believe this, what would you say about those who rose to stardom, failed to honor God with their gifts, and died in their prime, without fulfilling His purpose for their lives? We miss them sometimes, and wonder, *"So sad! She was gifted. It's a shame that she ended up that way, and left us, unexpectedly. Didn't they say she started singing at her home church at the tender age of six"*? Think also, about *Once-Upon-a-Time stars* who are fortunate to be alive, but sadly living a life not worth emulating. May we not outlive our usefulness in Jesus' Name. God said He will honor those who honor Him, and make those who do not, insignificant (1 Samuel 2:30). Make a conscious effort to honor God with all He has given you, beloved. May we be guided.

Shalom!