

DESCRIPTION OF THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

The Bible does not lock us into tight restrictions as to the number of spiritual gifts, or even their definitions. The four major lists of gifts are found in Romans 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 and 27-31, Ephesians 4:11-12, and 1 Peter 4:8-11. There also are other passages that mention or illustrate gifts that are not included in these four lists.

As you read through the gifts described below, make a check mark by each gift that, upon initial impression, seems to apply to you. Remember you can have many gifts.

GIFTS THAT COMMUNICATE GOD'S WORD (to both unbelievers and believers):

PROPHECY ("Preaching") *1 Corinthians 14:3; Romans 12:6; 1 Corinthians 12:10, 28; 13:2; 2 Peter 1:19-21*

The ability to publicly communicate God's word in an inspired way that convinces unbeliever and both challenges and comforts believers. The ability to persuasively declare God's will.

EVANGELISM *Acts 8:26-40; Ephesians 4:11; Luke 19:1-10*

The ability to communicate the Good News of Jesus Christ to unbelievers in a positive, non-threatening way. The ability to sense opportunities to share Christ and lead people to respond with faith.

APOSTLESHIP *Romans 15:20; 1 Corinthians 12:28-29; Ephesians 4:11-12*

The ability to start new churches and oversee their development.

GIFTS THAT EDUCATE GOD'S PEOPLE:

TEACHING *Ephesians 4:12-13; Acts 18:21-24; 1 Corinthians 12:28-29*

The ability to educate God's people by clearly explaining and applying the Bible in a way that causes them to learn. The ability to equip and train other believers for ministry.

ENCOURAGEMENT ("Exhortation") *Acts 14:22; Acts 11:22-24; Acts 15:30-32; Romans 12:8*

The ability to motivate God's people to apply and **act on** Biblical principles, especially when they are discouraged or wavering in their faith. The ability to bring out the best in others and challenge them to develop their potential.

WISDOM *1 Corinthians 2:1, 6-16; James 3:13-18; Jeremiah 9:23-24*

The ability to understand God's perspective on life situations and share those insights in a simple, understandable way. The ability to explain what to do and how to do it.

DISCERNMENT *1 John 4:1-6; Acts 5:1-4; Matthew 16:21-23*

The ability to distinguish right from wrong, truth from error, and to give an immediate evaluation based on God's Word. The ability to discern whether the source of an experience is Satan, self, or God's Spirit.

KNOWLEDGE *Daniel 1:17; 1 Corinthians 12:8; Mark 2:6-8; John 1:45-50*

The ability to discover, collect, analyze, and organize information that is vital to individual believers or the entire church family. The ability to comprehend a large amount of information and provide it when needed for effective decision-making.

GIFTS THAT DEMONSTRATE GOD'S LOVE

SERVICE/ HELPS *Acts 6:1-7; Romans 16:1-2; Romans 12:7*

The ability to recognize unmet needs in the church family, and take the initiative to provide practical assistance quickly, cheerfully, and without a need for recognition

MERCY *Luke 10:30-37; Mark 10:46-52; Romans 12:8*

The ability to detect hurt and empathize with those who are suffering in the church family. The ability to provide compassionate and cheerful support to those experiencing distress, crisis, or pain.

HOSPITALITY *1 Peter 4:9-10; Romans 12:13; Hebrews 13:1-2*

The ability to make others, especially strangers, feel warmly welcomed, accepted, and comfortable in the church family. The ability to coordinate factors that promote fellowship

SHEPHERDING ("Pastoring") *1 Peter 5:2-4; John 10:1-18; Ephesians 4:11-12*

The ability to care for the spiritual needs of a group of believers and equip them for ministry. The ability to nurture a small group in spiritual growth and assume responsibility for their welfare.

GIVING *2 Corinthians 8:1-7; 2 Corinthians 6:8; Luke 21:1-4*

The ability to generously contribute material resources and/or money beyond the 10% tithe so that the Body may grow and be strengthened. The ability to earn and manage money so it may be given to support the ministry of others.

GIFTS THAT CELEBRATE GOD'S PRESENCE (Worship or prayer-related gifts):

CREATIVE COMMUNICATION *Psalms 150:3-5; 2 Samuel 6:14-15; Mark 4:2, 33*

The ability to celebrate God's presence by using the arts (writing, art, drama, music) to communicate God's truth. The ability to use variety and to captivate people and cause them to consider God's message.

CRAFTSMANSHIP *Exodus 31:3-11; 35:31-35; 2 Kings 22:5-6; Acts 9:36-39*

The ability to build, maintain, or beautify the place of worship for God's glory. The ability to express worship through a variety of art forms.

PRAYER-RELATED GIFTS:

INTERCESSION *Colossians 1:9-12; Romans 8:26-27; John 17:9-26*

The ability to pray for the needs of others in the church family over extended periods of time on a regular basis. The ability to persist in prayer and not be discouraged until the answer arrives.

****HEALING** *James 5:14-16; Mark 2:1-12; Acts 3:1-16*

The ability to pray in faith specifically for people who need physical, emotional, or spiritual healing and see God answer. The ability to sense when God is prompting you to pray this kind of prayer.

****MIRACLES** *Mark 11:23-24; Luke 5:1-11; John 2:1-11*

The ability to pray in faith specifically for God's supernatural intervention into an impossible situation and see God answer. The ability to sense when God is prompting you to pray this kind of prayer.

****Tongues/ Interpretation** *1 Corinthians 14:13-15; 1 Corinthians 12:28-30; 1 Corinthians 14:1-33; Acts 2:1-11*

The ability to pray in a language understood only by God or one who is given the gift of interpretation at that time.

****Not in the spiritual gift assessment because those who have these gifts do not need an assessment tool to discover it.**

GIFTS THAT SUPPORT THE WHOLE CHURCH:

LEADERSHIP *Romans 12:8; Hebrews 13:17; Luke 22:25-26*

The ability to clarify and communicate the purpose and direction, the vision, of a ministry in a way that attracts others to get involved. The ability to motivate others by example to work together in accomplishing a ministry goal.

ADMINISTRATION *1 Corinthians 12:28; Acts 6:1-7; Exodus 18:13-26*

Also called the gift of organization. That is the ability to recognize the gifts of others and recruit them to ministry. The ability to organize and manage people, resources, and time for effective ministry. The ability to coordinate many details and execute the plans of leadership.

FAITH *1 Corinthians 12:9, 13; Hebrews 11:1; Romans 4:18-21*

The gift of faith is the ability to trust God for what cannot be seen and to act on God's promise, regardless of what the circumstances indicate. The willingness to risk failure in pursuit of a God-given vision, expecting God to handle the obstacles.