

Spiritual Gifts Defined

A spiritual gift is a special divine empowerment bestowed on each believer by the Holy Spirit to accomplish a given ministry God's way according to His grace and discernment to be used within the context of the Body of Christ.

Administration - Romans 12:8; 1 Corinthians 12:28 - To steer the body toward the accomplishment of God-given goals and directives by planning, organizing, and supervising others. This person is able to take charge and direct others, so that things are done in an orderly way.

Apostleship - Ephesians 4:11; Romans 15:14-21 - To be sent forth to new frontiers with the Gospel to proclaim the message of the Gospel and make disciples of Jesus Christ and plant new local churches. The Apostles were a select group of chosen men who had been with or personally seen the risen Christ and been commissioned by the Lord Himself as Apostles. Like the Prophets, the Apostles were Christ's appointed witnesses (Acts 1:8), upon whom the church was founded - Ephesians 2:20.

Discernment/ Distinguishing Spirits - 1 Corinthians 12:10; 1 Thessalonians 5:19-21 - To clearly distinguish truth from error by judging whether the behavior or teaching is from God, Satan, human error, or human power. This gift was meant to be protective; it served to verify the true message from God.

Evangelism - Acts 8:4-8; Ephesians 4:11-13 - To be a messenger of the good news of the Gospel, leading people to put their faith in Christ. This person has an extraordinary burden for the unsaved and an ability to present the Gospel clearly.

Exhortation - Romans 12:8 - To come along side of someone with words of encouragement, comfort, consolation, admonishment, and counsel to help them be obedient to all God wants them to be.

Faith - 1 Corinthians 12:9; 13:2 - To be firmly persuaded of God's power and promises to accomplish His will and purposes and display such a confidence in Him and His Word that circumstances and obstacles do not shake that conviction. It is to have an

extraordinary trust in God to meet specific needs, even in the face of great obstacles - 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; Hebrews 11:1.

Giving - Romans 12:8 - To share what material resources you have with generosity and cheerfulness without thought of return, repayment, or notoriety. The person with this gift will be known by their strong desire to give consistently and sacrificially to the work of the Lord.

Healings - 1 Corinthians 12:9, 28, 30; Acts 3:1-9, 16 - To be used as a means through which God makes people whole either physically, emotionally, mentally, or spiritually. Like the gift of miracles, as Christ and the Apostles bore witness, it was to testify to the truth of Jesus Christ, and to call those who had faith to believe in Him.

Helps - Romans 12:7; 1 Corinthians 12:28 - To render support or assistance to others in the Body so as to free them up for ministry. This is a very practical serving-others gift (i.e., deacons - Acts 6).

Hospitality - 1 Peter 4:9-10 - To warmly welcome people, even strangers, into one's home or church as a means of serving those in need of food or lodging. Those with this serving gift enjoy using it to deepen and strengthen the fellowship of the Body by welcoming people into their homes.

Knowledge (Words, "the utterance of", Knowledge) - 1 Corinthians 12:8 - To seek to learn as much as possible about the Bible through gathering of much information and analyzing that data, then being able to communicate that knowledge of God's Word effectively to others for their edification.

Leadership - Romans 12:8 - To stand before the people in such a way as to attend to the direction of the Body with such care and diligence, so as to motivate others to get involved in the accomplishment of these goals.

Mercy - Romans 12:8 - To be sensitive toward those who are suffering, whether physically, mentally, or emotionally, so as to feel genuine sympathy with their misery, speaking words of compassion and caring for them with deeds of love to help alleviate their distress. It is showing love through acts of kindness.

Miracles - 1 Corinthians 12:10, 28 - To be enabled by God to perform mighty deeds which witnesses see and acknowledge to be of supernatural origin and power. This gift was expressly given to the Apostles, or men who were sent by the Apostles, as a sign to bear witness to the truth of the message concerning Jesus Christ.

Pastor/ Teacher - Ephesians 4:11-14; 1 Peter 5:2-3 - To be responsible for spiritually caring for shepherding, protecting, guiding, and feeding a group of believers entrusted to one's care in the local church. (Titus 1:9; 2:1)

Prophecy - Romans 12:6; 1 Corinthians 12:10; 14:1-40; Ephesians 4:11; 1 Peter 4:11 - To speak forth the proclamation of truth; preaching the message of God revealed in His Word to His people.

Service - Romans 12:7 - To identify undone tasks in God's work, however menial, and use available resources to get the job done.

Teaching - Romans 12:7; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 4:11 - To explain and instruct others in the Bible in a logical, systematic way so as to communicate pertinent information for true understanding and spiritual growth. It is a requirement of an Elder (1 Tim. 3:3).

Tongues - Acts 2:4-6; 10:45-47; 1 Corinthians 12:10; 14:1-12, 27-28 - To speak in a known language not previously learned so unbelievers can hear and understand God's message in their own language, and the Body be edified.

Interpretation of Tongues - 1 Corinthians 12:10; 14:27-28 - To translate with accuracy the message of someone who has spoken in tongues (a known language) so that the Body is edified.

Message/Word of Wisdom - 1 Corinthians 12:8 - To present and apply knowledge to life in such a way as to make spiritual truths quite relevant and practical in proper decision-making and daily life situations. A word of wisdom must always come from God's revealed written Word, and be tested and held by it accordingly. (James 3:17 - The utterance of wisdom is not merely through the spoken word, but is borne out in godliness of life.)