



the Gifts.

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of the Spirit
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Introduction

- ▶ This short ebook is nothing more than a list of some of the Gifts of the Spirit (Spiritual Gifts) recorded in Scripture.
- ▶ They are listed in alphabetical order, **not** order of importance or how they are listed in Scripture.
- ▶ There is not one “definitive” list of spiritual gifts in the Bible, rather we find different gifts mentioned in different places throughout Scripture. It’s rightly assumed, then, that there may be more gifts that the Spirit empowers in his people. The ones listed here are merely some of those specifically mentioned in the Bible.

We will define spiritual gifts in this way:

Spiritual gifts are a set of God-given and Spirit-empowered spiritual abilities given to every believer, according to God’s grace, to help them fulfill their God-given personal purpose as part of the Church.

Definitions and parts of definitions in this ebook are borrowed (in part and in whole) from numerous resources and authors including:

Erik Rees, *S.H.A.P.E.: Finding and Fulfilling Your Unique Purpose for Life* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006).

Bruce L. Bugbee, *What You Do Best in the Body of Christ: Discover Your Spiritual Gifts, Personal Style, and God-given Passion* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2009).

Bill Hendricks, *The Person Called You: Why You’re Here, Why You Matter & What You Should Do with Your Life* (Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2014).

Sam Storms, *Spiritual Gifts* (Ventura, CA: Regal, 2013).

C. Peter Wagner, *Finding Your Spiritual Gifts* (Gospel Light, 2012).

Doug Fields and Erik Rees, *Congratulations...you’re Gifted! Discovering Your God-given Shape to Make a Difference in the World* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan/Youth Specialties, 2009).

A. Administration

Definition

The gift of administration is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to understand clearly the immediate and long-range goals of a particular unit of the Body of Christ and to devise and execute effective plans (including organizing resources and people) for the accomplishing of those goals.

Individuals with this gift ...

- Are effective organizers of people and projects toward reaching ministry goals.
- Are known for having specific plans to achieve clearly defined goals.
- Naturally delegate tasks, making it possible to accomplish more for God's kingdom. Seek decision-making opportunities.
- Understand what needs to be done for dreams to become a reality.

Scripture

1 Corinthians 12:28

Luke 14:28–30

Acts 6:1–7

Acts 27:11

Titus 1:5

B. Apostleship

Definition

The gift of apostleship (sometimes called the gift of “missionary”) is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to serve and strengthen it by launching and leading new ministry ventures that advance God’s purposes and expand his kingdom. The original Greek meaning of the word is “sent one” (literally, one sent with authority, or as an ambassador).

Notes

We’re talking about a small “a” apostle, not capital “A”.

Capital “A” Apostles:

These men had powerful and unique authority to lead Jesus church, and their words and writings carried with them the very authority of Jesus himself.

Capital “A” Apostles no longer function, as no one today meets the biblical criteria.

The New Testament articulates at least three criteria for someone to be considered an Apostle:

1. An Apostle had to be a physical eyewitness of the resurrected Christ. (Acts 1:22, 10:39-41; 1 Corinthians 9:1; 15:7-8)
2. An Apostle had to be personally appointed by the Lord Jesus Christ. (Mark 3:14; Luke 6:13; Acts 1:2, 24; 10:41; Galatians 1:1)
3. An Apostle had to be able to authenticate his apostolic appointment with miraculous signs. (Matthew 10:1-2; Acts 1:5-8; 2:43; 4:33; 5:12; 8:14; 2 Cor 12:12; Heb 2:3-4)

Small “a” apostles:

Small “a” apostles, or those with the gift of apostleship we’re discussing here, often find themselves serving as

church planters and missionaries, or as those helping start and pioneer new ministries.

Alan Hirsch has written some helpful things on this in his book, "The Forgotten Ways".

People with this gift...

- Are driven to start new endeavors for God, most often churches.
- Often welcome risky new challenges.
- Enjoy making a difference in the lives of believers and unbelievers alike.
- Are eager to be known as ambassadors for Christ in the world.
- Willingly work hard to see churches reach their full potential for God.

Scripture

1 Corinthians 12:28;

Ephesians 4:11-13

Luke 6:12–13;

Ephesians 2:20

C. Discernment

Definition

The gift of discernment is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to recognize truth or error within a message, person, or event.

People with this gift...

- Find it easy to “read” others, and are most often right.
- Recognize the spiritual source of a message — whether it is from God, Satan, or man.
- Recognize inconsistencies in others.
- Easily identify people’s true motives and agendas.
- Perceive when the truth is twisted or communicated with error.

Scripture

1 Corinthians 12:10

Matthew 16:21–23

Acts 5:1–11

Acts 16:16–18

1 John 4:1–6

D. Encouragement (Exhortation, Counseling)

Definitions

The gift of encouragement (sometimes called “exhortation” or “counseling”) is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to help others live God-center lives by ministering to them words of comfort, consolation, encouragement, and counsel in such a way that they are helped or healed.

People with this gift...

- Are driven to inspire others and impact their lives positively for Christ.
- Rejoice with those whose reliance on Christ has helped them overcome difficult life situations.
- Seek out opportunities to help others reach their full potential in Christ.
- Are natural encouragers, whether in words or through actions.
- Rejoice at others’ success.

Scripture

Romans 12:8

Acts 14:22

1 Timothy 4:13

Hebrews 10:25

E. Evangelism

Definition

The gift of evangelism is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to share the gospel with nonbelievers in such a way that they repent and become followers of Jesus.

People with this gift...

- Look for ways to build relational bridges with nonbelievers.
- Sense when a person is open to Christ's message.
- Have likely seen many people come to faith in Jesus.
- Win others to Christ through the use of love over logic.
- Are deeply burdened for those who don't know Jesus.

Scripture

Ephesians 4:11–13

Acts 8:5–6

Acts 8:26–40

Acts 14:21

Acts 21:8

2 Timothy 4:5

F. Faith

Definition

The gift of faith is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to trust and discern with extraordinary confidence the will and purposes of God for his work, trusting him to handle any and all obstacles along the way.

People with this gift...

- Welcome risk for God.
- Are energized by variables.
- Are challenged by ideas most see as impossible.
- Are often characterized by a passionate prayer life.
- Have great God-confidence in their ventures.

Scripture

1 Corinthians 12:9

Acts 11:22–24

Acts 27:21–25

Romans 4:18–21

Hebrews 11

G. Giving

Definition

The gift of giving (sometimes called “generosity”) is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to joyfully support and fund various kingdom initiatives by contributing their material resources liberally and cheerfully, above and beyond the tithes and offerings expected of all believers.

People with this gift...

- Plan and purposely give over and above the 10 percent tithe, in order to see God’s kingdom advanced.
- Generally prefer that their donations remain anonymous or low-profile.
- Strategically seek out ways to increase their resources, in order to contribute more for God’s use.
- See their resources as tools for God’s use.
- Recognize God’s ultimate ownership of everything.

Scripture

Romans 12:8

Mark 12:41–44

2 Corinthians 8:1–7

2 Corinthians 9:2–8

H. Helping (Helps) (Service)

Definition

The gift of helping (helps, service) is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to assist others in reaching goals and doing ministry that glorifies God and strengthens the body of Christ.

People with this gift...

- Enjoy and seek out ways to serve behind the scenes.
- Rejoice in the success of others.
- Are often detail-oriented.
- Look for ways to be of assistance to others.
- Do not seek recognition for their efforts.

Scripture

1 Corinthians 12:28

Romans 12:7

Mark 15:40–41

Luke 8:2–3

Acts 9:36

Romans 16:1–2

Galatians 6:2, 10

2 Timothy 1:16–18

Titus 3:14

I. Hospitality

Definition

The gift of hospitality is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to provide an open house and a warm welcome to those in need of food and lodging. It might also include the unique ability and desire to provide others with a warm and welcoming environment for fellowship.

People with this gift...

- Are known for making those around them feel valued and cared for.
- Look for those individuals who may go unnoticed in a crowd.
- Desire that people feel loved and welcomed.
- See their home as God's property, given to them expressly to make others feel welcome.
- Promote fellowship among others wherever they are.

Scripture

Romans 12:9–13

1 Peter 4:9

Acts 16:14–15

Romans 16:23

Hebrews 13:1–2

J. Knowledge

Definition

The gift of knowledge is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to discover, accumulate, analyze, and clarify information and ideas which are pertinent to the strengthening and well-being of the Body.

People with this gift...

- Devote much of their time to reading Scripture.
- Love to share biblical insight.
- Enjoy helping others increase their understanding of God's Word.
- Benefit from time spent in studying and researching Scripture.
- Take delight in answering difficult questions about God's Word.

Scripture

1 Corinthians 12:8

Acts 5:1–11

1 Corinthians 2:14

2 Corinthians 11:6

Colossians 2:2–3

K. Leadership

Definition

The gift of leadership is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to serve by casting vision and setting goals in accordance with God's purpose for the future and to communicate these goals to others in such a way that they voluntarily and harmoniously work together to accomplish those goals for the glory of God.

People with this gift...

- Exhibit a tendency toward huge visions for God and the ability to inspire others to work toward accomplishing those visions for his glory, and to bless others.
- Are naturally drawn into leadership roles.
- Find it easy to motivate people—both individually and in teams—to work together in achieving goals for God's kingdom.
- Naturally grasp the “big picture.”
- Are able to let go of responsibility and delegate it to others who are qualified.

Scripture

Romans 12:8

Luke 9:51

Acts 7:10

Acts 15:7–11

1 Timothy 5:17

Hebrews 13:17

L. Mercy

Definition

The gift of mercy is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to feel genuine empathy and compassion for individuals who suffer physically, emotionally, spiritually, or relationally. Their actions are characterized by love, care, compassion, and kindness toward others which reflects Christ's love and helps to alleviate their suffering.

People with this gift...

- Are drawn toward opportunities to practically meet the needs of others.
- Devote significant time in prayer for the needs of others.
- Tend to place the needs of others ahead of their own.
- Grieve with those who grieve.
- Are most fulfilled when visiting people in need—in hospitals, nursing homes, prisons, orphanages, villages, or wherever God directs them.

Scripture

Romans 12:8

Matthew 20:29–34

Matthew 25:34–40

Mark 9:41

Luke 10:33–35

Acts 11:28–30

Acts 16:33–34

M. Pastoring (Shepherding)

Definition

The gift of pastoring (or “shepherding”) is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to assume long-term personal responsibility for a group of believers, equipping them to live Christ-centered lives.

You could have this gift if you...

- Are driven to help others reach their full potential in Christ.
- Enjoy serving others and look for opportunities to do this.
- Are good at developing personal, trust-based relationships with a small number of people.
- Have a propensity toward meeting the needs of others, willingly giving your time to help them with spiritual issues.
- Believe that people take precedence over projects.

Scripture

Ephesians 4:11-13

John 10:1–18

1 Timothy 3:1–7

1 Peter 5:1–3

N. Teaching

Definition

The gift of teaching is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to communicate sound biblical doctrine in relevant and easily understandable ways, empowering people to gain a sound and mature spiritual education.

Individuals who have this gift...

- Are given to hours in the study of Scripture in order to best apply its principles and truth.
- Enjoy making the Bible clear and understandable to others.
- Seek out opportunities to speak biblical insight into daily situations.
- Are good at helping others learn to study the Bible.
- Recognize a variety of ways to effectively communicate the Word of God, including speaking.

Scripture

Romans 12:7

1 Corinthians 12:28

Ephesians 4:11–13

Acts 18:24–28

Acts 20:20–21

O. Wisdom

Definition

The gift of wisdom is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to make wise decisions and give sound advice and counsel to others, all in accordance with God's word and his will.

You may possess this gift if you...

- Enjoy speaking biblical insights into life situations.
- Are sought after by others for advice/wisdom.
- Take pleasure in counseling others.
- Are known for making correct decisions and judgments.
- Recognize God as the primary source of wisdom and direction.

Scripture

1 Corinthians 12:8

Acts 6:3, 10

1 Corinthians 2:1–13

James 1:5–6

2 Peter 3:15–16

P. Prophecy

Definition

The gift of prophecy (“forth-telling”, not “foretelling”; sometimes referred to as the gift of “preaching”) is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to proclaim messages of biblical truth from God that comfort, encourage, guide, warn, or reveal sin in a way that leads to repentance and spiritual growth. The original Greek meaning of this word is “to speak forth the truth”.

You may have this gift if you...

- Are known for publicly communicating God’s Word, using a variety of means.
- Love to share your strong biblical convictions with others.
- View yourself as God’s tool, ready to be used by the Holy Spirit in changing lives.
- Find it easy to confront others’ motives when they are not up to God’s standards.

Scripture

Romans 12:6

1 Corinthians 12:10, 28

Ephesians 4:11–13

Luke 7:26

Acts 15:32

Acts 21:9–11

Non-Normative Gifts

We would categorize the following gifts as “non-normative” because while they may still be active and given by God, they are not the norm. However, they *are* mentioned among the gifts that God gives and that the Holy Spirit empowers in Scripture.

Those who hold to a “cessationist” view of the gifts (believing that some gifts articulated in Scripture ceased to be given by God after the time of the New Testament) would generally hold that most or all of these gifts are no longer given to God’s people.

Miracles

Definition

The gift of miracles is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to serve as human intermediaries through whom it pleases God to perform powerful acts that are perceived by observers to have altered the ordinary course of nature.

The purpose of these temporal acts is always to bring validity to God and his power and to glorify Jesus Christ. They take place solely at God’s discretion and by his grace, *not* at the discretion, impetus, etc. of the person to whom God gives the gift in that moment.

Scripture

1 Corinthians 12:10, 28

2 Corinthians 12:12

Acts 9:36–42; Acts 19:11–20; Acts 20:7–12

Romans 15:18–19

Healing

Definition

The gift of healing is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to serve as human intermediaries through whom it pleases God to cure illness and restore health, apart from the use of traditional and natural means, to those who are sick, hurting, and suffering.

Like the gift of miracles, God's gift of healing is a temporal act with the purpose of glorifying Jesus Christ, bringing good to others, and joy to the recipient. Gifts of healing take place solely at God's discretion and by his grace, *not* at the discretion, beck-and-call, etc. of the person to whom God gives the gift in that moment.

Scripture

1 Corinthians 12:9, 28

Acts 3:1–10

Acts 5:12–16

Acts 9:32–35

Acts 28:7–10

Tongues

Definition

The gift of tongues is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to speak in another language (or tongue) previously unknown to the speaker.

Its purpose in the early church was to authenticate the gospel to unbelievers.

Paul seems to reference a type of private prayer language in his writing to the Corinthian church, and gives very specific parameters for how it should be used (if at all) in a public setting. Paul seems to indicate that it is best used privately.

Some would contend that the gift of tongues is to be received by all believers, and proves they have truly received the Holy Spirit. However, Scripture does not indicate this.

In fact, Jesus Christ himself is never recorded speaking in tongues in Scripture, though the New Testament is explicit that Jesus both received the Holy Spirit and exemplifies the Spirit-filled life.

Scripture

1 Corinthians 12:10, 28 (1 Corinthians 14:13–19)

Mark 16:17

Acts 2:1–13

Acts 10:44–46

Acts 19:1–7

Interpretation

Definition

The gift of interpretation is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to understand and make known words spoken in another language (or tongue) unknown to the others in attendance.

Scripture

1 Corinthians 12:10, 30

1 Corinthians 14:13

1 Corinthians 14:26–28

