



## Spiritual Gifts Definitions

- 1. Administration** The divine enablement to organize people, tasks, and events. People with this gift: develop strategies or plans to reach identified goals; formulate and enact procedures that enhance the function of the organization; create order out of organizational chaos; assist ministries to become more effective and efficient. They can coordinate a variety of activities, are usually team oriented, and often big-picture people. (1 Corinthians 12:28)
- 2. Apostleship** The divine gift and calling to start new churches and ministries. People with this gift: have a clear vision to start new ministries; reach across cultural boundaries to reach new folks; are entrepreneurial; have a burning desire to reach people in other communities or countries. They are usually gifted leaders who influence others with their contagious enthusiasm. (1 Corinthians 12:28)
- 3. Discernment** The divine ability to distinguish between truth and error, good and evil, right and wrong. People with this gift: see through phoniness; discern motives; identify deception in others with accuracy and appropriateness. They determine whether a word from God is authentic, recognize inconsistencies in teaching, and are able to recognize the presence of evil. (1 Corinthians 12:8-10)
- 4. Encouragement** Christians with the gift of encouragement find themselves reassuring, strengthening, and affirming those who are wavering in their faith, going through hard times, or becoming discouraged. They have a gift for speaking the truth in love and blessing others with their strong sense of concern. They are often sought out as counselors, are friendly, understanding, and personable. (Romans 12:6-8)
- 5. Evangelism** Evangelism is the ability to communicate the gospel to unbelievers so they respond in faith and move toward discipleship. People with this gift enjoy sharing their faith and faith story and have a burning passion to reach others. They seek relationships with unbelievers, often move conversation to spiritual matters in a natural way, and encourage and challenge others to become fully devoted followers of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11)
- 6. Faith** This gift equips the believer to move forward and act on God's promises without wavering regardless of circumstances. Christians with this gift: believe in the promises of God and inspire others to do the same; act in complete confidence of God's ability to overcome obstacles; demonstrate an attitude of trust in God's will; advance the cause of Christ because they go forward when others will not; ask God for what is needed and trust in God's provision. (1 Corinthians 12:8-10)

**7. Giving** People with the gift of giving are equipped to give money and resources to the work of the Lord with gladness and liberality. They understand their resources to be God's resources and exhibit lifestyles of stewardship. People with this gift: manage their resources and limit their lifestyle to maximize the amount they can give; support the work of ministry with sacrificial gifts; provide resources, generously and cheerfully, trusting God for his provision; may have a special ability to make money so that it may be used for God's work. (Romans 12:6-8)

**8. Hospitality** People with the gift of hospitality extend love and caring to others by providing fellowship, food, and shelter. Those with this gift seem to always be ready and willing to invite guests over or to offer their home for a place to meet for any occasion. They enjoy providing refreshments or preparing meals for individuals and groups. They enjoy meeting new people and have a gift for making people feel comfortable and welcome. (1 Peter 4:9-10)

**9. Intercession** Christians with the gift of intercession consistently pray on behalf of others, seeing frequent and specific results. They are equipped to pray for an extended time and on a regular basis for individuals, both church and unchurched and for specific ministries of the church. They are convinced that God responds to prayer and pray in direct response to the leading of the Spirit. (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

**10. Knowledge** This gift equips a person to discover, analyze, clarify, and articulate information and concepts essential to the work of the church. People with this gift: search the scripture for insight, understanding, and truth; gain knowledge that at times was not attained by natural means; have insights that serve the church; organize information for teaching and practical use. They love to study, learn and share their insights with others. (1 Corinthians 12:8-10)

**11. Leadership** Leadership is the divine enablement to influence others to harmoniously accomplish the purposes of God. People with this gift: cast vision; motivate others; present the "big picture" for others to see; model the values of ministry; take responsibility and establish goals. They take stands and often see "God sized" visions. (Romans 12:6-8)

**12. Mercy** Sometimes called the gift of compassion, persons with this gift demonstrate genuine sensitivity to suffering. They cheerfully and practically help those who are in need and work to alleviate the sources of suffering and pain in the world. They are comfortable serving in unsightly or difficult circumstances and bring love, grace, and dignity to those they serve. They have a special gift of identifying and reaching out in appropriate ways to those who are lonely, forgotten, or hurting. Sympathy and empathy are their specialties. (Romans 12:6-8)

**13. Prophecy** Prophecy is the gift of revealing truth and proclaiming it in a timely and practical manner for understanding, correction, edification, or repentance. It is not so much foretelling the future, as it is being able to draw implications from the Bible to life situations. People with this gift often see truth others fail to see and confront them with it. They tend to relate their own experiences and the experiences of others to God's will and Word. (1 Corinthians 12:8-10)

**14. Serving** People with this gift enjoy doing practical and necessary tasks that support and build up the body of Christ. Often they work behind the scenes finding satisfaction not in being recognized, but in knowing that their gift made a difference in the ministry of the church. People with this gift tend to do whatever is called for at the time and may do tasks others will not. Some people with this gift may prefer to work alone, others may wish to work with a group. (1 Corinthians 12:28)

**15. Shepherding** The divine enablement to nurture, care for, and guide people toward on-going spiritual maturity and growth. People with this gift: lead small groups; take responsibility to nurture individuals in their spiritual walk; provide guidance and oversight; model the Christian life. The gift of shepherding assumes a long-term relationship with others and a long-time personal commitment to the spiritual welfare of others. (Ephesians 4:11)

**16. Teaching** The gift of teaching equips a person to understand and communicate information so that others within the church learn and grow. People with this gift tend to enjoy researching and learning why things are true. They also excel in finding ways to communicate what they have learned to others. They are gifted in being able to present information and spiritual truth in exciting and engaging ways that challenge others. (1 Corinthians 12:28)

**17. Tongues** The gift of tongues is the ability to speak, worship, or pray in a language unknown to the speaker. People with this gift may receive a spontaneous message from God that is made known to the church through the gift of interpretation. They are known to worship the Lord with words too deep for the mind to comprehend, and experience an intimacy with God that inspires them to serve God and others. (1 Corinthians 12:8-10)

**18. Interpretation of Tongues** The divine ability to make known to the body of Christ the message of one who is speaking in tongues. They understand an unlearned language and communicate that message to the body of Christ, the church. Often prophetic, their message glorifies God and brings a timely message to others. (1 Corinthians 12:8-10)

**19. Wisdom** The gift of wisdom gives a person insight into how certain knowledge should be applied to specific needs. People with this gift: receive an understanding of what is necessary to meet the needs of the church; provide a divinely given solution in the midst of conflict or confusion; hear the Spirit provide direction for God's best in a given situation. They tend to apply spiritual truth in very specific and practical ways. (1 Corinthians 12:8-10)