

## Spiritual Gifts Categories

This is a handout designed to give you a basic description of some of the spiritual gifts. Please take some time to read through these in order to have an idea of their distinctions. The descriptions are based on those assembled by Peter Laux for the elders as well as other data.

### **Administration**

(I Cor. 12:28)

This gift is the ability to understand clearly the immediate and long-range ministry goals and the process of getting from one to the other. A person with the gift of administration enjoys doing the things that make an organization function smoothly. They set goals and communicate them in such a way that others see the vision and become involved to accomplish them.

### **Artistry- Skilled Craft**

(Exodus 31:3-5)

This gift is the ability to use one's hands and mind to create artistic expressions that produce a spiritual response of strength and inspiration. Many do not include craftsmanship in their gift list, but it is listed in the Old Testament and it is spoken of as given by the Holy Spirit.

### **Discernment**

(1 Cor. 12:7, 10)

This is a gift to judge or evaluate things so as to distinguish whether something is from God and in accord with his will or not. Similar to the natural talent of intuition but more reliable and consistent.

### **Evangelism**

(Eph. 4:11)

The person with this gift is naturally excited about opportunities to share your faith with others. Some feel more comfortable in large group settings while others seek out one-on-one situations, but the common thread is that you see opportunities to talk about faith and are skilled in communicating the Gospel to people with clarity.

### **Exhortation**

(Rom. 12:7)

The gift of exhortation/encouragement is the special ability to compliment, counsel, comfort, and challenge, others to action in such a way that they feel empowered, helped, or encouraged. The Greek word used for this gift also describes the Holy Spirit's role in our lives.

### **Faith**

(1 Cor. 12:9)

The divine ability to act on God's promises with confidence and unwavering belief in God's ability to fulfill His purposes. People with this gift believe the promises of God and

inspire others to do the same; act in complete confidence of God's ability to overcome obstacles, and ask God for what is needed and trust Him for His provisions.

### **Giving**

(Rom. 12:8)

This describes the gift of being able to contribute money and resources to the work of the Lord with cheerfulness and liberality. People with this gift are able to manage their finances and limit their lifestyle in order to give as much of their resources as possible, demonstrate trust in God for His provision, and may have a special ability to make money so that they may use it to further God's work.

### **Hospitality**

(1 Pet. 4:9)

Persons gifted in the area of hospitality have the ability to make guests feel comfortable and at home. They have a desire to provide a warm welcoming setting. They often delight in opening their homes to individuals or groups and look for opportunities to use their gift to minister to others.

### **Intercession**

(James 5:16)

This word describes the divine gift to consistently pray on behalf of and for others, often in regular or large blocks of time. People with this gift feel compelled to earnestly pray on behalf of someone or some cause, pray in response to the leading of the Spirit, whether they understand it or not, and really enjoy time in prayer with God, both in petition and in thanksgiving and praise.

### **Knowledge**

(1 Cor. 12:8)

The ability to bring truth to the body through insights from the Bible, but also from other sources such as people, nature, books, etc. People with this gift search the scriptures for insight, understanding, and truth, have an unusual understanding that serves the church, and can see big ideas as well as small insights.

### **Leadership**

(Rom. 12:6, 8)

A person with this gift can cast vision, motivate, and direct people to harmoniously accomplish the purposes of God. People with this ability are also willing to model the values of the ministry.

### **Mercy**

(Rom. 12:6, 8)

This is the special ability given by God to feel genuine empathy and compassion for individuals who are suffering or in need, and cheerfully to respond through practical deeds that reflect Christ's love. People with this gift focus upon alleviating the sources of pain or discomfort in suffering people wither physical, emotional, social, or spiritual.

### **Music (Vocal and Instrumental)**

(Col. 3:16)

The gift of music is the special ability to use one's voice in singing joyfully or to play a musical instrument to praise God and to communicate God's message for the benefit of others.

### **Pastoring/Shepherding**

(Eph. 4:11)

The ability to nurture, care for, and guide people toward on-going spiritual maturity and becoming like Christ. People with this gift take responsibility to nurture the whole person in their walk with God, provide guidance and oversight to a group of God's people, and model with their life what it means to be a fully devoted follower of Jesus

### **Service**

(I Cor. 12:28)

The gift of helping is the ability to literally put one's hand to the task. People with this gift often have the ability to do almost anything that is needed in order to get the job done and enjoy the process of service as well as accomplishing the task.

### **Skilled Craftsmanship**

(Exodus 31:3-5)

The person with this gift enjoys creatively designing and/or constructing items to be used for ministry and other purposes as well. People with this gift work with wood, cloth, paints, metal, glass, and other raw materials, make things which increase the effectiveness of others' ministries, and enjoy serving with their hands to meet tangible needs.

### **Teaching**

(Rom. 12:7; I Cor. 12:28)

This gift is the ability to communicate God's truth to others so that there is understanding and the transference of His truth into their life and behavior – a transformation occurs. Those who have this gift love to study and get excited about communicating God's truth to others. They love to study the Bible, read resource materials, and look for illustrations that illuminate God's truth

### **Wisdom**

(I Cor. 12:6-8)

This gift focuses on the ability to make wise choices and decisions at critical forks in the road. People with this gift focus on the unseen consequences in determining the next steps to take, listen to God and hear the Spirit provide direction for God's best in a given situation, and apply spiritual truth in specific and practical ways.

### **Writing**

(Jude 3)

This gift is the ability to express truth in a written form; a form that can edify, instruct and strengthen the community of believers. The use of this gift is also used to help

communicate to the Body, the activities and events of the church. A person with this gift has the special ability to express precise and accurate information that can keep other believers informed and provide opportunities for growth and service.