

Spiritual Gifts

God's plan for developing a local church and meeting the needs of its members is to use spiritual gifts (*charismata*), given by the Holy Spirit for spiritual ministry (*diakonai*) and revealing the results (*energemata*¹) of using those gifts for His glory.

Note¹: "God's power in action" [Leon Morris, *The First Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians*, Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 1958; 169]

"Whereof I [Paul] was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his [God's] power." (Ephesians 3;7)

"Whereunto I [Paul] also labor, striving according to his [God's] working, which works in me mightily." (Colossians 1:29)

Administration/Rule/Govern: (I Corinthians 12:28; Romans 12:8)

MEANING:

Kubernesis (a shipmaster or captain); to rule or govern; someone who guides or directs a group of people toward a goal or destination;

SCRIPTURE that helps define the term:

"Nevertheless the centurion believed the **master** and the owner **of the ship...**" (Acts 27:11)

APPLICATION:

The Holy Spirit enables certain Christians with this gift to **organize, direct, and implement plans** to lead others in various ministries of the church. This gift is closely related to the gift of "leadership" but is more **goal or task oriented**. It is also more concerned with details and organization.

SCRIPTURE that shows the spiritual gift in action:

"To Titus, my true son in our common faith. Grace and peace from God, the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior. The reason I left you in Crete was to **set right what was left undone** and, as I directed you, **to appoint elders in every town.**" (Titus 1:4, 5)

"One that rules well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; ⁵ (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)" (I Timothy 3:4, 5)

Is this one of MY spiritual gifts? Yes No

Discerning of spirits: (I Corinthians 12:10)

MEANING: *Diakrisis* being able to distinguish, discern, judge or appraise a person, statement, situation, or environment. In the New Testament, it describes the ability to distinguish between spirits (I Corinthians 12:10) and to discern good and evil (Hebrews 5:14). Also known as: the gift of "discernment of spirits" or "distinguishing between spirits."

SCRIPTURE that helps define the term:

“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.” (I John 4:1)

APPLICATION: The Holy Spirit gives the gift of discernment to enable certain Christians to **clearly recognize** and **distinguish between the influence of God, Satan, the world, and the flesh** in a given situation. The church needs those with this gift to **warn believers** in times of danger or **keep them from being led astray by false teaching**.

SCRIPTURE that shows the spiritual gift in action:

“But **Peter said**, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back *part* of the price of the land? ⁴ Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? **thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.** ⁵ And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. ⁶ And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried *him* out, and buried *him*. (Acts 5:3-6)

“And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: ¹⁷ The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation. ¹⁸ And this did she many days. But **Paul, being grieved**, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.” (Acts 16:16-18)

Is this one of MY spiritual gifts? Yes No

Evangelist: (Ephesians 4:11)

MEANING: *euangelistes* (good messenger) a proclaimer of good news;

SCRIPTURE that helps define the term:

“And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men *and* brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles **by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel**, and believe.” (Acts 15:7)

APPLICATION: The **first symptom** of the gift is the **passion** or **burden** to see others coming to know Christ as their personal Savior. It is a recurring thought that does not go away. The evangelist **sees everyone in the light of whether they are saved or lost**. It is a **capacity to meet new people**, form new friendships with unbelievers, gain their confidence and **provoke their interest in the things of God**.

SCRIPTURE that shows the spiritual gift in action:

“But watch thou [Timothy] in all things, endure afflictions, **do the work of an evangelist**, make full proof of thy ministry.” (II Timothy 4:5)

“For I [Paul] am not ashamed of **the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth**; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” (Romans 1:16)

“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”²⁴ For all flesh *is* as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:²⁵ But **the word of the Lord** endureth for ever. And **this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you**. (I Peter 1:23-25)

“And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that **preach the gospel** of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!” (Romans 10:15)

Is this one of MY spiritual gifts? Yes No

Exhortation: (Romans 12:8)

MEANING: *Parakaleo* means to beseech, exhort, call upon, to encourage and to strengthen. The primary means of exhortation is to remind the hearer of the powerful and amazing work of God in Christ, particularly in regard to the saving work of Jesus in the atonement.

SCRIPTURE that helps define the term:

Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers. (Titus 1:9)

APPLICATION: The Spirit of God gives this gift to people in the church to **strengthen** and **encourage** those who are **wavering in their faith**. Those with the gift of exhortation can **uplift** and **motivate** others as well as **challenge** and **rebuke** them in order **to foster spiritual growth and action**. The **goal** of the encourager **is to see everyone** in the church **continually building up the body of Christ** and glorifying God.

SCRIPTURE that shows the spiritual gift in action:

“holding to the faithful message as taught, so that he will be able both to encourage with sound teaching and to refute those who contradict it.” (Titus 1:9)

“These things (verses 11-14) speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.” (Titus 2:15)

“Preach the word [Timothy]; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. (II Timothy 4:2)

“Who, when he [Barnabas] came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord.
²⁴ For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord. (Acts 11:23, 24)

“And when they [Paul and Barnabas] had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and *to* Iconium, and Antioch,
²² Confirming the souls of the disciples, *and* exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God. (Acts 14:21, 22)

Is this one of MY spiritual gifts? Yes No

Faith: (I Corinthians 12:9)

MEANING:

“Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see.” (Hebrews 11:1 NLT)

SCRIPTURE that helps define the term:

“So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
(Romans 10:17)

APPLICATION:

The special ability that God gives certain members of the Body of Christ to discern with extraordinary confidence the will and purposes of God for His work.

SCRIPTURE that shows the spiritual gift in action:

“By faith...” (Hebrews 11:1-40)

“To another faith by the same Spirit;” (I Corinthians 12:9a)

“Who [Abraham] against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations; according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. ¹⁹ And being **not weak in faith**, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb: ²⁰ He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but **was strong in faith**, giving glory to God; ²¹ And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.” (Romans 4:18-21)

“Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas that he should go as far as Antioch. ²³ Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord. ²⁴ For he was a good man, and **full of** the Holy Ghost and of **faith**: and much people was added unto the Lord.” (Acts 11:22-24)

Is this one of MY spiritual gifts? Yes No

Giving: (Romans 12:8b)

MEANING:

“The special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to contribute their material resources to the work of the Lord with liberality and cheerfulness.”

SCRIPTURE that helps define the term:

“You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.” (II Corinthians 9:7 NLT)

APPLICATION:

While all Christians should practice the discipline of giving, God gifts certain members of the body to give remarkably greater amounts of their income with liberality and great joy. These people have an acute awareness that all they have belongs to the Lord and they are merely stewards, therefore they know that God will supply their needs and richly bless them in their giving.

SCRIPTURE that shows the spiritual gift in action:

“Therefore when thou doest *thine* alms, **do not sound a trumpet** before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. ³ But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: ⁴ That *thine* alms may be **in secret**: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.” (Matthew 6:2-4)

“And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much. ⁴² And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. ⁴³ And he called *unto him* his disciples, and saith unto them, **Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury:** ⁴⁴ **For all *they* did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in **all that she had, even all her living.**” (Mark 12:41-44)**

“Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction. ¹⁵ Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only. ¹⁹ But **my God shall supply all your need** according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:14-19)

Is this one of MY spiritual gifts? Yes No

Helps: (I Corinthians 12:28)

MEANING:

The special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to invest the talents they have in the life and ministry of other members of the Body, thus enabling those others to increase the effectiveness of their own spiritual gifts.

SCRIPTURE that helps define the term:

“I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a servant in the church in Cenchrea. Welcome her in the Lord as one who is worthy of honor among God’s people.

Help her in whatever she needs, **for she has been helpful to many**, and especially to me.” (Romans 16:1, 2 NLT)

APPLICATION:

This gift is a practical gift. People with this gift often enjoy doing routine tasks in order to free others to do the ministry God has called them to do. People with this gift are often not looking for recognition for the work they do.

SCRIPTURE that shows the spiritual gift in action:

“The Lord give mercy unto the house of Onesiphorus; for he oft **refreshed** me, and was not ashamed of my chain.” (II Timothy 1:16)

“There were also women looking on afar off: among whom was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the less and of Joses, and Salome; ⁴¹ (Who also, when he was in Galilee, followed him, and **ministered unto him**;) and many other women which came up with him unto Jerusalem.” (Mark 15:40,, 41)

“Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was **full of good works** and alms deeds which she did.” (Acts 9:36)

Note: The gifts of Helps, Mercy, and Service are often confused.

Helps focuses on Christian works and freeing others to accomplish their God-given ministries.

Mercy focuses on people in distress and reflects God’s love and compassion.

Service focuses on accomplishing little tasks that may otherwise go undone in order to move the greater goal of the ministry or church toward completion.

Is this one of MY spiritual gifts? Yes No

Mercy: (Romans 12:8)

MEANING:

The special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to feel genuine empathy and compassion for individuals (both Christian and non-Christian) who suffer from distressing physical, mental, or emotional problems, and to translate that compassion into cheerfully done deeds which reflect Christ's love and alleviate the suffering.

SCRIPTURE that helps define the term:

“But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him.” (Luke 10:33)

APPLICATION:

Those with this gift find themselves visiting and assisting those in need, and often feel the pain of the person they are helping within themselves. People with this gift find it extremely difficult not to help those who seem less fortunate than themselves. Those with this gift generally enjoy helping those with physical or mental problems and do well in ministries involving visiting hospitals, nursing homes, prisons, and shut-ins.

SCRIPTURE that shows the spiritual gift in action:

“And as they departed from Jericho, a great multitude followed him. ³⁰ And, behold, two blind men sitting by the way side, when they heard that Jesus passed by, cried out, saying, **Have mercy** on us, O Lord, *thou* Son of David. ³¹ And the multitude rebuked them, because they should hold their peace: but they cried the more, saying, **Have mercy** on us, O Lord, *thou* Son of David. ³² And Jesus stood still, and called them, and said, **What will ye that I shall do unto you?** ³³ They say unto him, Lord, that our eyes may be opened. ³⁴ So **Jesus had compassion on them**, and touched their eyes: and immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed him. (Matthew 20:29-34)

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Is this one of MY spiritual gifts? Yes No

Pastor - Teacher: (I Timothy 3:1-7; I Peter 5:1-9; Acts 20:17-28; Hebrews 13:7, 17, 24)

MEANING: *episkopo* (bishop, overseer) Responsibility for the care of the flock
poimaino (pastor) Care for, protect, govern, lead, nurture, feed, mature
presbutero (elder) Mature, respectable, wise
hegemon (ruler, governor, leader) The one that provides, thinks, orders,
plans, maintains discipline, direction and purpose

Teacher (Ephesians 4:11)

didaskalos (teacher) teaches

SCRIPTURE that helps define the term:

“Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labor in the word and doctrine.” (I Timothy 5:17)

APPLICATION: This gift carries the idea of someone who takes care a flock under his protection. His devotion to meet the needs and protect his followers at all costs is the heart of his leadership. It is the only “gift” that is described in detail including requirements, attitudes and desires of the recipient. It is the capacity to exercise influence over a group, leading them to a specific goal or purpose, or to make decisions. He tends to see the problems in a group as a realist and yet is willing to take responsibility for helping them through their problems even at personal risk. He is genuinely concerned for the wellbeing of his followers.

SCRIPTURE that shows the spiritual gift in action:

“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; ¹² For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:11, 12)

“For a **bishop** must be blameless, as the steward of God; not self-willed, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;” (Titus 1:7)

“**What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?**” (Luke 15:4)

“**Feed the flock of God** which is among you, **taking the oversight thereof**, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; ³ Neither as being lords over *God's* heritage, but **being ensamples** to the flock. ⁴ And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fades not away.” (I Peter 5:2-4)

Is this one of MY spiritual gifts? Yes No

Teacher: (Acts 18:11; Matthew 28:19; I Corinthians 12:28; Acts 19:9, 10)

MEANING:

didasko (teacher); someone who leads another to accept a new concept;

INSTRUCTION

mathano (learner, disciple) adapt one's thinking to the will of another

AQUIRER

diermeneuo (interpreter) make clear, explain the truth

EXPLANATION

eksegeomai (explain) clarify difficulties, interpret the will of God

EXPOSITION

dialogizomai (think, reason, give an opinion, discuss, consider) discover through logical reasoning

PERSUASION

SCRIPTURE that helps define the term:

“And he [Paul] continued *there* a year and six months, **teaching** the word of God among them.” (Acts 18:11)

APPLICATION:

The gift of teaching is the ability to instruct, explain and present Biblical truths in such a manner that believers understand the Scriptures and incorporate the truth into their personal lives. Understanding God's will is the special object, with a volitional as well as an intellectual reference and a balance between the interpretation of the truth and the application in lives. Teaching is third in the list behind apostle and prophet. The only restriction from teaching is that women are prohibited from teaching men or assuming authority (through teaching) over men. (I Timothy 2:12)

SCRIPTURE that shows the spiritual gift in action:

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; **teaching** and admonishing **one another** in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” (Colossians 3:16)

“Whom we [Paul] preach, warning every man, and **teaching** every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.” Colossians 1:28)

“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same **commit** thou to faithful men, who shall be able to **teach** others also.” (II Tim. 2:2)

Is this one of MY spiritual gifts? Yes No