

A List of Spiritual Gifts

Spiritual Gifts, also called Gifts of the Spirit, are special abilities given to us by God. When the Holy Spirit comes to dwell with us, He brings these gifts. He then uses us to manifest these gifts to strengthen and build the body of Christ (Church). Every believer has at least one gift. Most believers have more than one. Below you will find a list of gifts, definitions and biblical references. Read through the list and underline/highlight anything that feels familiar to you.

Prophecy. Ability to receive and communicate an immediate message of God to His people through a divinely anointed utterance. (1 Cor 12:10, 28; Rom 12:6; Eph 4:11; Acts 15:32; Acts 21:9-11; Lk 7:26)

Pastor. Ability to assume a long term personal responsibility for the spiritual welfare of a group of believers. (Eph 4:11; 1 Tim 3:1-7; Jn 10:1-18; 1 Pet 5:1-3)

Teaching. Ability to communicate information relevant to the health and ministry of the body and its members in such a way that others will learn. (1 Cor 12:28; Rom 12:7; Eph 4:11-14; Acts 18:24-28; Acts 20:20,21)

Wisdom. Ability to know the mind of the Holy Spirit in such a way as to receive insight into how given knowledge may best be applied to specific needs arising in the body of Christ. (1 Cor 12:8; Acts 6:3, 10; 2 Pet 3:15; 1 Cor 2:1-13; Jas 1:5,6)

Knowledge and Word of Knowledge. Ability to discover, accumulate, analyze and clarify information and ideas which are pertinent to the growth and well-being of the body. The Word of Knowledge is the revelation of a fact in existence which cannot be seen, heard or revealed naturally. It is in existence, it is a fact, it is knowledge and it is supernaturally revealed by God. (1 Cor 12:8; Acts 5:1-11; 1 Cor 2:14; Col 2:2,3)

Exhortation. Ability to minister words of comfort, consolation, encouragement and counsel to other members of the body in a way that they feel helped and healed. (Rom 12:8; 1 Tim 4:13; Heb 10:25; Acts 14:22)

Discerning of spirits. Ability to know with assurance whether certain behavior purported to be of God is in reality divine, human, or satanic. (1 Cor 12:10; Acts 16:16-18; 1 Jn 4:1-6)

Giving. Ability to contribute material resources to the work of the Lord with liberality and cheerfulness. (Rom 12:8; 2 Cor 8:1-7; 9:2; 6-8)

Helps. Ability to invest the talents you have in the life and ministry of other members of the body, thus enabling them to increase the effectiveness of their own spiritual gifts. (1 Cor 12:28; Rom 16:1,2; Acts 9:36)

Mercy. Ability to feel genuine empathy and compassion for individuals, both Christian and non-Christian, who suffer distressing physical, mental or emotional problems, and to translate that compassion into cheerfully done deeds which reflect Christ's love and alleviate the suffering. (Rom 12:8; Acts 16:33,34; Lk 10:33-35; Acts 8:4; Rom 10:15)

Missionary. Ability to minister whatever other spiritual gifts you have in a second culture. (1 Cor 9:19-23; Acts 22:21; Acts 13:2,3; Acts 8:4; Rom 10:15)

Evangelist. Ability to share the Gospel with unbelievers in such a way that men and women become Jesus' disciples and responsible members of the body of Christ. (Eph 4:11; Acts 8:5,6, 26-40; 2 Tim 4:5; Acts 14:21; 21:8)

Hospitality. Ability to provide open house and warm welcome for those in need of food and lodging. (Rom 12:9-13; Heb 13:1,2; Acts 16:15; Rom 16:23)

Faith. Ability to discern with extraordinary confidence the will and purposes of God for the future of His work. (1 Cor 12:9; Acts 27:21-25; Acts 11:22-24; Rom 4:18-21; Heb 11)

Leadership. Ability to set goals in accordance with God's purpose for the future and to communicate these goals to others in such a way they voluntarily and harmoniously work together to accomplish those goals for the glory of God. (Rom 12:8; Acts 15:7-11; 1 Tim 5:17; Acts 7:10; Heb 13:17)

Administration. Ability 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 for the accomplishment of those goals. (1 Cor 12:18; Acts 27:11; Acts 6:1-7)

Miracles. Ability to serve as human intermediary through whom it pleases God to perform powerful acts that are perceived by observers to have altered the ordinary course of nature. (1 Cor 12:10,28; Acts 19:11-20; Rom 15:18,19; Acts 9:36-42)

Healing. Ability to serve as human intermediary through whom it pleases God to cure illness and restore health apart from the use of natural means. (1 Cor 12:9,28; Acts 5:15,16; Acts 14:8-10)

Tongues. Ability to (a) speak to God in a language never learned, and/or (b) to receive and communicate an immediate message of God to His people through a divinely anointed utterance in a language never learned. (1 Cor 12:10,28; 14:13-19; Acts 2:1-13; 19:1-7; 10:44-46)

Interpretation. Ability to make known in the vernacular the message of one who speaks in tongues. (1 Cor 12:20,30; 14:13, 26-28)

Apostle. Ability to assume and exercise general leadership over a number of churches with an extraordinary authority in spiritual matters which is spontaneously recognized and appreciated by those churches. (1 Cor 12:28; Eph 4:11; 2 Cor 12:12; Eph 3:1-9)

Celibacy. Ability to remain single and enjoy it; to be unmarried and not suffer undue sexual temptations. (1 Cor 7:7,8; Matt 19:10-12)

Intercession. Ability to pray for extended periods of time on a regular basis and see frequent and specific answers to prayers to a degree much greater than that which is expected of the average Christian. (Jas 5:14-16; 1 Tim 2:2,2; Col 1:9-12)

Martyrdom. Ability to undergo suffering for the faith even to the point of death, while consistently displaying a joyous and victorious attitude which brings glory to God. (1 Cor 13:3; Acts 7:54-60; 12:1-5; 8:1-4)

Service. Ability to identify the unmet needs involved in a task related to God's work, and to make use of available resources to meet those needs and help accomplish the desired goals. (Rom 12:7; Acts 6:1-7; 2 Tim 1:16-18)

The best way to identify how God has gifted you is to start serving. Your gift will become evident. We like to say you will become "fruitful and fulfilled." The people around you will feel the benefit of your gift. You will get a sense of fulfillment from seeing your work.

Different scholars point out different gifts found in the scripture. One such scholar, C. Peter Wagner, believes the list should be open ended. God gifts people in amazing ways. We take the widest possible view. So where some observe 9 core gifts, others see many more in their application.

The important thing is to let God use you. This is an adventure. Make the most of it. Volunteer to serve in different areas at different times. See what fits and feels right to you.

Another way of identifying your gift areas is to take a “Spiritual Gifts Assessment.” The easiest way is to do an online survey. These are *experience* assessments. This means you answer questions based on how you think and react to different situations. Your natural/supernatural reactions may point towards a spiritual gifting in that area. It isn’t a guarantee that is your spiritual gift... but your responses help to uncover patterns that you may not have previously noticed.

Lastly, As we grow and mature, Our gifting may shift based on the needs of the body around us. We may begin to use gifts we never knew we had. The regular operation of other gifts may fade. Our gifts are meant to meet the needs of the church family. So as the needs change... so might our gifts.

Here are a few websites that offer free online gift surveys. These are great because they score themselves.

<http://giftstest.com/>

This test only has 66 questions (about 5 to 10 minutes) but evaluates 22 possible gifts

<http://www.spiritualgiftstest.com/test/adult>

This is a good test... but... it focuses on the 15 most prominent gifts listed in scripture. Several gifts are not included. 105 questions (about 10-15 minutes)

<https://gifts.churchgrowth.org/cgi-cg/gifts.cgi?intro=1>

This is also a good test... but only scores 9 gifts. Several are not included. 108 questions (about 10-15 minutes)

<http://giftstest.com/>

This test only has 66 questions (about 5 to 10 minutes) but evaluates 22 possible gifts