

Spiritual Gifts Inventory Key and Definitions

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Administration — the gift of organizing human and material resources for the work of Christ, including the ability to plan and work with people to delegate responsibilities, track progress, and evaluate the effectiveness of procedures. Administrators attend to details, communicate effectively, and take as much pleasure in working behind the scenes as they do in standing in the spotlight.

Apostleship — the gift of spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ to other cultures and foreign lands. Apostleship is the missionary zeal that moves us from the familiar into uncharted territory to share the good news. Apostles embrace opportunities to learn foreign languages, visit other cultures, and go to places where people have not heard the Christian message. The United States of America is fast becoming a mission field of many languages and cultures. Crossing an ocean to enter the mission field is no longer necessary. Even across generations, we may need to "speak other languages" to communicate.

Compassion — the gift of exceptional empathy with those in need- moves us to action. More than just concern, compassion demands that we share the suffering of others to connect the gospel truth with other realities of life. Compassion moves us beyond our comfort zones to offer practical, tangible aid to all God's children, regardless of the worthiness of the recipients or the response we receive for our service.

Discernment - is the ability to separate truth from erroneous teachings and rely on spiritual intuition to know what God calls us to do. Discernment allows us to focus on what is truly important and ignore what deflects us from faithful obedience to God. Discernment aids us in knowing whom to listen to and whom to avoid.

Evangelism — the ability to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with those who have not heard it before or with those who have not yet decided for Christ. This gift manifests in both one-on-one situations and in group settings, both large and small. Evangelism is an intimate relationship with another person or persons that requires sharing personal faith experience and a call for a response of faith to God.

Exhortation — the gift of exceptional encouragement. Exhorters see the silver lining in every cloud, offer profound and inspiring hope to the fellowship, and look for and commend the best in everyone. Exhorters empower others to feel good about themselves and hopeful for the future. Exhorters are not concerned by appearances; they hold fast to what they know to be accurate, right, and good.

Faith — the exceptional ability to hold fast to the truth of God in Jesus Christ despite pressures, problems, and obstacles to faithfulness. Beyond belief, faith is a gift that empowers an individual or a group to hold fast to its identity in Christ in the face of any challenge. The gift of faith enables believers to rise above pressures and problems that might otherwise cripple them. An unshakable trust in God characterizes faith to deliver on God's promises, no matter what. The gift of faith inspires those who might be tempted to give up to hold on.

Giving — the gift of the ability to manage money to the honor and glory of God. Beyond the regular response of gratitude to God that all believers make, those with the gift of giving can discern the best ways to put money to work, can understand the validity and practicality of appeals for funds, and can guide others in the most faithful methods for managing their financial concerns.

Healing — the gift of conducting God's healing powers into the lives of God's people. Physical, emotional, spiritual, and psychological healing are ways healers manifest this gift. Healers are prayerful, and they help people understand that healing is in the hands of God. Often, their task is to bring about such understanding more than to erase negative symptoms. Some of the most powerful healers display some of the most heartbreaking afflictions themselves.

Helping — the gift of ensuring that everything is ready for the work of Christ to occur. Helpers assist others to accomplish the work of God. These unsung heroes work behind the scenes and attend to details others would rather not be bothered with. Helpers function faithfully, regardless of the credit or attention they receive. Helpers provide the framework upon which the ministry of the body of Christ is built.

Interpretation of Tongues (see also Tongues) — the gift of (1) the ability to interpret foreign languages without the necessity of formal study to communicate with those who have not heard the Christian message or who seek to understand, or (2) the ability to interpret the gift of tongues as a secret prayer language that

communicates with God at a deep spiritual level. Both understandings of the gift of interpretation of tongues are communal: the first extends the good news into the world; the second strengthens the faith within the fellowship.

Knowledge — the gift of knowing the truth through faithful study of Scripture and the human situation. Knowledge provides the information necessary for transforming the world and forming the body of Christ. Those possessing the gift of knowledge challenge the fellowship to improve itself through study, reading of Scripture, discussion, and prayer.

Leadership — the gift of orchestrating the gifts and resources of others to accomplish the work of God. Leaders move people toward a God-given vision of service, enabling others to use their gifts to the best of their abilities. Leaders can create synergy, whereby a group achieves much more than its members could achieve.

Miracles — the gift of an ability to operate at a spiritual level that recognizes God's miraculous work in the world. Miracle workers invoke God's power to accomplish what appears impossible or impractical by worldly standards. Miracle workers remind us of the extraordinary nature of the ordinary world, thereby increasing faithfulness and trust in God. Miracle workers pray for God to work in the lives of others, and they feel no sense of surprise when their prayers are answered.

Prophecy — the gift of speaking the word of God clearly and faithfully. Prophets allow God to speak through them to communicate the message that people most need to hear. While often unpopular, prophets can say what needs to be told because of the spiritual empowerment they receive. Prophets do not foretell the future but proclaim God's future by revealing God's perspective on our current reality.

Servanthood - is the gift of serving other people's spiritual and material needs. Servants understand their role in the body of Christ to be that of giving comfort and aid to all who are in need. Servants look to the needs of others rather than focusing on their own needs. To serve is to put faith into action and treat others as if they were Jesus Christ. The gift of service extends our Christian love into the world.

Shepherding — the gift of guidance. Shepherds nurture others in the Christian faith and provide a mentoring relationship to those who are new to the faith. Displaying an unusual spiritual maturity, shepherds share their experiences and learning to facilitate the spiritual growth and development of others. Shepherds take individuals under their care and walk with them on their spiritual journeys. Many shepherds provide spiritual direction and guidance to a wide variety of believers.

Teaching — the gift of bringing scriptural and spiritual truths to others. More than just teaching Christian education classes, teachers witness the truth of Jesus Christ in various ways and help others understand the complex realities of the Christian

faith. Teachers are revealers. They shine the light of understanding into the darkness of doubt and ignorance. They open people to new truths and challenge people to be more in the future than they have been in the past.

Tongues (see also Interpretation of Tongues) — the gift of (1) the ability to communicate the gospel to other people in a foreign language without the benefit of having studied said language (see Acts 2:4) or (2) the ability to speak to God in a secret, unknown prayer language that can only be understood by a person possessing the gift of interpretation. The ability to speak another culture's language makes the gift of tongues valuable for spreading the gospel worldwide. In contrast, the gift of speaking a secret prayer language offers the opportunity to build faithfulness within a community of faith.

Wisdom - the gift of translating life experience into spiritual truth and of seeing the application of scriptural truth to daily living. The wise in our faith communities offer balance and understanding that transcend reason. Wisdom applies a God-given common sense to our understanding of God's will. Wisdom helps us remain focused on God's important work, enabling newer, less mature Christians to benefit from those whom God has blessed to share profound truths.