

Spiritual Gifts Discovery

John 14: 15-17 “if you love me, keep my commands. I will ask the Father and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever – the Spirit of truth... you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you”. 26... the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of all things I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. So do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not be afraid.

Love Gifts

Support the church mission and church leadership by manifesting the love of God in practical ways.

Administration (1 Corinthians 12:28)

The gift of administration (or guidance) is the Spirit-enabled ability to understand what makes an organization function, and the special ability to plan and execute procedures that accomplish the goals of the ministry.

You may have this gift if... organizing tasks and people... streamlining and clarifying complex tasks... you imagine practical ways to help those in church leadership reach their God-given goals.

Service (1 Cor 12: 28, 1 Peter 4: 10-11, Romans 12: 7)

The gift of service is differentiated in scripture from the general call of all believers to serve. This gift refers to the Spirit-enabled ability to unselfishly meet the needs of others through very practical service.

You may have this gift if... serving those in the church community in need... doing simple and even messy tasks others avoid without expecting credit... you see tangible ways to enable and encourage others to better use their gifts

Mercy (Romans 12: 8)

Closely connected to service, this gift is the Spirit-enabled ability to feel genuine empathy and compassion for those who suffer distress, physical, mental, or emotional problems, and translate that compassion into cheerfully done deeds that reflect Christ's love and alleviate suffering.

You may have this gift if... have a deep impulse (not emotion or past experience) to embrace a sinner or to weep with those who mourn... were not necessarily merciful before faith in Christ... seek out those who do not feel worthy of the mercy you are giving.

Giving (Romans 12: 8)

The gift of giving refers to the Spirit-enabled ability to give of material resources liberally to meet the needs of others and yet to do so with a purity of motive, which senses that the giving is a simple sharing of what God has given.

You may have this gift if... find yourself setting aside specific amounts of money because you sense an opportunity will come to give it... are more aware of settings and lives where a material gift would significantly impact God's Kingdom work in groups or individuals... have joy in anonymous giving... hold material possessions lightly in case someone of greater need could use them... are following the Holy Spirit's prompts to give you find your own needs being met.

Word Gifts

Clarify the nature, action, and purpose of God.

Teaching (1 Cor. 12: 27-28, Rom. 12:7, Eph. 4:11-12)

The teaching gift is a bible centered and Spirit-enabled ability to clarify God's truth in a way that informs, trains, prepares, disciples, and equips.

You may have this gift if... people often confirm they better understand scripture from your teaching and put it into practice... you are an enthusiastic learner when it comes to scripture... people understand the true nature of God and are changed by... or you experience internal "alarm bells" when scripture is misused, misunderstood, or misapplied.

Exhortation/Encouragement (Rom. 12:8)

The gift of exhortation is the Spirit-enabled ability to urge people to action in terms of applying Biblical truths, to encourage people generally with Biblical truths, or to comfort people through the application of Biblical truths to their needs. This gift can be seen in three distinct ways; to correct (gentle rebuke), encourage, and comfort.

You may have this gift if... people often have a strong reaction to what you have to say to them... you find joy in genuinely listening to others in a way they feel heard... you love sharing encouragement through various means, but especially through God's word... you are not satisfied with the superficial acceptance of truth, it must be put into practice... you have the Spirit-enabled ability to rebuke others to be faithful to God's word with great love

Apostleship (Eph. 4:11)

The gift of apostle must be separated from the office of Apostle (Jesus' selected 12 disciples plus Paul). This is a Spirit-enabled leadership gift where the individual

assumes and exercises general leadership over several churches with extraordinary authority in spiritual matters. As well, this gift is affirmed and commissioned by those churches and can be within the person's native culture or cross-cultural context.

You may have this gift if... you have a strong passion, call, and energy from God to establish "new works"... you are given an unprompted and unnatural respect and authority to influence other churches or church leaders... you are drawn to and affirmed in broader ministry contexts that expand, push boundaries, and overcome obstacles in the wider mission of the church.

Leadership (Rom. 12:8)

The gift of leadership is the Spirit-enabled ability to set vision

and goals in accordance with God's direction for the church's future, and the capacity to communicate to others in a way that the church voluntarily and harmoniously works together to accomplish that unique vision. This gift focuses more on the "what" and the "who" than the "how" of the discipleship mission.

You may have this gift if... you have a clear picture of where the Lord is leading before it happens... you have a clear picture of the big picture areas that need to be addressed to accomplish that vision... you have a clear picture of who is needed in what roles to accomplish that vision... you find others understand that vision and desire to join in it.

Shepherd (Eph. 4:11)

The gift of the shepherd is the Spirit-enabled ability to exercise (typically long-term) personal concern and care for church members in a way that models and encourages them to grow in maturity, protects them from error, and guides them in truth.

You may have this gift if... you feel a strong draw to the ongoing maturity and protection of individual people or small groups within the church... you are more concerned with people's spiritual maturity and health than the big-picture vision or

administration of the church... people naturally respect your leadership and are comfortable following you.

Evangelism (Eph. 4:11)

The gift of evangelism is the Spirit-enabled ability to proclaim the Gospel message in relevant and various ways that draw unbelievers to repentance and faith in Christ.

You may have this gift if... you have the ability to easily talk with unbelieving individuals or groups... you are not intimidated going into situations others would find uncomfortable... you have an intense concern for others' eternity... you have ease, freedom, and joy inserting spiritual truth in conversation... your prayer life revolves mostly around the names of those not yet in Christ... you can't explain why unbelievers are drawn to you and are interested in knowing more about or committing themselves to Christ.

Power Gifts

Demonstrate the power, presence, and reality of God.

Prophecy (Eph. 4:11, 1 Cor. 12:28-29, Rom. 12:6)

The gift of prophecy is the Spirit-enabled ability to deliver truth for the corporate body in either a predictive or situational way that corrects, edifies, consoles, or convinces believers of God's truth.

You may have this gift if... you are deeply impressed that God's Spirit has given you a particular message for a unique situation in the church... you feel that message will bring deeper insight into God's word, convict of sin, and provide comfort or direction to the church.

Tongues (1 Cor. 12:10)

The gift of tongues can be a known or unknown language that can be used evangelistically, for the edification of the body, for worship and thanksgiving, to pray for others, for inner assurance of communion with God, or for affirmation of the personal presence of God.

You may have this gift if... you have the supernatural ability to speak in another language that is known or unknown... you know God is praised in it... you feel the presence of God, and you (or others) are changed more into the image of Christ.

Interpretation (1 Cor. 12:10)

The gift of interpretation is the Spirit-enabled ability to supernaturally understand what the Lord is saying as others speak in tongues.

You may have this gift if... humbled or brought repentance... deepened unity in the church... brought encouragement to the church... has helped a non-believer realize God is talking to them.

Intercession (Not formally listed but inferred throughout scripture)

The gift of intercession is the Spirit-enabled ability to pray for extended periods of time regularly as the Spirit leads.

You may have this gift if... you find yourself regularly prompted (in various ways) to pray for specific people, groups, or needs... you find great joy in extended times of prayer over these promptings... you feel God has assigned you to pray long-term for specific people, groups, or ongoing projects.

Faith (1 Cor. 12:9)

The gift of faith must not be confused with faith of salvation. It is the Spirit-enabled ability to discern with extraordinary confidence the will or purposes of God for his work and the unshakable belief that he will bring it to pass.

You may have this gift if... you have a confident “yes” or “no” to essential decisions in the church that supersedes natural feelings of optimism or pessimism... you maintain unwavering confidence in what you know God will accomplish regardless of obstacles... you have an unusual desire to accept God’s promises at face value and apply them... when you hear God-given vision, you resonate with it... you are confident God will do something even when all around doubt it... you are very conscientious of the times God has shown himself faithful... you believe that God not only can do something but that he will do something.

Discernment of Spirits (1 Cor. 12:10, 1 John 4)

The gift of discernment is the Spirit-enabled ability to know when the source behind certain behavior or words are in reality from God or the three enemies described in scripture (world, flesh, and devil). Some may discern the Spirit is present, some may

discern worldly or fleshly motives, some may discern the demonic, and some may discern any combination of all of these.

You may have this gift if... you regularly sense inconsistencies in what you see or hear... you experience a deep underlying sense of un-resting conviction when you know people are given half-truths, misapplied truths, or false teaching (based on a solid grasp of Scripture)... you get glimpses of the supernatural reality behind a situation... you get physical symptoms that something is going on behind the scenes... you see or sense a demonic presence in people, places, or situations.

Words of Knowledge (1 Cor. 12:8)

The gift of knowledge is Spirit-given information about someone that you have no access to any other way. This gift is similar to prophesy but is primarily given more in a one-to-one context rather than a corporate context. The proper exercise of this gift should humble, help, and heal, but never humiliate or hurt.

You may have this gift if... *the Holy Spirit gives you spontaneous and specific information about others' lives that you have no access to and is affirmed in the community... that information results in healing, sanctification, or salvation of the other person... this information comes in different forms (words, headlines, voice, picture, vision, etc.)... you feel physical symptoms of the other you know are not yours (also happens with discernment).*

Words of Wisdom (1 Cor. 12:8)

The gift of wisdom is similar to knowledge, but with a different focus. Words of wisdom are situational words acutely applicable in a moment that provides insight into the next steps in a church's or an individual's spiritual journey.

You may have this gift if... you have an unusual sensitivity to Holy Spirit promptings in terms of ideas or concepts... you transfer concepts to apply in specific situations (even if this isn't typically natural to you)... you instantaneously and intuitively grasp clear

solutions or next steps in specific situations that are confirmed in community as the situation unfolds.

Healing (1 Cor. 12:9)

The gift of healing is the Spirit-given ability to serve as human intermediaries through whom it pleases God to cure illness and restore human health and wholeness apart from natural means. This gift relates only to illness where the source is physical/natural.

You may have this gift if... you experience a deep desire to see God alleviate physical suffering in others and a willingness to be used by God to do so... you experience an unusual ability to sense the power of God present for healing... you have the willingness to take risks for others' healing.

Miracles (miraculous powers) (Cor. 12:10)

The gift of miracles is the Spirit-given ability to serve as human intermediaries through whom it pleases God to perform powerful acts that alter the ordinary course of nature and are recognized as God's supernatural intervention. This gift can be used by God to have power over the demonic, to bring people to Christ, or to set believers free.

You may have this gift if... you feel called in situations to see the power of God demonstrated over the demonic / nature to vindicate God's character... you notice an ability and sensitivity to discern what God wants to do in a given situation, and a willingness to risk your reputation to trust God and act... you are ready to deal with the demonic directly and you find they leave people or strongholds when you pray... through all these acts you find people come to faith in Jesus or are set free to walk in Christ more deeply.

John 14: 25... "the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."