



Spiritual Gifts of Stephen Ministers

Spiritual gifts are gifts to give away. God gives them to us, and we use them to serve others. How are you using your gifts right now? Are you looking for a new way to use them? If your spiritual gifts include **one OR more** of the following--faith, mercy, teaching the faith, encouragement, or knowing--consider Stephen Ministry, our congregation's one-to-one caregiving ministry. This may be just what you've been looking for! Contact your Stephen Leaders to learn more about this ministry.

Faith (1 Corinthians 12:9)

The spiritual gift of faith is an unshakeable trust and a deep conviction that God faithfully and reliably keeps promises. Christians with this gift have a profound belief and confidence in their relationship with Jesus that becomes an example for others. These individuals are endowed with the spiritual gift of faith in addition to the justifying grace all Christians have and the sanctifying grace all Christians experience.

Mercy (Romans 12:8)

Christians endowed with the spiritual gift of mercy have an exceptional ability to perform acts of kindness and compassion. Those with this gift show mercy even to those undeserving of it. Their deeds of unmerited love are modeled after the redemptive gift of Christ's life, death and resurrection, a gift of loving mercy we did not deserve.

Teaching the Faith (Romans 12:7; 1 Corinthians 12: 28; Ephesians 4:11)

The spiritual gift of teaching the faith is the ability to clearly explain the Christian faith and equip individuals to apply it in their daily lives. Those who have this spiritual gift communicate with both words and actions—they live what they teach. The life of someone who teaches the faith is often his or her best lesson, following the example of Jesus, the master teacher. The gift of teaching the faith can be different from the ability to teach other subjects. Therefore professional teachers may not necessarily have this gift.

Encouragement (Romans 12:8)

The gift of encouragement includes the ability to inspire, comfort, motivate, strengthen, affirm, and be present with others so that they can meet life's challenges with confidence. Encouragement points to the promise of the Holy Spirit's presence and the hope that is ours in Christ. Those with the gift of encouragement instill this hope in others, offering consolation and inspiration to them in their joys and trials. It is being a "little Christ" and a "little Holy Spirit," assuring others that they are not alone and that they indeed can follow God's call for their lives.

Knowing (1 Corinthians 12:8)

The Spiritual gift of Knowing is having a deep, personal relationship with Jesus Christ and sharing the insights gained from it with others. Christians with the gift of knowing communicate much more than facts with they talk with people about Jesus. They share Jesus Christ in ways that make him personal and real to others.