

# **SPIRITUAL GIFTS: Definitions and Uses**

## **About the Gifts Listed:**

The purpose of this list is to provide a list of gifts with possible biblical basis. Inclusion of possibilities not found in the key spiritual gifts passages (Rom. 12, 1 Cor. 12, Eph. 4, 1 Pet. 4), are not dogmatically presented. In the scripture references listed by those gifts the context of the verses includes the same original language for spiritual gifts used in the key passages. Hence you will find celibacy, martyrdom, missionary, and voluntary poverty listed herein for your consideration as possibilities. Their definitions suggest a different slant than the gifts in the key passages. Some people do seem to be bent in those specific directions in ministry.

Inclusion of certain gifts (apostle, healing, miracles, prophecy, tongues, and interpretation of tongues) in this list does not mean support of their prolific use today, especially in the same specific application of the early church. Those particular gifts were utilized in their fullest sense in the founding of the Church and had a supernatural authenticating and authoritative base in them. However, in the broadest sense of their definition, certain of these gifts may possibly be exercised today but only in ways that would prohibit the addition of new revelation and demand the strictest adherence to principles in the Word. For example, prophecy is herein defined as “forth”-telling not “fore”-telling. Healing and miracles are depicted more as the result of the prayer of faith than that which is performed through an intermediary human agent (James 5:13-16; John 14:1-13). The enterprising spirit of the apostles would be what is carried over today when referring to the gift of apostle, not the full investment of power and authority given to the New Testament apostles and it would not involve the beginning of a new work of God but the continuation what was already begun in the N.T. era.

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The spiritual gifts appear in alphabetical order. The pages are not numbered in the event you wish to use only isolated pages as suggested above.

## Possible Spiritual Gifts:

Romans 12	1 Corinthians 12	Ephesians 4	Misc. Passages
exhortation	administration	apostle	celibacy
giving	apostle	evangelism	hospitality
leadership	discernment	pastor	martyrdom
mercy	faith	prophecy	missionary
prophecy	healing	teaching	voluntary poverty
service	helps		
teaching	knowledge		
	miracles		
	prophecy		
	teaching		
	tongues		
	tongues		
	interpretation		
	wisdom		

## **Spiritual Gift: ADMINISTRATION**

**Definition:** to steer the body toward the accomplishment of God-given goals and directives by planning, organizing, and supervising others

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 12:28

**Greek Word:** kubernesias - to steer, guide, helmsmen (A helmsman is in charge of getting the ship to its destination.)

**Scriptural Role Models to Study:** Joseph (Genesis 37-50)

### **Characteristics of Someone with this Gift:**

- very good at organizing and coordinating activities
- able to delegate responsibilities to other people so as to best accomplish set goals
- good at organizing people, ideas, and resources to accomplish a specific goal
- good at planning strategies to most effectively pursue a vision
- often finds self in a place of leadership

### **Ministry Areas & Tasks Using This Gift:**

Christian Education Ministry:

age-level coordinator, children's director, children's church coordinator, Christian Education director, nursery coordinator, Sunday School superintendent, VBS director

Staffing Ministry:

personnel management/placement

Staff-Support Ministry:

assistant, maintain resources and supplies, office administrator, oversee business matters of the church

Other Ministry:

presiding at meetings as chairperson, organizing outreaches, coordinator of a variety of ministries

### **Observations About This Gifting:**

- People with the gift of administration must work at balancing task and people. There can be a tendency to get so caught up in the process that people are overlooked or misused.

## **Spiritual Gift: APOSTLE**

**Definition:** to be sent forth to new frontiers with the gospel, providing leadership over church bodies and maintaining authority over spiritual matters pertaining to the church

**Scripture:** Ephesians 4:11; 1 Corinthians 12:28

**Greek Word:** apostolos - to delegate; messenger; he that is sent; one sent forth ('apo'=from; 'stello'=send)

**Scriptural Role Models to Study:** Paul (Romans 1:1; 1 & 2 Corinthians 1:1; Galatians 1:1-2; Ephesians 1:1; Colossians 1:1; 1 Timothy 1:1; 2 Timothy 1:1; Titus 1:1; Acts 13:1ff)

### **Characteristics of Someone with this Gift:**

- \_\_\_ would be eager to start a new church
- \_\_\_ seen and respected as an authority in spiritual matters
- \_\_\_ desirous of seeing churches form in areas where there are none
- \_\_\_ known for having a pioneering spirit
- \_\_\_ takes the Gospel into places where it has not yet been proclaimed

### **Ministry Areas & Tasks Using This Gift:**

Outreach Ministry:  
church planting

Visionary Ministry:  
bishop, district superintendent, overseer

Other Ministry:  
innovating a new ministry or changing one that has lost its sense of purpose or direction

### **Observations About This Gifting:**

- The original use of the word apostle was for those with Jesus who were a witness of His resurrection and ascension (Acts 1:21,22; 2:43) including others besides His core group of disciples: Mathias (Acts 1:26), Paul (Rom. 1:1), Barnabas (Acts 14:14), Andronicus & Junias (Rom. 16:7), Timothy & Silas (1 Thess. 2:6). These men were instrumental in the founding of the Church and hence that specific role is no longer required today. The same enterprising spirit of seeing that work carried on to new frontiers may be found in some people today but they would not need the full investment of power and authority given to the original Apostles.
- Someone with this gift has an enterprising spirit and would probably struggle in a maintenance position in a ministry with little opportunity of input or improvement.

## **Spiritual Gift: CELIBACY**

**Definition:** to voluntarily remain single without regret and with the ability to maintain controlled sexual impulses so as to serve the Lord without distraction

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 7:7, 8

**Scriptural Role Models to Study:** Paul (1 Corinthians 7:7)

### **Characteristics of Someone with this Gift:**

- fulfilled and content in the single life
- single and not actively pursuing opportunities to find a marriage partner
- single and not bothered by unfulfilled sexual impulses
- able to remain single without getting down from the insensitive remarks of others and pressure of society to marry

### **Ministry Areas & Tasks Using This Gift:**

Use along with others gifts in any of the ministry areas but particularly useful in areas with high ministry demands on time and in areas requiring much time away from home.

### **Observations About This Gifting:**

- The word for “gift” in 1 Corinthians 7:7, 8 is ‘charisma,’ the same as the word for ‘spiritual gift.’
- This gift must be used along with other gifts as there is no merit in being gifted this way if that is all there is to it. The purpose of being gifted in celibacy would be to allow you to be more effective in using other gifts.

## **Spiritual Gift: DISCERNMENT**

**Definition:** to clearly distinguish truth from error by judging whether the behavior or teaching is from God, Satan, human error, or human power

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 12:10

**Greek Word:** diakrisis - judicial estimation, to separate thoroughly, discriminate, judge

**Scriptural Role Models to Study:** Peter (Acts 5:1-10; 8:18-23)

### **Characteristics of Someone with this Gift:**

- people look to this person for help in figuring out right from wrong
- able to spot a spiritual phony
- known for good spiritual judgment
- seeks to prevent false teaching and confusion from overtaking the church
- desirous of protecting the body from error

### **Ministry Areas & Tasks Using This Gift:**

Discernment Ministry:

assessment/evaluation of quality and maturity of an established ministry,  
doctrinal evaluation

Prayer Ministry:

prayer seeking, spiritual warfare

Staffing Ministry:

interviewing, needs assessment

Visionary Ministry:

consultant, on a church board or steering committee

### **Observations About This Gifting:**

- Detecting insincerity and wrong motives, authenticity and honesty, in another person is part of a discerning nature.
- People with the gift of discernment need to be cautious in designing or implementing solutions. They may be correct in their perceptions but ineffective in their approach, unless accompanied by other appropriate gifts.
- People with this gift may need to work through self-righteousness and defensiveness which can easily breed.
- There needs to be an understanding of the difference between judging to condemn and judging to correct with mercy and truth.

## **Spiritual Gift: EVANGELIST**

**Definition:** to be a messenger of the good news of the Gospel

**Scripture:** Ephesians 4:11

**Greek Word:** euaggelistes – messenger of good news, preacher of gospel  
(‘eu’=well; ‘angelos’=messenger)

**Scriptural Role Models to Study:** Philip (Acts 8:4-13, 26-40; 21:8)

### **Characteristics of Someone with this Gift:**

- \_\_\_ has a strong desire to share one’s faith with unbelievers
- \_\_\_ able to enjoy being with non-Christians because of the hope of sharing Christ with them
- \_\_\_ inviting others to accept Christ as Savior comes easy
- \_\_\_ ready and eager to tell others how to become a Christian
- \_\_\_ frequently instrumental in leading others to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ

### **Ministry Areas & Tasks Using This Gift:**

#### Outreach Ministry:

variety of outreach efforts, church planting, street evangelism, joining other believers without the gift in visits with non-believers, counselor at end of service when invitation is given, visitation, Gospel teams, member of a mission’s team

### **Observations About This Gifting:**

- People with the gift of evangelism should caution against: 1) pride in number of converts, using it as a sign of spirituality, 2) failure to learn and grow in other areas, 3) seeing people as numbers rather than people with needs

## **Spiritual Gift: EXHORTATION**

**Definition:** to come along side of someone with words of encouragement, comfort, consolation, and counsel to help them be all God wants them to be

**Scripture:** Romans 12:8

**Greek Word:** paraklesis - calling to one's side

**Scriptural Role Models to Study:** Barnabas (Acts 4:36; 11:22-26)

### **Characteristics of Someone with this Gift:**

- people often come to this person with their personal problems for counsel
- enjoys encouraging those who are discouraged and down-hearted
- often challenge others to reach their potential in Christ
- available to talk with others
- admonishes others to go on with the Lord

### **Ministry Areas & Tasks Using This Gift:**

Benevolence Ministry:

cards/notes, counseling, support groups, phone contacting

Counseling Ministry:

counseling, care group leader, support group ministry

Shepherding Ministry:

individual or small group discipleship, follow-up with new converts

Speaking/Teaching Ministry:

exhortations, sermonettes, sermons, teaching, training

Staff-Support Ministry:

encouragement

Worship Ministry:

through singing, testimonies

### **Observations About This Gifting:**

- People with this gift tend to be process-oriented, not goal-oriented.
- People with the gift of exhortation must take caution against: 1) pride in their motivational ability, 2) becoming overloaded with too many people demands
- Someone with this gift may not become involved in long-term commitment as would a pastor but becomes concerned with the spiritual welfare of a brother or sister for the period of time it takes to help that person and then moves on to another person in need. ....meets a particular need of a particular person at a particular time.

## **Spiritual Gift: FAITH**

**Definition:** to be firmly persuaded of God's power and promises to accomplish His will and purpose and to display such a confidence in Him and His Word that circumstances and obstacles do not shake that conviction

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 12:8-10

**Greek Word:** pistis - firm persuasion or conviction

**Scriptural Role Models to Study:** Noah (Genesis 6-9; Hebrews 11:7),  
Abraham (Genesis 12-25; Hebrews 11:8-12)

### **Characteristics of Someone with this Gift:**

- trusts God for great things
- has a confident expectation God will accomplish what He says
- steps out in faith where others will not go
- sees God answer prayer
- this person's faith inspires others

### **Ministry Areas & Tasks Using This Gift:**

Prayer Ministry:  
almost any kind of prayer effort

Visionary Ministry:  
long-range planning team, participate in special projects, new ministry initiatives where there are significant obstacles to be overcome and the reality of spiritual warfare is keenly felt

### **Observations About This Gifting:**

- Common traits are optimism, perseverance, tendency to be future and change-oriented.
- Someone with the gift of faith will tend to be bored without a challenge and should therefore avoid only being in ministries having to maintain status quo.

## **Spiritual Gift: GIVING**

**Definition:** to share what material resources you have with liberality and cheerfulness without thought of return

**Scripture:** Romans 12:8

**Greek Word:** metadidomi - to give over, share, impart

**Scriptural Role Models to Study:** Dorcas (Acts 9)

### **Characteristics of Someone with this Gift:**

- \_\_\_ enjoys giving to those in serious financial need
- \_\_\_ cheerfully gives well above a tithe to the work of the church
- \_\_\_ known for generosity and sometimes sacrificial giving
- \_\_\_ often gives anonymously to those in need
- \_\_\_ willing to lower standard of living in order to help out

### **Ministry Areas & Tasks Using This Gift:**

Benevolence Ministry:

give directly to people in need or to organizations that reach out to people in need like hunger and relief agencies

Worship Ministry:

all giving should be seen as an act of worship but can especially be so when giving during a local church worship service sacrificially

Other Ministry:

direct missionary support; provide care, lodging or other resources for missionaries home on furlough; scholarship for students training for ministry; sponsor or underwrite special projects

### **Observations About This Gifting:**

- A person with this gift tends to display resourcefulness, generosity, and caring.
- If people with this gift don't have the material resources to meet a need, they will be motivated to pray and see needs are met otherwise.
- People with the gift of giving must take caution against: 1) a critical attitude of those unable to give, 2) control with one's money

## **Spiritual Gift: HEALING**

**Definition:** to be used as a means through which God makes people whole either physically, emotionally, mentally, or spiritually

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 12:9, 28, 30

**Greek Word:** iama - a cure (the effect); make whole

**Scriptural Role Models to Study:** Jesus, Paul

### **Characteristics of Someone with this Gift:**

- \_\_\_ God places people on this person's heart who are ill to pray for them
- \_\_\_ has seen one's own prayers be used as the channel through which God brings about His work of healing in people's lives
- \_\_\_ often used by God in the healing process of those with physical, mental, emotional, or spiritual needs
- \_\_\_ one's prayers and counsel tend to emphasize people's need to be restored to wholeness

### **Ministry Areas & Tasks Using This Gift:**

Counseling Ministry:  
variety of different types of counseling

Prayer Ministry:  
especially intercessory prayer

### **Observations About This Gifting:**

- The question raised with this gift is if healing is for today. God mainly used healing and other miraculous gifts when He wanted to authenticate His message and/or messenger. While God's healing power remains unchanged, the means through which healing takes place today seems to have shifted from the direct use of a human agent to that of prayer and being within the context of a caring community living out the one-another commands of Scripture (to confess sins to one another, to bear one another's burdens, to pray for one another, etc.).
- People with this gift could fall into the trap of seeking personal glory when their prayers are answered or disregarding their dependence on others with complimentary gifts.

## **Spiritual Gift: HELPS**

**Definition:** to render support or assistance to others in the body so as to free them up for ministry

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 12:28

**Greek Word:** antilepsis - laying hold of, to be a partaker of; relief, succor; partake, support

**Scriptural Role Models to Study:** Epaphroditus (Philemon 2:25-30)

### **Characteristics of Someone with this Gift:**

- others know they can call upon this person to assist them
- feels more comfortable helping someone behind the scenes to get prepared than to do the actual teaching or leading
- eager to relieve others of routine tasks so they can move on to more essential areas of their ministry
- enjoys helping others get their work done
- genuinely glad to assist others

### **Ministry Areas & Tasks Using This Gift:**

Clerical Ministry:

bulletin, computer, finances, letter writing, office work, record keeping, secretary

Communications Ministry:

editing, graphic arts, newsletter, publicity, sound system, visual aids

Service-Oriented Ministry:

deacon/deaconess, variety of tasks that assist others to get their work done

Staff-Support Ministry:

assistant, clerical, implementation, maintain resources & supplies, office work, research, teacher's helper

### **Observations About This Gifting:**

- By not carrying the weight of decision-making, people with the gift of helps are free to help others get the job done.
- A person with the gift of helps will tend to display a servant attitude, loyalty, attention to detail, and responsiveness to the initiative of others.

*(Cont.)*

Spiritual Gift: Helps Continued

- People with the gift of helps must take caution against 1) getting trapped in the responsibility of leading the ministry themselves. (If they do, they will tend to miss the big picture and will feel frustrated if specific jobs are not done well.), 2) tendency to put needs of others before those of their own family, 3) feelings of insignificance
- Unlike the gift of mercy, the recipients of those exercising the gift of helps are not people who are down and out but other Christians exercising their gifts.
- The gift of helps is more people-oriented while the gift of service is more task-oriented. (Focus is on people more than the project.)

## **Spiritual Gift: HOSPITALITY**

**Definition:** to warmly welcome people, even strangers, into one's home or church as a means of serving those in need of food or lodging

**Scripture:** 1 Peter 4:9,10

**Greek Word:** philoxenos - love of strangers ('philos'=love; 'xenos'=stranger)

**Scriptural Role Models to Study:** Lydia (Acts 16:14-15, 40)

### **Characteristics of Someone with this Gift:**

- \_\_\_ makes strangers feel welcomed
- \_\_\_ tends to approach newcomers and visitors in the church
- \_\_\_ often opens one's home to newcomers and visitors in the church
- \_\_\_ enjoys meeting new people
- \_\_\_ enjoys having guests to one's home and able to make them feel at home

### **Ministry Areas & Tasks Using This Gift:**

Hospitality Ministry:

entertaining, greeter, lodging, reception desk, visitation, take in missionaries on furlough or special speakers, open home for Bible studies or other small group ministry; make visitors to church feel welcomed

### **Observations About This Gifting:**

- People with the gift of hospitality are more concerned about making people feel comfortable and at home than what they serve, how their place looks, etc.

## **Spiritual Gift: KNOWLEDGE**

**Definition:** to seek to learn as much about the Bible as possible through the gathering of much information and the analyzing of that data

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 12:8

**Greek Word:** gnosis - primarily a seeking to know, inquiry, investigation --science, knowledge

**Scriptural Role Models to Study:** Apollos (Acts 18:24-28)

### **Characteristics of Someone with this Gift:**

- \_\_\_ known as a scholar of the Bible
- \_\_\_ enjoys searching for answers to difficult questions in God's Word
- \_\_\_ able to take information from several sources and come up with an answer or a thesis about a subject
- \_\_\_ takes great joy in discovering Bible truths on one's own

### **Ministry Areas & Tasks Using This Gift:**

Speaking/Teaching Ministry:  
preparation for speaking or teaching, writing

Staff-Support Ministry:  
research

Other Ministry:  
prepare plan or presentation for a ministry vision or project

### **Observations About This Gifting:**

- There are those who would define the gift of knowledge as having some extra-biblical revelation.
- People with the gift of knowledge tend to display analytical ability and objective thinking.
- People with the gift of knowledge ought to avoid carrying the primary responsibility to lead or implement the plan they have helped to devise unless accompanied by other gifting.
- Those with the gift of knowledge and not of teaching may be boring. Few people can learn from them. They have good material but it is hard to stay with them. Those with the gift of knowledge and teaching might not show quite the intellectual capacities of the pure scholar because much of their energy is invested in working out ways and means to effectively present the knowledge they have accumulated. A teacher with the gift of knowledge is able to develop a lesson from scratch whereas those with the gift of teaching but not knowledge will tend to want the help of pre-written curriculum.

## **Spiritual Gift: LEADERSHIP**

**Definition:** to stand before the people in such a way as to attend to the direction of the body with such care and diligence so as to motivate others to get involved in the accomplishment of these goals

**Scripture:** Romans 12:8

**Greek Word:** proistemi - to stand before, to preside, be over (literally the one who stands upfront)

**Scriptural Role Models to Study:** Nehemiah

### **Characteristics of Someone with this Gift:**

- people respect and follow this person's direction
- good at setting goals and seeing the direction the body should take
- able to guide and motivate people to join in the achievement of one's goals
- if in a group where there is no leader, will assume leadership
- a goal-setter

### **Ministry Areas & Tasks Using This Gift:**

Christian Education Ministry:  
goal-setter of any variety of Christian education ministries

Visionary Ministry:  
pastor, elder, leader of a variety of target groups, overseer, steering committee

### **Observations About This Gifting:**

- The distinction between the gift of administration and leadership must be made. Two different Greek words are used. Administration (kubernesis) means to steer or guide as a helmsman. An administrator works more on the accomplishment of goals whereas a leader is the one who is more a goal-setter.
- A person with the gift of leadership should avoid being placed in a position that requires devotion to details and implementation of particulars.
- There needs to be an understanding on the limits of a spiritual leader's authority. Gifted leaders do not manipulate or coerce (Mk. 10:42-45). Rather, because they know where they are going, they generate a confidence.

## **Spiritual Gift: MARTYRDOM**

**Definition:** to give over one's life to suffer or to be put to death for the cause of Christ

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 13:3

**Greek Word:** paradidomi - to surrender, yield up, to give or hand over, to deliver

**Scriptural Role Models to Study:** Stephen (Acts 6:8-7:60)

### **Characteristics of Someone with this Gift:**

- \_\_\_ able to maintain a joyous and victorious attitude in the midst of persecution
- \_\_\_ will stay and face consequences rather than try to escape death and suffering for testimony's sake
- \_\_\_ this person's attitude toward death and suffering seems unusual to others who would go to all means to avoid it
- \_\_\_ sees trials and tribulations as opportunities and gladly perseveres in them

### **Ministry Areas & Tasks Using This Gift:**

Outreach Ministry:

often in precarious mission's settings, including inner-city

Other Ministry:

serve within an country or setting where persecution abounds

### **Observations About This Gifting:**

- Martyrdom is mentioned as a possible gift because in 1 Corinthians 13:2 it speaks of spiritual gifts (charisma). Verse 3 seems to continue the thought.
- Martyrdom is broader than just dying. It is an attitude.
- Most Christians would make every effort possible to avoid death and suffering. A person with the gift of martyrdom may well choose to stay even if there is a means of escape for the purpose of bringing glory to God.

## **Spiritual Gift: MERCY**

**Definition:** to be sensitive toward those who are suffering, whether physically, mentally, or emotionally, so as to feel genuine sympathy with their misery, speaking words of compassion but more caring for them with deeds of love to help alleviate their distress

**Scripture:** Romans 12:8

**Greek Word:** eleeo - have (obtain, receive, show) compassion

**Scriptural Role Models to Study:** Good Samaritan (Luke 10)

### **Characteristics of Someone with this Gift:**

- \_\_\_ has a tender heart toward the needy and will often do what one can to help those who are in distress
- \_\_\_ enjoys visiting the sick and shut-in
- \_\_\_ looks out for those who are neglected and alienated
- \_\_\_ empathizes with those who are embarrassed and humiliated and seeks to comfort them
- \_\_\_ likes to spend time with those who are lonely and hurting to cheer them up

### **Ministry Areas & Tasks Using This Gift:**

Benevolence Ministry:

cards/flowers, child-care, emergency shelter, food/clothes distribution, financial assistance, hospital & shut-in visitation, special needs, transportation

Other Targeted Ministry:

ministry to the elderly, disabled, prisoners, poor, sick

### **Observations About This Gifting:**

- The focus of mercy is more on caring than counseling.
- People with the gift of mercy tend to be seen as perceptive, consoling, and non-judgmental.
- People with the gift of mercy may have difficulty in evaluating the intentions of others and may experience the pain of being used.
- There needs to be an understanding of the balance between God's mercy and justice.
- Exposure to those with the gift of exhortation would be helpful.

## **Spiritual Gift: MIRACLES**

**Definition:** to be enabled by God to perform mighty deeds which witnesses acknowledge to be of supernatural origin and means

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 12:10, 28

**Greek Word:** dunamis - force, power, ability

**Scriptural Role Models to Study:** Moses, Elijah, Elisha, Jesus, the apostles

### **Characteristics of Someone with this Gift:**

- \_\_\_ has seen impossible situations altered through one's prayers
- \_\_\_ God uses this person to accomplish things that are beyond human means
- \_\_\_ God has worked through this person in miraculous ways, causing others to be convinced of the power of God and to be strengthened in their faith
- \_\_\_ has seen God repeatedly use oneself in ways that have no other explanation than that it was God
- \_\_\_ God frequently responds to this person's prayers with a miracle

### **Ministry Areas & Tasks Using This Gift:**

Prayer Ministry:  
various kinds of prayer efforts

Other Ministry:  
in a mission setting when a new work is getting started

### **Observations About This Gifting:**

- There are four major eras in Scripture when God performed miracles through human agents: 1) deliverance of Israel from Egypt and journey to Canaan where God used Moses in 40 years of miracles, 2) ministry of Elijah & Elisha, 3) days of Jesus Christ and the apostles, 4) the tribulation ---The question is where that leaves us today. Certainly we cannot say that God has ceased to perform miracles. John 14:11-13 seems to indicate, however, that the vehicle for seeing miracles today will largely be through prayer rather than through the direct intervention of a human agent.
- Miracles were often used in Scripture for the purpose of authenticating or giving confirmation to a message or messenger.
- People with the gift of miracles must take caution against the danger of using God-given abilities to glorify themselves when their prayers have been answered.

## **Spiritual Gift: MISSIONARY**

**Definition:** to be able to minister in another culture

**Scripture:** Ephesians 3:6-8

**Scriptural Role Models to Study:** Paul (Acts 9-28 - see 9:15; Ephesians 3:6-8)

### **Characteristics of Someone with this Gift:**

- \_\_\_ enjoys the challenge of living and working in another culture
- \_\_\_ able to easily and quickly adapt to the customs and lifestyles of another land
- \_\_\_ able to learn foreign languages without too much difficulty
- \_\_\_ appreciates and desires to minister to people different from oneself

### **Ministry Areas & Tasks Using This Gift:**

Outreach Ministry:  
foreign missions, inner-city work, short-term missions

### **Observations About This Gifting:**

- This is listed as a possible gift because in Ephesians 3:6-8 we read of how Paul was made a minister to the Gentiles according to the gift of God's grace given to him. Also see Galatians 2:7-9.
- Those with the gift of missionary will undoubtedly have other spiritual gifts which they will be able to use comfortably in another culture.
- Some evangelists have the gift of missionary but some don't. Those who do should consider evangelizing in another culture but those who don't are often better witnessing on the home front.

## **Spiritual Gift: PASTOR**

**Definition:** to be responsible for spiritually caring for, protecting, guiding, and feeding a group of believers entrusted to one's care

**Scripture:** Ephesians 4:11

**Greek Word:** poimen - a shepherd, pastor; one who tends herds or flocks

**Scriptural Role Models to Study:** Titus (2 Corinthians 8:6, 16-17)

### **Characteristics of Someone with this Gift:**

- concerned for the spiritual welfare of other believers
- takes responsibility for the spiritual growth and well-being of those under one's sphere of ministry
- willing to give of one's own time to be available for the needs of others
- provides long-term help for certain believers to aid them in their walk with the Lord

### **Ministry Areas & Tasks Using This Gift:**

Shepherding Ministry:

care group leader, discipleship, elder, small group leader, pastor of a church

Staff-Support Ministry:

oversee staff

Other Ministry:

director of any target group, dean of a Bible college, Sunday School teacher who gets involved in students' lives outside of the classroom

### **Observations About This Gifting:**

- A distinction needs to be made between the office of pastor and someone with the gift of pastor. Not all who fill the office of pastor have this gift.
- People with the gift of pastor in the office of pastor will be limited in time to deal with the overall picture, vision, goals and growth principles because they are so involved in the nitty-gritty's of peoples' lives. If a church is looking for that kind of pastor they should seek out someone who has the gift of leadership than the gift of pastor.

## **Spiritual Gift: PROPHECY**

**Definition:** to speak forth the message of God to His people

**Scripture:** Romans 12:6; 1 Corinthians 12:10; Ephesians 4:11

**Greek Word:** prophetes - the forth-telling of the will of God ('pro'=forth; 'phemi'=to speak)

**Scriptural Role Models to Study:** John the Baptist (Matthew 3:1-12; 11:7-15)

### **Characteristics of Someone with this Gift:**

- \_\_\_ able to sense the direction God desires for the body of Christ to move and shares it with others
- \_\_\_ speaks up for what is biblically right even when people think one is narrow-minded and oppose one's principles
- \_\_\_ compelled to communicate God's message from the Word so people know what God expects of them
- \_\_\_ not afraid to announce God's judgment on sin
- \_\_\_ speaks clearly, boldly, forcefully, fearlessly, and with conviction what one believes God wants people to know

### **Ministry Areas & Tasks Using This Gift:**

Outreach Ministry:

those who speak out against social concerns in a variety of settings

Speaking Ministry:

sermons, other kinds of public speaking

### **Observations About This Gifting:**

- The gift of prophecy is not necessarily, nor even primarily, fore-telling. The original Greek word indicates the gift of prophecy is forth-telling. The Old Testament prophets were often fore-tellers of what God was going to do but even then they were speaking forth the words of God as given to them. Revelation 22:18 makes it rather clear that there remains nothing more to be foretold that God wishes His people to know.
- There are those who believe that the gift of prophecy is an immediate message from God. However, since Scripture is complete and not to be added to, any form of the gift of prophecy today would have to be that of speaking forth what God has already said in Scripture such as a message from the Word that speaks out against the current state of the world today.

*(Cont.)*

Spiritual Gift: Prophecy Continued

- People with the gift of prophecy have a social consciousness as did many O.T. prophets. They tend to be sensitive to social trends. They use their energies in making pronouncements concerning public righteousness and usually are severely critical of contemporary culture.
- An inherent danger with the gift of prophecy is the tendency to become judgmental and negative when placed in a position of leadership.
- There are qualifications for prophecy as set forth in 1 Corinthians 14: done for purpose of edification, exhortation, and consolation.
- Prophets, whether fore-tellers or forth-tellers, need to be tested (1 Cor. 14:29-33; 1 Jn. 4:1; Matt. 24:24). We are to test their doctrine (1 Jn. 4:1-3), if what they say comes true or not (Deut. 18:21-22), and if it leads you to or away from the Lord (Deut. 13:1-5).

## **Spiritual Gift: SERVICE**

**Definition:** to identify undone tasks in God's work, however menial, and use available resources to get the job done

**Scripture:** Romans 12:7

**Greek Word:** diakonia - deacon, attendant ('diako'=to run errands)

**Scriptural Role Models to Study:** Martha (Luke 10; John 12)

### **Characteristics of Someone with this Gift:**

- \_\_\_ enjoys pitching in on service projects in the church
- \_\_\_ usually volunteers to help with tasks that need to be done
- \_\_\_ willing to work at a task regardless of how simple or trivial it may seem
- \_\_\_ feels a sense of satisfaction in seeing a job through to completion
- \_\_\_ very dependable for getting things done

### **Ministry Areas & Tasks Using This Gift:**

Benevolence Ministry:

preparing meals, transportation

Clerical Ministry:

almost any kind of clerical work

Communications Ministry:

radio/TV, sound technician, visual aids

Service-Oriented Ministry:

almost any kind of domestic and maintenance type of tasks, deacon/deaconess, transportation

Staff-Support Ministry:

maintain resources & supplies, clerical, almost any kind of office work

Worship Ministry:

prepare communion, usher

### **Observations About This Gifting:**

- Service is not a one-on-one person-centered gift like the gifts of mercy and helps. It is more task-oriented.
- The gift of service is often used with other natural skills such as carpentry, photography, printing, etc.
- People with the gift of service must be careful not to: 1) isolate themselves excessively from relationships with others in lieu of behind-the-scenes work, 2) not receive from others as well as give 3) not be able to say no to all the physical needs around them

## **Spiritual Gift: TEACHING**

**Definition:** to instruct others in the Bible in a logical, systematic way so as to communicate pertinent information for true understanding and growth

**Scripture:** Romans 12:7; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 4:11

**Greek Word:** didasko - to give instruction (primary root: 'dao'=to learn)

**Scriptural Role Models to Study:** Apollos (Acts 18:24-28),  
Aquila and Priscilla (Acts 18; Romans 16)

### **Characteristics of Someone with this Gift:**

- able to organize one's thinking in such a way as to systematically present a Bible lesson to others
- enjoys diligent study so as to accurately teach the Word
- others comment on how much they have enjoyed this person's teaching and learned and grown under it
- able to thoroughly study Scripture and share one's findings with others
- able to make the Bible clear and relevant for others

### **Ministry Areas & Tasks Using This Gift:**

Christian Education Ministry:  
teacher training, teaching within any of the Christian Education ministries,  
ministry development class

Speaking/Teaching Ministry:  
Bible studies, curriculum development, discipleship, exhortations, sermonettes,  
sermons, small group leader, teaching, training, Bible Institute teacher

### **Observations About This Gifting:**

- People with the gift of teaching are intent on getting the truth out, sometimes to the neglect of giving practical application of the truth. They must be careful to incorporate both the presentation of facts and life application.

## **Spiritual Gift: TONGUES**

**Definition:** to speak in a language not previously learned so unbelievers can hear God's message in their own language or the body be edified

## **Spiritual Gift: INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES**

**Definition:** to translate the message of someone who has spoken in tongues

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 12:10; 14:27-28

**Greek Word:** tongues: glossa - the tongue; by implication a language, dialect  
interpretation of: hermeneia – translation, interpretation, to explain

**Scriptural Role Models to Study:** the Apostles at Pentecost (Acts 2)

### **Observations About This Gifting:**

- In Acts 2:4-8, the people heard the gospel in their own language. This is talking about an actual, not ecstatic, language that the believers spoke which they had not previously studied.
- New Testament tongues seemed to be used most extensively with the confirmation of the Gospel as it expanded to the next realm of people. For example, Acts 2:1-13 - to the Jews; Acts 10:44-46 - Gentiles; Acts 19:1-7 - to the disciples of John the Baptist
- 1 Corinthians 13-14 set down some strict standards for the use of tongues in public worship in the early church: 1) 13:1; 14:1 - to be done with motive of love 2) 14:1-5 - to be done for purpose of edification, not personal enrichment 3) 14:1 - prophecy was to take priority over tongues 4) 14:22 - to be a sign to unbelievers 5) 14:27 - only to be done by 2-3 in a single meeting 6) 14:27-28 - had to be interpreted 7) 14:28 - had to be done with control 8) 14:33 - would render peace, not confusion 9) 14:40 - to be done decently and in order
- The suggestion that speaking in tongues is a sign of true spirituality has no biblical support: 1) tongues are not included as a fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23), 2) tongues are not listed in the characteristics of godliness (2 Pet. 1:5-11), 3) Christ-likeness does not require it as there is no mention that Christ ever spoke in tongues, 4) the Corinthian church had a proliferation of tongues but they were a very carnal church

## **Spiritual Gift: VOLUNTARY POVERTY**

**Definition:** to purposely live an impoverished lifestyle to serve and aid others with your material resources

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 13:3

**Greek Word:** psomizo - bestow, give, to supply with bits; i.e. to nourish  
(Vine's Expository Dictionary: primarily to feed by putting little bits into the mouths of infants or animals; came to denote simply to give out food, to feed)

**Scriptural Role Models to Study:** Barnabas (Acts 4:36-37)

### **Characteristics of Someone with this Gift:**

- living on a poverty level by choice, not due to uncontrollable circumstances
- willing to forego one's own comfort and convenience to help others in need
- unwilling to indulge in luxuries while a brother is in need
- willing to live on less so as to be able to give more

### **Ministry Areas & Tasks Using This Gift:**

Benevolence Ministry:  
to meet a variety of needs

### **Observations About This Gifting:**

- Voluntary Poverty is mentioned as a possible gift because in 1 Corinthians 13:2 it speaks of spiritual gifts (charisma). Verse 3 seems to continue the thought.
- The Greek word used in 1 Corinthians 13:3 seems to suggest that this kind of giving to others is not a sporadic effort but a lifestyle.
- Probably all who have the gift of voluntary poverty have the gift of giving but not all who have the gift of giving have the gift of voluntary poverty.
- The motivation in this gift is not due to a conviction that material goods are inherently evil but because others are starving or in need.

## **Spiritual Gift: WISDOM**

**Definition:** to apply knowledge to life in such a way as to make spiritual truths quite relevant and practical in proper decision-making and daily life situations

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 12:8

**Greek Word:** sophia - wisdom

**Scriptural Role Models to Study:** Solomon (1 Kings 3:1-28)

### **Characteristics of Someone with this Gift:**

- able to see how the Bible relates to daily life and how to apply Biblical principles to different situations
- known for insight and ability to solve problems
- able to offer practical solutions to difficult problems
- seems to know what to do when others do not know what choices to make
- often sought out for one's opinions

### **Ministry Areas & Tasks Using This Gift:**

Counseling Ministry:  
variety of different types of counseling

Other Ministry:  
consultant, useful in almost any kind of ministry

### **Observations About This Gifting:**

- People with the gift of wisdom may be sought out by others. A caution would be against letting themselves get over-burdened with advice seekers.