

Spiritual Gifts

Ministry Gifts

November 1, 2026

HDBC

Spiritual gifts are ***supernatural endowments from God that enable us to carry out our God-given assignments.***

Spiritual gifts are **intended to be used in and through the local church.**

All believers have spiritual gifts and are expected to use them.

There are twenty gifts mentioned in the New Testament. I have grouped them into four categories. Last week: Leadership and Proclamation. This week: Ministry Gifts. There are nine, the way I've divided them.

Service, Helps, Giving, Wisdom, Knowledge
Discernment, Exhortation, Mercy, Faith

1. Service (Romans 12:7, 1 Peter 4:11)

Diakonos - To serve or minister. Used of: Domestic servants, Waiters. One who executes the commands of another, or who supplies what is needed. To serve another's interest.

Ability to see unmet needs and the desire to meet those needs.

Likely characteristics:

Ability to see and meet needs. (always in the kitchen)

Have joy in serving others more than in being served.

May have difficulty saying **no** when asked to help.

Easily get over-extended.

Behind the scenes specialists.

EXAMPLE: **Martha** - More concerned with the job done for Jesus than with the person of Jesus. She and Mary were opposites.

2. Helps (1 Corinthians 12:28)

To take the burden off another and bear it yourself. Ability to invest one's own energy in order to save the energy of the other. It is shouldering the load. Becoming a partner with another.

Likely characteristics:

1. Perception of the needs in another's life.
2. Sense of calling to ease burdens of others.
3. Sense of fulfillment when helping others.

EXAMPLE: Men who brought the crippled man to Jesus.

Raymond Ortland calls them *The glorious company of the stretcher-bearers*. Reference to friends who brought man to Jesus.

3. Giving (Romans 12:8)

Metadidous - To share with another, to impart. Ability and desire to give of one's possessions to the work of the Lord or to others. All Christians are to give. Tithe and Offering. This person goes beyond that.

Likely characteristics:

1. Desire to give quietly, cheerfully, and generously. Devere in DHBC
2. Sometimes have trouble receiving gifts from others.
3. Greatest joy comes in giving to others.
4. Willingness to do without in order to give to others.

HOW ARE THEY TO GIVE? Sincerity, Honesty, Openness. No strings attached. Must not judge others by how they give.

EXAMPLES; Mary anointing the body of Jesus - 300 days' pay.

The Widow who gave her last coins.

Has nothing to do with how much one has. It is a gift which affects the heart and mind more than the pocketbook.

4. Exhortation (Rom. 12:8)

To call alongside. Noun used as a name for the Holy Spirit. Translated *consolation, comfort, encouragement, counsel*. It is the ability to come to another person and minister words of encouragement, comfort, consolation, and counsel in order to help the other person act on the truth of God's word. This word seems to have two possible emphases:

1) Motivation - Enhance or encourage someone to action.

We all need to be motivated by others some time. Pregame speeches by coaches. Tried to get us motivated to do our best.

In 1924 Notre Dame playing Princeton. Knute Rockne had sore throat. They could hear Princeton coach's speech to his players. Rockne told his players to *listen to him and win with his fight talk*. They did and won.

Paul is good example of motivator: **Confronted Peter**.

2) Encouragement - Keep someone from giving up, pick them up.

Henry Ford about to give up on his idea of auto engine. At dinner explaining his idea. Thomas Edison was seated several chairs away. Finally came closer and asked Ford to draw sketch. *Young man, that's the thing!* Years later Ford remembered that encouragement.

Example: **Barnabas** is good example: Paul, Mark, nickname "son of encouragement." Without him we might be missing ½ the New Testament.

Likely characteristics:

1. Desire to see people grow in Christ. (Col 1:28-29)
2. Willingness to give counsel even when it is hard. (1 Cor.)
3. Ability to empathize with the hurting
4. Enjoy seeing people overcome defeats.

5. Wisdom (1 Corinthians 12:8)

Broad or full intelligence, mental excellence in its highest and fullest sense. Usually used in the New Testament to refer **to ability to understand and apply God's Word and Will in a given situation.**

It is the ability to know the mind of the Holy Spirit. It involves more than facts and figures. It refers more to application.

Some have said that this word refers more to common sense than book sense, and that may be a good way to understand it.

Likely Characteristics:

- 1) The ability to sum up a situation and get to the heart of the problem.
- 2) The ability to come up with a workable solution. Problem-solver.
- 3) The ability to move from theory to practice.

Committee hears many ideas - wisdom leads to practical results.

This gift has little to do with formal education.

Acts 6:8-10 - **Stephen - Gift of wisdom.** Taking knowledge of the Gospel and applying it in real life. Cost him his life.

6. Knowledge (1 Corinthians 12:8)

The ability to have and understand information. One who understands and has a grasp of the facts of a situation. It may refer to the special ability to know and understand the Word of God. However, it does not negate the need for study.

Likely characteristics

- 1) Enjoys studying the Word. Joy in discovery of new information.
- 2) May not necessarily be a good teacher. (Boring)
- 3) Enjoys academic study and discussions.

These are the guys who write the concordances and Bible dictionaries. They have the ability to correlate and analyze the data that they dig up.

Distinguish between knowledge and wisdom:

KNOWLEDGE

Facts

Books

Concrete Thinking

Number problems

Knows Word

Medical Researcher

WISDOM

Application

People/Situations

Abstract Thinking

Word problems

Knows how to apply Word

Practicing Doctor

7. Discernment (1 Corinthians 12:10)

Verb form means *to separate, distinguish, discriminate*.

Ability to discern or to judge. In the Bible it does not refer to discerning for the purpose of passing judgment, but for the purpose of **making an assessment**. Idea of **separating the truth from the false**.

Very important gift for the church in that day and today. Protection from false teachers and prophets.

Likely characteristics:

1) Ability to discern the genuine from the fake

In other words, this person can detect readily the difference between the Holy Spirit and a false spirit. This gift enables the person to have a good grasp on a person's motives. They can sense when someone is acting from the wrong motive.

2) Ability to discern truth from error

One of the great dangers to the church of every generation has been the presence of false prophets. It is imperative that every church have some with this gift, and preferably some who are in leadership roles. Much more needed when church is accepted as mainstream. Few importers when persecution reigns.

In the last days there will be an increase of activity by evil spirits. This

gift will be needed more and more. If you do not have this gift, then it would be wise to find someone who does, and consult with them often.

8. Mercy (Romans 12:8)

Kindness, goodwill toward the miserable and afflicted, which produces a desire to help them.

Ability to feel genuine empathy and compassion for individuals who are in distress, and then translate that compassion into cheerfully done deeds in an attempt to help them. Easily identifies with the one who needs help or is in trouble. Ability to enter into the grief of another.

Likely characteristics:

1. Drawn to those in distress.
 2. Sensitive to words and deeds that will hurt others.
 3. Enjoys one-on-one ministry. Up close and personal.
 4. Often minister through gentle touch and soft words.
 5. Great listeners in counseling settings.
- They are attractive to people who need a listening ear.
Show their concern with facial expressions and responses.

Teacher asked students for definition of lovingkindness. Boy said, If I was hungry and you gave me a piece of bread, that would be kindness. But if you put some jam on it, that would be lovingkindness. People with gift of mercy, put some jam on it.

9. Faith (1 Corinthians 12:9)

The ability to see something which God wants done, and sustain unwavering confidence that God will do it, regardless of the circumstances.

We are all called to have faith, and in fact we know that without it we cannot please God, but the one with the gift of faith has an unusual ability to trust God.

Likely characteristics:

1. Confident when they know the will of God.
2. Future-oriented - Thinking ahead and believing.
3. Visionary, undaunted by circumstances.
4. Not interested in pragmatism, or sensibility.

More concerned about believing God, than working out details. They don't have to see a blueprint or detailed plans in order to believe it.

Example: George Muller. He could sit down at the dinner table with no food and thank God for the meal that He would provide for them. He never asked for a penny, though he cared for thousands of orphans over a period of years. He prayed for the money, and got it.

Trust the sovereignty of God. There was a rumor that floated around about the filming of Ben Hur. While filming, Charlton Heston had trouble learning to drive chariot. Finally able to control vehicle, but still had doubts. Came to the director saying, ***I think I can drive the chariot, but I'm not sure I can win the race?*** Director responded, ***You just stay in the race and I'll make sure you win.***

People with gift of faith trust God for the victory.

EXAMPLE: **Noah** - He heard God, and acted upon what He heard, regardless of how it looked to others, or how impractical it was.

Do you have the gift of service? Look to God for Strength.

Do you have the gift of helps? Get at it, There are people who need you.

Do you have the gift of giving? Give generously, wisely, sincerely.

Do you have the gift of exhortation? Be an encourager to someone.

Do you have the gift of wisdom? Be a positive problem solver.

Do you have the gift of knowledge? Go deep into God's word, but don't brag.

Do you have the gift of discernment? Use it to make wise decisions.

Do you have the gift of mercy? Be watchful, and then do your thing.

Do you have the gift of faith? Lead others to join you on the journey.