

SPIRITUAL GIFTS | QUICK GUIDE

A combined, easy-to-scan glossary for discovering how God may equip believers to serve His church and advance His mission.

WHAT IS A SPIRITUAL GIFT? An expression of the Holy Spirit, given by grace, that empowers a believer to serve the body of Christ. These source lists are representative rather than exhaustive.

START HERE Prayerfully identify your top gifts, ask trusted believers for confirmation, and begin putting them to work.

ADMINISTRATION Plans, organizes, and coordinates people and procedures so God-given ministry goals are accomplished effectively.

1 Cor. 12:28; Luke 14:28-30

APOSTLE / APOSTLESHIP Pioneers and oversees new churches or ministry structures, helping the church look beyond its walls to fulfill the Great Commission.

1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11-16

CRAFTSMANSHIP / ARTIST Creates, builds, repairs, or uses the arts to communicate biblical truth and strengthen ministry.

Ex. 31:1-11; 35:30-35

DISCERNMENT Recognizes truth and error, authentic and deceptive motives or messages, protecting the well-being of the body.

1 Cor. 12:7-11; 1 John 4:1-6

ENCOURAGEMENT Offers comfort, hope, and reassurance to those who are discouraged, weak, or troubled.

Rom. 12:6-8; 1 Thess. 5:9-11

EVANGELISM / EVANGELIST Communicates the gospel clearly and effectively so unbelievers respond in faith and move toward discipleship.

Eph. 4:11-16; Acts 8:26-40

EXHORTATION Strengthens, counsels, challenges, and motivates believers to apply biblical truth and take faithful action.

Rom. 12:8; Heb. 3:13

FAITH Trusts God's power and promises beyond human capability and inspires others to move forward despite obstacles.

1 Cor. 12:9; Heb. 11

GIVING Cheerfully and generously contributes money, time, talents, and resources to advance God's work and meet needs.

Rom. 12:8; 2 Cor. 9:6-15

HELPS / SERVICE Joyfully meets practical needs, often behind the scenes, freeing and supporting others to fulfill their ministries.

1 Cor. 12:28; Rom. 12:7

HOSPITALITY Creates welcoming spaces where guests, strangers, and new members feel valued, at ease, and connected.

1 Pet. 4:9-10; Rom. 12:9-13

INTERCESSION / PRAYER Prays consistently and earnestly for people and causes, often for extended periods, trusting God to respond.

Eph. 6:18; James 5:14-16

KNOWLEDGE Learns, understands, organizes, and explains biblical truth, making it relevant for discipleship and ministry.

1 Cor. 12:7-11; Col. 2:2-3

LEADERSHIP Casts vision, sets direction and goals, and motivates people to work together toward God's purposes.

Rom. 12:8; Heb. 13:7, 17

MERCY / COMPASSION Empathizes with those who suffer and cheerfully turns compassion into practical acts of care.

Rom. 12:8; Luke 10:30-37

MISSIONS Ministers effectively across cultures and communities, driven to take the gospel to unreached people.

Acts 1:8; 1 Cor. 9:19-23

MUSIC Uses singing, instruments, or movement to witness, inspire, and help others worship God.

Ps. 150:1-6; Col. 3:16

PASTOR / SHEPHERD Assumes ongoing responsibility for the spiritual care, guidance, protection, and growth of a group of believers.

Eph. 4:11-15; 1 Pet. 5:1-4

PROPHET / PROPHECY Proclaims and applies God's Word boldly and clearly for conviction, correction, encouragement, repentance, and edification.

Rom. 12:6; 1 Cor. 14:1-5

TEACHING / TEACHER Explains and applies Scripture clearly and systematically so believers understand, mature, and obey.

Rom. 12:7; Eph. 4:11-16

WISDOM Discerns how God's truth and the Spirit's work apply to specific needs, decisions, and situations.

1 Cor. 12:7-11; James 3:13-18

WRITING Expresses truth in written form to instruct, comfort, guide, or strengthen others.

Luke 1:1-3; Jude 3

SOURCE CREDIT: Definitions condensed and combined from Life.Church, Spiritual Gifts Guide; and Lifeway, "Understanding the Nature of the Gifts," adapted from Gene Wilkes, Jesus on Leadership: Developing Servant Leaders (Lifeway Christian Resources, 1998). The Lifeway article also cites Ken Hemphill, Serving God: Discovering and Using Your Spiritual Gifts Workbook (1995), and C. Peter Wagner, Your Spiritual Gifts Can Help Your Church Grow (1979). Scope note: The Lifeway source explicitly excludes "sign gifts"; this guide reflects only the gifts named in the two provided glossaries.