

## **The Spiritual Gifts** (Simplified definitions)

These gifts are explained in more detail in Appendix F of the Omega Course and taught in the Empowered Servanthood Seminar.

We have intentionally included the widest variety of gifts and their definitions that we could support through Scripture and observable experience, so that everyone in the Body of Christ might be able to sense where they fit into God's Kingdom-building efforts.

### **Spiritual Gifts and Original Abilities**

Some of these "gifts" are obviously Spiritual Gifts. Others are debatable. However, it is not particularly important whether a certain ability is a Spiritual Gift, a blessing from God, a God-given talent, an inherited trait, a natural human ability, or something learned. The thing that is important is that we discover what gifts are more pronounced in us and learn how to use them to serve God. God is just as pleased when we use a learned ability to serve Him as He is when we use a Spiritual Gift to serve Him. The key is to discover our capabilities (Spiritual Gifts and Original Abilities) and learn to use them to love, worship, and serve God and others.

These definitions are influenced and adapted from Dr. Dan Reiland's *"Spiritual Gifts"* course, David Posthuma's *"Grace Gifts"* inventory, Ken Ellis's Spiritual Gifts Inventory, *Your Spiritual Gifts Can Help Your Church Grow* by C. Peter Wagner, *Jesus on Leadership: Becoming a Servant Leader* by C. Gene Wilkes and Tom Wells' Spiritual Gifts course. The seven categories they are organized into are unique to the Empowered Servanthood Seminar.

## **Spiritual Gifts**

### **Administration**

The distinct ability to coordinate and organize people and projects.

### **Apostleship**

The distinctive ability to start churches and ministry structures coupled with the authority to exercise general leadership or oversight over a number of churches and or ministries, which is readily recognized and results in tangible fruit in ministry.

### **Celibacy**

The special ability God gives to some to voluntarily remain single, abstain from sexual activity and remain unmarried without regret and with the ability to maintain control over sexual impulses, so as to serve the Lord without distraction.

### **Community Building**

The special ability to share one's participation in Christ with the members of His Body and create koinonia, that unique type of inclusive fellowship which characterized the early Christian church.

### **Craftsmanship**

The distinctive ability to design and build tangible items and resources which facilitate the functioning of ministry and help draw people to God.

### **Creative Communications**

The divine enablement to communicate truth through a variety of art forms in a way that moves people towards God.

### **Deliverance**

The distinctive ability to deliver people who are being harassed, attacked, oppressed or possessed by a demonic presence.

### **Discernment**

The distinctive ability to know with assurance whether certain behavior or teaching is from God, Satan, human error, or human power.

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## **Encouragement**

The special ability God gives some to offer comfort, words of encouragement, hope, and reassurance to discouraged, weak, or troubled Christians in such a way that they gain a positive mental, emotional and spiritual perspective on their circumstances.

## **Evangelist**

The distinctive ability to share the good news of Jesus Christ effectively so that people respond to the promises of Christ through conversion to Christianity and movement towards discipleship.

## **Exhortation / Disciple Maker**

The special ability God gives some to help strengthen weak, faltering, growing and fainthearted Christians in such a way that they are motivated to live Christ-centered lives.

## **Faith**

The special conviction God gives to some 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.

## **Giving**

The distinctive ability to discern God's guidance as to how He desires to resource His kingdom, and cheerfully and generously contribute personal resources to God's work.

## **Healing**

The distinctive ability to be used as a human intermediary through whom God's supernatural power is applied to a person's need for wholeness (Spiritual, Emotional, Intellectual and Physical).

## **Helps / Service**

The divine enablement to accomplish practical and necessary tasks which free-up, support and meet the needs of others.

## **Hospitality**

The distinctive ability to create a physical environment that makes people feel "at home", welcome and cared for by providing fellowship, food and shelter.

## **Intercession**

The distinctive ability to pray for significant lengths of time, on a regular basis, on behalf of and for others, and see frequent and specific answers to prayer to a degree much greater than that which is experienced by the average Christian.

## **Interpretation of Tongues**

The distinctive ability to understand someone who is speaking in Tongues and provide the meaning of its message in order to instruct and encourage the people who are hearing it and those to whom it was sent.

## **Knowledge**

The distinctive ability to know facts and insights about life that are revealed by the Holy Spirit.

## **Leadership**

The special ability God gives to some to set goals in accordance with God's purpose and to communicate these goals to others in such a way that they voluntarily and harmoniously work together to accomplish these goals for the glory of God.

## **Martyrdom**

The distinctive ability to surrender one's life for the cause of Christ and love those who have chosen to be your enemy.

## **Mercy**

The distinctive ability to feel sincere empathy and compassion, and cheerfully and practically help those who are suffering or are in need by putting compassion into action with acts of love that help alleviate their distress.

## **Miracles**

The distinctive ability as an instrument or agent of God to perform supernatural acts which alter the expected course of nature.

## **Missionary**

The distinctive ability to minister whatever other Spiritual Gifts you have effectively in cultures beyond your own.

## **Music / Worship Leader**

Worship is the special gift whereby the Spirit enables certain Christians to praise God through music in such a way as to enhance the worship experience of other believers and draw them into the presence of God.

## **Pastor / Shepherd**

The distinctive ability to assume responsibility for the spiritual care, protection, guidance, and feeding (teaching and equipping) of a group of Christians.

## **Prophecy**

The divine enablement to receive messages from God and communicate those messages in a timely and relevant manner for understanding, correction, repentance, comfort, exhortation or edification.

## **Stewardship**

The God-enabled ability to manage financial, human and time resources effectively in a manner that honors the Lord.

## **Teaching**

The Spirit-empowered ability to understand, clearly explain and apply God's word, will, and principles, causing greater Christ-likeness and effective Spirit-empowered ministry.

## **Tongues**

The distinctive ability to speak in a language which you never learned and communicate a divinely anointed message from God whether in private prayer language or in a group setting.

## **Volunteer Poverty**

The distinctive ability to be a channel of God's loving presence by living a life of cheerful, voluntary simplicity or poverty in order to identify with Jesus and the poor.

## **Wisdom**

The distinctive ability to discern the mind of Christ and apply Scriptural truth to a specific situation in order to make the right choices and help others move in the right direction.

## **Spiritual Gifts Reference Material**

We have intentionally included the widest variety of gifts and their definitions that we could support through Scripture and observable experience, so that everyone in the Body of Christ might be able to sense where they fit into God's Kingdom building efforts.

### **Biblical Summary about Spiritual Gifts**

1. Every Christian has at least one Spiritual Gift (1 Peter 4:10)
2. No Christian has all the gifts (1 Corinthians 12:28-30)
3. We cannot choose our gifts; God does that job (1 Corinthians 12:7-11)
4. There is no gift that every Christian possesses (1 Corinthians 12:29-30)
5. Believers will account to the Lord for how they use their gifts (1 Peter 4:10)
6. Spiritual Gifts point to God's call and purpose for a Christian's life (Romans 12:2-8)
7. Gifts used without love do not accomplish God's intended purposes (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)
8. Spiritual Gifts are for the common good to build up the Body (1 Corinthians 12:27)

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## Biblical Guidelines for using Spiritual Gifts

1. Usage of the gift(s) should conform to Biblical teaching (2 Timothy 3:16; Romans 12:1 Corinthians 12-14; Ephesians 4:1 Peter 4).
2. There should be affirmation and positive feedback within the Body of Christ for the expression of the gift (1 Corinthians 12:7; Ephesians 4:16).
3. There should be agreement within the Body of Christ that the Holy Spirit is at work (1 John 4:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:21).
4. We should experience the peace of the Holy Spirit in our spirits as we offer our gift(s) to the Body of Christ (John 15:26; Romans 8:16).
5. There should be evidence of godly fruit in the life of the Body (John 15:8; Matthew 7:16-20).
6. Believers should offer their gifts for the common good as others have need (Acts 2:44-45; 1 Corinthians 12:7).
7. Unless gifts are offered in love, they have no worth (1 Corinthians 13:1-3).
8. We should strive to live a life worthy of our calling (Ephesians 4:1).

## The main places in the Bible where we learn about Spiritual Gifts are:

- 1 Corinthians 12-14
- Romans 12
- Ephesians 4
- 1 Peter 4:7-11

From Scripture, we learn the following key information about Spiritual Gifts:

### *How Many Different Spiritual Gifts Are There?*

There is little agreement among Christians as to exactly how many different Spiritual Gifts there are.

- Some people look at the key Bible passages on Spiritual Gifts and limit the gifts to the ones listed there:

- Romans 12 - Prophecy, Service, Teaching, Encouragement, Giving, Leadership, and Mercy
- 1 Corinthians 12 - Message of Wisdom, Message of Knowledge, Faith, Healing, Miraculous Powers, Prophecy, Distinguishing between Spirits, Speaking in Tongues, and Interpreting Tongues
- Ephesians 4 - Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor, and Teacher
- 1 Peter 4:7-11 - Hospitality, Preaching, Service
- Some say that the Gifts of Administration and Leadership are the same gift.
- Some say the Gifts of Service, Helps and Mercy are the same gift.
- Some add the Gifts of Craftsmanship and Music because of the skills that God gave to people to help with worship in the Old Testament Tabernacle.
- Some see Craftsmanship as a vehicle to exercise the gift of Service.
- Some stick to the gifts listed in the New Testament.
- Some believe that certain Spiritual Gifts were given to people only by the direct laying on of hands of the original Apostles and that these gifts ceased to exist after the first century.
- Some add the possibility of other gifts in addition to those already mentioned:
  - 1 Corinthians 7:1-9 - Celibacy
  - 1 Peter 4:9-10 - Hospitality
  - 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 - Martyrdom
  - Ephesians 3:6-8 - Missionary
  - 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 - Voluntary Poverty
  - Ephesians 6:18 - Intercession/Prayer
  - Luke 1:1-3 - Creative Communication
  - Mark 14:22-25 - Community Builder
  - Luke 12:42-44 - Stewardship
- Some see Prayer and Intercession as a vehicle through which the gifts of Faith, Healing and Miracles operate.

## Spiritual Gifts Assessment

With the definitions of the Spiritual Gifts in mind, rate your current functioning in each gift according to the following scale.

**1=Not Descriptive, 2 = Sometimes Descriptive,  
3 = Fairly Descriptive, 4 = Descriptive, 5 = Strongly Descriptive**

| Category           | Spiritual Gift             | Values (1-5) |
|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Get It Done        | Administration             |              |
|                    | Helps/Service              |              |
|                    | Giving                     |              |
|                    | Craftsmanship              |              |
|                    | Stewardship                |              |
| Nurture/Fellowship | Hospitality                |              |
|                    | Mercy                      |              |
|                    | Encouragement              |              |
|                    | Community Builder          |              |
| Intervention       | Healing                    |              |
|                    | Miracles                   |              |
|                    | Deliverance/Exorcism       |              |
|                    | Intercession               |              |
| Guidance           | Exhortation/Disciple Maker |              |
|                    | Wisdom                     |              |
|                    | Knowledge                  |              |
|                    | Prophecy                   |              |
|                    | Discernment                |              |
| Communication      | Teaching                   |              |
|                    | Evangelism                 |              |
|                    | Music/Worship Leader       |              |
|                    | Tongues                    |              |
|                    | Interpretation of Tongues  |              |
|                    | Creative Communication     |              |
| Authority          | Leadership                 |              |
|                    | Apostleship                |              |
|                    | Missionary                 |              |
|                    | Pastor/Shepherd            |              |
| Life Focus         | Faith                      |              |
|                    | Martyrdom                  |              |
|                    | Celibacy                   |              |
|                    | Voluntary Poverty          |              |