



Spiritual Gifts

identified and defined

This list is a compilation of works from Randy Pope, Chuck Swindoll, Rick Warren, and Basden-Johnson.

The Lord also said to Moses, "Look, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, grandson of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. I have filled him with the Spirit of God, giving him great wisdom, intelligence, and skill in all kinds of crafts.

– Exodus 31:1, 2

- Scripture References: Romans 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 12:28, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, Ephesians 4:11-13, 1 Peter 4:10-11
- 3 Categories of Spiritual Gifts: Speaking, Serving, and Sign

Administration (1 Cor. 12:28; Romans 12:8)

SERVING

- Definition: the God-given ability to organize and lead projects, to see them through from start to finish, while handling people tactfully and providing the vision to keep them at the task
- Characteristics: pays close attention to details; able to supervise and manage others; good at multi-tasking; closely connected with characteristics of the gift of leadership

Apostleship (1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11)

SERVING

- Definition: the God-given desire and ability to adapt to another culture to serve in cross-cultural ministry or to serve overseas as a missionary
- Characteristics: loves to be with people of other cultures, races, and nationalities; strong desire to learn foreign language and cultures

Craftsmanship (Ex. 31:3-5)

SERVING

- Definition: the God-given desire and ability to facilitate the ministry by constructing the necessary tools for ministry
- Characteristics: loves working with their hands, enjoys building or putting things together, includes wood working, construction, technical (audio, lights, video), and information technology

Creative Communication & Music (1 Cor. 14:26)

SERVING

- Definition: the God-given ability to communicate God's truth through a variety of art forms
- Characteristics: enjoys and is gifted at singing, dancing, acting, writing (including songs, poetry, marketing, website content, communications materials), or photography / video; may be a natural performer

Discernment (1 Cor. 2:12-14)

SIGN

- Definition: the unnatural ability to discern and distinguish between truth and error
- Characteristics: good at judging decisions or behavior; often thinks in the spiritual realm; has a very real vision of the spirit world (almost as if it were seen)

Encouragement (2 Cor. 1:3-7; Heb. 10:25, 13:22; Rom. 12:6,18; 1 Pet. 5:1-2)

SPEAKING

- Definition: the God-given ability to arouse others to action, causing them to follow a specific course of action
- Characteristics: ability to encourage others (and often goes out of their way to do it), usually sees the best in people (or potential for the best), loves to see others grow in their relationship with Christ

Evangelism (Eph. 4:11; Acts 21:8)

SPEAKING

- Definition: the God-given desire and ability to effectively communicate the message of the gospel of Christ to unbelievers
- Characteristics: usually sees others come to Christ through their efforts, typically desires to spend time with non-Christians more often than Christians, can relate the gospel to others in a way that is understandable, ability to comfortably transition conversations to the topic of spiritual issues

Faith (1 Cor. 12:7, 9; 1 Cor. 13:2)

SERVING

- Definition: the God-given ability to believe God for the unlikely
- Characteristics: loves and easily believes that big dreams are attainable; willing to risk

Giving (Romans 12:6, 8)

SERVING

- Definition: the God-given desire and ability to contribute money and material resources to the work of the Lord, with cheerfulness and liberality
- Characteristics: absolutely loves to give; often more concerned about giving too little than too much; may lose track of time or personal budget when giving time or money; often has the gift of faith

Helps (1 Cor. 12:28, Luke 8:2-3, romans 16:1-2, Mark 15:40-41, Act 9:36)

SERVING

- Definition: the special ability to invest the talents they have in the life and ministry of other members of the Body
- Characteristics: loves to enable others to increase the effectiveness of their own spiritual gifts.

Hospitality (1 Pet. 4:9-10)

SERVING

- Definition: the God-given desire to provide an environment of inclusion for new and needy people
- Characteristics: warm personality, always thinking of how to make others comfortable (regardless of the setting), loves opening up their home to others

Intercession / Prayer (1 Cor 14:15, Romans 12:12, James 5:14-16)

SERVING

- Definition: the special ability to pray for extended periods of time on a regular basis
- Characteristics: sees frequent and specific answers to their prayers; often referred to as a “prayer warrior.”

Knowledge (1 Cor. 12:7-8)

SIGN

- Definition: the God-given ability to know something that could only be known by God’s intervention
- Characteristics: the experience of “hearing” God’s voice may be unusually clear and occur often

Leadership (Eph. 4:11)

SERVING

- Definition: the God-given ability to stand confidently in a position of authority, and to attract, lead and motivate people to accomplish their work of ministry
- Characteristics: visionary; often thinking big picture; love to mobilize volunteers, able to delegate; often find that people follow them; deeply passionate about a particular cause; closely connected with characteristics of the gift of administration

Mercy (Romans 12:6, 8)

SERVING

- Definition: the God-given ability to hurt for those who hurt and to do what is necessary to help relieve them from their distress
- Characteristics: deeply compassionate; empathetic; good and willing listener; passion for prayer; able to sit with a hurting person without giving advice; attracted to scripture verses on compassion, love, and suffering

Prophecy (Eph. 4:11; I Cor. 12:28)

SPEAKING

- Definition:
 - *Static View* – the God-given ability to proclaim God’s truth in a timely and culturally sensitive fashion with a view toward edification, correction and repentance.
 - *Dynamic View* – the God-given ability to speak human words to report something God brings to mind.
- Characteristics: quick to reference scriptures that are convicting, though not always comforting, ability to speak the truth in love.

Shepherding / Pastor (Eph. 4:11)

SERVING

- Definition: the God-given desire and ability to provide leadership, care and nurture for individuals or groups of people in the church over an extended period of time.
- Characteristics: has a heart for people, appreciates the opportunity to enter into another person’s trials, pays attention to birthdays, anniversaries, and special occasions in the lives of others, has a deep sense for the spiritual oversight of others

Teaching (Eph. 4:11; Romans 12:6,7)

SPEAKING

- Definition: the God-given desire and ability to understand, explain and apply God’s Word to the lives of those listening.
- Characteristics: ability to make the complex truths of scripture simple and understandable, love getting into the details of and studying scripture, can see clearly how a book, chapter or passage all fits together.

Wisdom (1 Cor. 12:8)

SIGN

- Definition: the God-given insight and ability which would only be given by divine intervention enabling one to apply information effectively
- Characteristics: able to apply knowledge effectively, high level of discernment

Sign Gifts

There is debate as to whether or not these gifts are still in effect, and if so, to what degree. Regardless, these are gifts that are talked about in scripture and are clearly included in the spiritual gifts that have been (and perhaps still are) dispensed to Believers.

Miracles (1 Cor. 12:10, 28)

SIGN

- Definition: the God-given ability to discern and pray effectively for the supernatural
- Characteristics: have seen God perform miracles as a result of faith and prayer

Healing (1 Cor. 12:9, 28, 30)

SIGN

- Definition: the God-given ability to pray effectively for physical, spiritual, or emotional healing
- Characteristics: have seen God perform healings as a result of faith and prayer

Tongues (Acts 2:4; Acts 19:6; 1 Cor. 12:28; 1 Cor. 13, 14)

SIGN

- Definition: the God-given ability to speak a language not learned humanly (either in a known or unknown language)
- Characteristics: speaks multiple languages; passionate about prayer and / or evangelism

Interpretation of Tongues (1 Cor. 12:10; 1 Cor. 14)

SIGN

- Definition: the God-given ability to interpret languages not previously learned
- Characteristics: able to understand multiple languages; may also have the gift of evangelism, mercy, and / or serving

Scripture References on Spiritual Gifts

Romans 12:4-8

- 4 Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function,
- 5 so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.
- 6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith.
- 7 If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach;
- 8 if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

1 Cor. 12:4-11

- 4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.
- 5 And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord.
- 6 And there are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons.
- 7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.
- 8 For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit;
- 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,
- 10 and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues.
- 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

1 Cor. 12:28

- 28 And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues.

Ephesians 4:11-12

- 11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,
- 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

1 Peter 4:10-11

- 10 As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.
- 11 Whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves, let him do so as by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.