

SPIRITUAL GIFTS



Every Christian has one or more spiritual gifts. They are distributed by the one and same Spirit, as He decides, for the benefit and building up of the church to the glory of God. Therefore, we are to wisely steward these gifts as a gift of God for the people of God, and use the gifts to serve one another. (1 Cor. 12:4-11; Eph. 4:7; 1 Pet. 4:10-11).

We each (men, women, and children) receive gifts at the moment of regeneration, perfectly suited to God's plans and purposes for our Christian lives. It is part of our sanctification to discover, develop, and use these gifts.

Knowing, developing, and using our gifts brings satisfaction and joy. It helps discern and clarify your ministry and purpose and affirms the direction of your energy toward ministry for which you are equipped. Other members of the body of Christ will be edified and lead into maturity. Finally, it brings glory to God.

Spiritual gifts are distinct from the gift of the Spirit. The gift of the Spirit is given to all believers at the moment of our regeneration (Acts 2:38). It seals and guarantees us (2 Cor. 1:22, Eph. 1:13, Eph. 4:30). We can do nothing to earn it, develop it, or lose it. The Spirit intercedes for us and is our Helper (John 14:16; Rom. 8:26).

Spiritual gifts are distinct from spiritual fruit. One can be highly gifted yet spiritually immature (the Corinthian church is an example of this). Fruit is displayed in the Christlikeness of our character; gifts relate to how we serve the body of Christ. Fruit is eternal; gifts are temporal. Spiritual gifts without spiritual fruit are worthless (1 Cor. 13).

Spiritual gifts are distinct from natural talents. Every person is made in God's image and therefore displays some of His characteristics. People may be more or less naturally patient, kind, giving, administrative, caring, wise, knowledgeable, etc. But unlike these natural abilities, spiritual gifts belong only to those who are in Christ. Often the Spirit will bestow spiritual gifts that coincide with natural gifts, but they are elevated to a supernatural level. Both natural and spiritual gifts are from God and should be used to His glory (James 1:17, 1 Cor. 10:31).

Spiritual gifts are distinct from offices of the church. All Christians are called to ministry, but not all are called to an office (Eph. 3:7). Ministry offices (such as pastor, elder, and deacon) are appointed and subject to a specific qualifications (1 Tim. 3:1-13, Titus 1:5-9). A variety of natural and spiritual gifts may be displayed by those appointed to ministerial office.

Growing in your spiritual gifts requires education, feedback from others, practice, deepening spiritual maturity, and a thorough understanding of your ministry sphere (e.g., there are many variations in the spiritual gift of teaching — large group vs. small group; children vs. youth).

According to 1 Peter 4:10-11, your spiritual gifts are ultimately designed to bring glory to God. This is your highest calling, and it relates to all three Persons of the Godhead. As you use your spiritual gifts in conjunction with the power and fruit (especially love) of the Holy Spirit and in the name and Lordship of Jesus Christ, the Father receives the glory.

ADMINISTRATION

The special ability God gives to some to...

...steer the body toward the accomplishment of God-given goals and directives by planning, organizing, and supervising others. Administration includes the ability to organize people, things, information, finances, etc. Often the mark of an administrator is the ability to accomplish things in a "fitting and orderly way."

The divine enablement to...

...understand what makes an organization function and to plan and execute procedures that accomplish the goals of the ministry.

PEOPLE WITH THIS GIFT:

- Develop strategies or plans to reach identified goals
- Assist ministries to become more effective and efficient
- Create order out of organizational chaos
- Manage or coordinate a variety of responsibilities to accomplish a task
- Organize people, tasks, or events
- Get frustrated and want to help fix things when things are poorly organized
- Naturally organize your life, schedule, finances, priorities
- Become energized working on tasks and projects

IN SCRIPTURE

- God ordered the whole world
- Jesus organized His ministry by choosing his inner circle of three disciples (Mark 9:2), appointing the twelve (Mark 3:13-14), and sending out the 70 two by two (Luke 10:1).
- Joseph (Genesis 41:41-57; 47:13-26)
- Jethro (Exodus 18)
- Titus (Titus 1:5)
- Luke 14:28-30

HOW TO DEVELOP THIS GIFT:

- Observe others with this gift.
 - Develop your efficiency, attention to detail, record-keeping and keeping sight of goals.
 - Pray to rely on the power of the Holy Spirit and on prayer rather than your own devices or plans.
 - Avoid the danger of taking over in such a way to exclude the contributions, ideas, and concerns of others.
 - Pray that your heart for people would grow.
- Effective administration promotes the beauty of Christ in people's hearts.

HOW TO USE THIS GIFT:

- Plan family devotions
- Help a friend develop a budget
- Organize a Bible study at work
- Help direct a ministry area
- Lead a ministry on Sunday morning
- Provide volunteer administrative support to the church
- Serve on the board of a nonprofit or ministry partner
- Organize a ministry or church event

In The Bible

κυβερνήσεις

kybernēseis — to steer, guide, helm

Gospel Purpose

To plan and organize activities for Christ

APOSTLE/MISSIONARY

The special ability God gives to some to...

...lead, inspire, and develop the churches of God by the proclamation and the teaching of true doctrine. An apostle is someone who moves where the Holy Spirit tells them to help start new ministries and churches, including other countries or cultures. They train and equip those ministries and churches to follow Christ and continue to grow when the apostle moves on. *In the strict sense this gift was confined to the twelve apostles. The New Testament does, however, give this title to a number of others, e.g. Romans 16:7 and Acts 14:14.*

The divine enablement to...

...start and oversee the development of new churches or ministry structures, sometimes in cultures different from your own.

PEOPLE WITH THIS GIFT:

- Pioneer and establish new ministries or churches
- Adapt to different surroundings by being culturally sensitive and aware
- Desire to minister to unreached people in other communities or countries
- Have responsibilities to oversee ministries or groups of churches
- Demonstrate authority and vision for the mission of the church
- Can establish meaningful relationships with people of other nationalities or cultures

IN SCRIPTURE

- Jesus is called an apostle and builder of the church (Hebrews 3:1-6; Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 2:20)
- Paul (Acts, Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Colossians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, and Titus all call Paul an apostle and show how he ministered cross-culturally and planted churches)
- Peter (Galatians 2:8; 1 Peter 1:1)

HOW TO DEVELOP THIS GIFT:

- Pray, listen, and reflect on where God might be urging you to go and what sheep to feed.
- Find a strong pastoral mentor.
- Consider theological training through seminary or in a special instructional program.
- Read about the structure of the church and learn about the dynamics within congregations.
- Study the life of more-recent apostles and missionaries, including their challenges.
- Intentionally engage yourself in cultures different from your own, listening to their stories and experiences.

HOW TO USE THIS GIFT:

- Pray about joining future church plants or mission trips/partnerships
- Look for gaps in ministry and discuss with a pastor possible ways of meeting that need
- Take the Gospel message to those who cannot come to church: those who are sick, homebound, in prison, etc.
- Pray with your family for countries around the world, especially where Christians are persecuted or martyred

In The Bible

ἀποστόλους
apostolous — one sent forth

Gospel Purpose

To lead on a broad basis for
Christ

COMPASSION/MERCY

The special ability God gives to some to...

...feel exceptional empathy and compassion for those who are suffering (physically, mentally, or emotionally) so as to feel genuine sympathy for their misery, speaking words of compassion and caring for them with acts of love that help alleviate their distress. The gift of mercy is the capacity to feel and express unusual compassion and sympathy for those in difficult or crisis situations and provide them with the necessary help and support to see them through tough times.

The divine enablement to...

...to cheerfully and practically help those who are suffering or are in need by putting compassion into action.

PEOPLE WITH THIS GIFT:

- Focus upon alleviating the sources of pain or discomfort in suffering people
- Address the needs of the lonely and forgotten
- Express love, grace, and dignity to those facing hardships and crisis
- Serve in difficult or unsightly circumstances and do so cheerfully
- Concern themselves with individual or social issues that oppress people
- Often have a difficult time evaluating the intentions of others and can be naïve.
- Respond more out of compassion than judgment?

IN SCRIPTURE

- Jesus taught on mercy (Matt. 5:7; 9:13; 23:23). He is repeatedly described as having compassion (Matt. 9:36; 15:32; 19:14; 20:29-34; 23:37; Luke 7:12-15) and was so filled with mercy that He sometimes wept (John 11:35).
- Dorcas (Acts 9:36)
- Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37)

HOW TO DEVELOP THIS GIFT:

- Learn what you can about death and dying and ministering at the various stages of grief.
- Pray God develops your ability to trust in Him for rest and refreshment.
- Prayer will be essential as you exercise the gift of mercy as you will need God's empowerment for full effectiveness when working with individuals in need. Ensure that your prayer life is disciplined and that you depend upon it for inspiration and strength in your ministry.

HOW TO USE THIS GIFT:

- Serve with the Food Bank or with one of our partner ministries that focuses on relieving suffering.
- Partner with the Deacon ministry to provide meals, hospital visits, etc. to those in need.
- Help a sick or elderly neighbor with groceries, lawn care, transportation, etc.
- Write letters to those in prison or the hospital.
- Become or support foster families in the church or your community.

In The Bible

ἐλεῶν

eleōn — to pity, have God's mercy on

Gospel Purpose

To show compassion for the disadvantaged out of love for Christ

CRAFTSMANSHIP

The special ability God gives to some...

...create artistic expressions that produce a spiritual response of strength and inspiration. As the Alpha and the Omega, God is the great Creator. God obviously loves to create. We know that God made us in his own image, and thus we too like to create. For some, however, he has given such a large measure of creative ability that we recognize it as supernatural.

The divine enablement to...

...to creatively design or construct items to be used for ministry or to communicate God's truth through a variety of art forms.

PEOPLE WITH THIS GIFT:

- Work with wood, cloth, paint, metal, glass, and other raw materials to design or build thing which increase the effectiveness of other's ministries
- Work with different kinds of tools and are skilled with their hands
- Develop and use artistic skills such as drama, writing, art, music, dance, etc., to communicate God's truth
- Use variety and creativity to captivate people and cause them to consider Christ's message
- Demonstrate fresh ways to express the Lord's ministry and message

IN SCRIPTURE

- God himself is the Master Craftsman. Everything was made by Him through Jesus Christ. (Genesis 1; John 1:3)
- Bezalel and Oholiab (Exodus 31:1-11 and 35:30-35)
- Craftsman helped build the temple of God during Solomon's time (1 Kings 5:18)
- Joseph, Jesus' earthly father, was a carpenter (Mark 6:3)

HOW TO DEVELOP THIS GIFT:

- Study with others similarly skilled or take classes.
- Practice! Get others' feedback on your work.
- Deepen your spirituality and pray fro God to set your imagination free.
- Meditate on how God might use the gift through you to affect the lives of other people and to build up his church.
- Keep a journal of all ideas that come to you in prayer.

HOW TO USE THIS GIFT:

- Provide volunteer help to the church in construction, graphic design, interior design, art-work, music, photography, handyman jobs, etc.
- Volunteer for Habitat for Humanity
- Make quilts or blankets for premature babies

In The Bible

מְלָאכָה:

melakah — workmanship

Gospel Purpose

To design and make objects to the glory of God

DISCERNMENT

The special ability God gives to some to...

...separate that which is from God and what is not; the ability to know whether motives and behavior are divine, human or demonic in origin. This gift is similar to wisdom, but is more "person centered," having to do with motives and behavior, rather than alternative courses of action in decision making. It is useful in decision-making groups as well as in personal guidance and counseling.

The divine enablement to...

...to quickly perceive whether such things as people, events, or beliefs are from God or Satan.

PEOPLE WITH THIS GIFT:

- Are not gullible and seldom are "taken in" by anyone (note: don't mistake discernment for a critical spirit)
- Are apt to spot insincerity and "phoniness" before others do
- Are sensitive to doctrinal issues
- Are keen in recognizing inconsistencies
- Are convicted to the point they will not allow themselves to rest when they know people are being given half-truth, misapplied truth or what is false
- Are quick to notice when public speakers give wrong interpretation or misapply Scripture

IN SCRIPTURE

- Jesus was able to know the presence of Satan (Matt. 4:1-11), see when someone was influenced by Satan (Luke 22:31), and know when someone's words were influenced by Satan (Matt. 16:23).
- John (1 John 4:1)
- Paul (Acts 13:8-12; 16:16-18)
- Peter (Acts 5:1-11)
- The disciples (Matt. 10:1)

HOW TO DEVELOP THIS GIFT:

- Read works that help identify traits of evil and untruth. A classic is C.S. Lewis' *Screwtape Letters*, which exposes many of the cunning methods Satan employs.
- Pray for both boldness and a spirit of love.
- Study the life of Martin Luther to understand how he came to know he should speak out against the abuses of the church.
- Read and meditate on Bible passages dealing with discernment and false teachings.

HOW TO USE THIS GIFT:

- Warn friends and family about false teachings or deceitful persons.
- Privately and humbly discuss potential error with a community group leader or pastor.
- Be willing to meet with people who are struggling and are not sure why. You may be able to help them discern God's purpose in their suffering.
- Speak out against evil societal structures and systematic injustice.

In The Bible

διακρίσεις

diakriseis — a thorough judgment

Gospel Purpose

To distinguish truth and determine motives for Christ

EVANGELISM

The special ability God gives to some to...

...proclaim the Gospel of salvation effectively so that people respond to the promises of Christ through conversion to Christianity. All believers are called to share their faith and make disciples (Matthew 28:16-20). For those with the supernatural gift of evangelism, this commission is more urgent, more natural, and more joyful.

The divine enablement to...

... to effectively communicate the gospel to unbelievers so they respond in faith and move toward discipleship.

PEOPLE WITH THIS GIFT:

- Communicate the message of Christ with clarity and conviction
- Challenge unbelievers to faith and to become fully devoted followers of Christ
- Adapt their presentation of the gospel to connect with an individual
- Seek opportunities to build relationships with unbelievers and talk about spiritual things
- Feel frustrated when they haven't shared their faith for awhile
- Teach others how to share their faith
- Are profoundly joyful at someone's conversion

IN SCRIPTURE

- Jesus is the primary evangelist (Luke 19:10, Matthew 11:19).
- Philip (Acts 8:26-40; Acts 21:8)
- Timothy (2 Timothy 4:5)
- Peter (Acts 2:36-40)
- Jonah was a messenger that God told to go tell the people of Ninevah that they should repent (Book of Jonah)

HOW TO DEVELOP THIS GIFT:

- Read about reputable evangelists (such as Billy Graham), and strive to learn how they respond to God's call in the use of this gift.
- Read and internalize the Gospel story, and discover ways to speak about it from the heart.
- Attend workshops on evangelism to learn techniques and tools that may help you.
- Pray God would reveal what it means for you to mirror Paul in seeking to fit in everywhere to minister to everyone.

HOW TO USE THIS GIFT:

- Come to church 15 minutes early to meet visitors who may not know Christ (who tend to come to church early and sit in the sanctuary)
- Serve in Journey Kids to teach the Gospel to the youngest of those who need Christ
- Intentionally build relationships in your personal context — at work, your child's school, etc.
- Volunteer with one of our partner ministries, which work extensively with those who do not yet know Christ

In The Bible

εὐαγγελιστάς

euangelistas — messenger of good

Gospel Purpose

To share the good news of saving faith in Christ

EXHORTATION

The special ability God gives to some...

...offer comfort, words of encouragement, hope, and reassurance to discouraged, weak, or troubled Christians in a way that they are consoled and motivated to see and know God more fully and to be more like Christ. It is the ability to help others reach their full potential by means of encouraging, challenging, comforting, and guiding.

The divine enablement to...

...to present truth so as to strengthen or urge to action those who are discouraged or wavering in their faith.

PEOPLE WITH THIS GIFT:

- Come to the side of those who are weak in spirit to strengthen them, reassure them, and give them hope through the Gospel
- Challenge or confront others to trust and hope in the promises of God
- Urge others to action by applying Biblical truth
- Offer advice, an outline for a solution, or a program for progress
- Motivate others to grow
- Emphasize God's promises and confidence in his will
- Tend to be patient and empathetic

IN SCRIPTURE

- Jesus (Luke 6:27-35; John 8:11; Matthew 11:28-30)
- Paul (Acts 14:21-22; 16:40; 20:1; 2 Corinthians 4:16)
- David (Psalm 31:24)
- Barnabas (Acts 4:36; 9:27; 15:39).
- Judas and Silas (Acts 15:31-32)

HOW TO DEVELOP THIS GIFT:

- Consider training that emphasizes listening to others or walking alongside them in times of crisis.
- Examine your personal demeanor when trying to offer encouragement. Patience, kindness, good listening skills, ability to build rapport - these are all essential to effective counseling.
- Pray that God would also grant you wisdom, knowledge of His word, and faith to trust Him.

HOW TO USE THIS GIFT:

- Be available to those you know: counsel a friend with a problem, console a bereaved person, encourage a new Christian.
- Serve in Journey Students.
- Train and volunteer for a crisis telephone hotline or crisis pregnancy center.
- Develop toward becoming a lay counselor.
- Write a note of encouragement or exhortation to someone in your community group, a coworker, a friend, etc.

In The Bible

παρακλήσει

paraklēsei — calling to one's side

Gospel Purpose

To express confidence and influence others for Christ

FAITH

The special ability 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. They often view obstacles as opportunities and trust God for the impossible.

The divine enablement to...

...to act on God's promises with confidence and unwavering belief in God's ability to fulfill his purposes.

PEOPLE WITH THIS GIFT:

- Believe the promises of God and inspire others to do the same
- Act in complete confidence of God's ability to overcome obstacles
- Demonstrate an attitude of trust in God's will and his promises
- Advance the cause of Christ because they go forward when others will not
- Ask God for what is needed and trust him for his provision

IN SCRIPTURE

- Jesus' entire life and ministry could be summarized as one of faith because he continually and perfectly trusted in God the Father in all things (Luke 22:41-42)
- Paul (Acts 27:21-25)
- Stephen (Acts 6:5)
- Mary (Luke 1:26-38)
- Hebrews 11
- Woman with a bleeding disorder (Mark 5:25-34)
- Abraham (Romans 4:16-21)

HOW TO DEVELOP THIS GIFT:

- Record in your journal instances where you are sure God is at work. Reread them later to see what actually happened.
- Develop your prayer life and pray with other people who have the gift of faith or intercessory prayer.
- Consider how the gift of faith would manifest itself in your situation, on the job, at home, in your responsibilities in the church or community.

HOW TO USE THIS GIFT:

- Join the Sunday morning prayer team.
- Offer to pray with people who are suffering, struggling, or doubting God's power or promises.
- Serving with children can be a wonderful use of this gift, as they often have a powerful faith similar to yours and will love to hear stories of God's faithfulness.

In The Bible

πίστις

pistis — God's divine persuasion

Gospel Purpose

To trust in God's plans and purposes for the glory of Christ

GIVING

The special ability God gives to some...

...recognize God's blessings and to respond to those blessings by generously, sacrificially, and cheerfully giving of one's resources (time, talent, and treasure) without thought of return. They are able to trust God for His provision and may have a special ability to make money so that they may use it to further God's work. All believers are called to tithe to the local church, but people with this gift look for opportunities to give more.

The divine enablement to...

...to contribute money and resources to the work of the Lord with cheerfulness and liberality.

PEOPLE WITH THIS GIFT:

- Manage their finances and limit their lifestyle in order to give as much of their resources as possible
- Support the work of ministry with sacrificial gifts to advance the Kingdom
- Meet tangible needs that enable spiritual growth to occur
- Tend to see the needs of others more than others
- Do not ask, "How much money do I need to give to God?" but "How much money do I need to live on?"

IN SCRIPTURE

- Roughly 25 percent of Jesus' words in the Gospels are related to our resources and stewardship of them. Though he was poor, Jesus not only fed thousands (Mark 6:41) but also gave us his life as a gift (John 15:13).
- Widow (Mark 12:41-44)
- Dorcas (Acts 9:36)
- Barnabas (Acts 4:34-37)
- Macedonian church (2 Cor. 8:1-5)

HOW TO DEVELOP THIS GIFT:

- Learn about being a good steward of the resources God has given you, through budgeting, cost control, and minimizing impulse spending.
- Prayer is essential to hear God's voice in where He wants you to give.
- Read biographies of philanthropists.
- Research how to evaluate nonprofits and organizations.

HOW TO USE THIS GIFT:

- Make a no-interest loan to friends or family.
- Give to The Journey's benevolence fund, partner ministries or mission work.
- Teach others how to make a budget.
- Sponsor others for camps or conferences.
- Support a foster or adoptive family.
- Volunteer to help do tax returns for the elderly or low-income families.
- If you own a business, pay your employees generously or give outstanding benefits.

In The Bible

μεταδιδούς

metadidou — to give a share of

Gospel Purpose

To share generously out of love for Christ

HELPS/SERVING

The special ability God gives to some to...

...work gladly behind the scenes in order that God's work is fulfilled. The special ability God gives to some to serve the church in a supporting role or to invest their talents in the life and ministry of other members of the body, enabling them to increase their effectiveness. The gift of helps/service is the ability to joyfully work alongside another and help that person complete the task God has given them.

The divine enablement to...

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

PEOPLE WITH THIS GIFT:

- Serve behind the scenes to support the gifts and ministries of others (without having to be asked)
- Find joy in helping alleviate the burdens and responsibilities of others so they can do what God has called them to do
- See the tangible and practical things to be done and enjoy doing them
- Sense God's purpose and pleasure in meeting everyday responsibilities
- Attach spiritual value to practical service
- Offer their services if possible to someone in need
- Are generally humble and sacrificial

IN SCRIPTURE

- Jesus was the ultimate servant (Matthew 20:28; Luke 22:27; John 13:5)
- Phoebe (Romans 16:1-2)
- Timothy (Philippians 2:19-23)
- Many servants in the Bible are known by their works but not by name

HOW TO DEVELOP THIS GIFT:

- Study the life of modern servants (like Mother Teresa).
- Pray for deepening reliance on God to serve out of love for Him and without burning out.
- Practice serving without receiving honor from men. Developing Godly humility frees your heart to serve even more.
- Ask God to help you discern where you are uniquely suited to serve.

HOW TO USE THIS GIFT:

- Mow a lawn or buy groceries for a busy single parent or widow
- Partner with the Deacon team to provide meals, physical assistance, and other needs
- Serve on any of the Sunday morning teams at church
- Help set up or clean up for special church events, weddings, or funerals
- Volunteer for an organization you are passionate about

In The Bible

διακονία

diakonia — deacon, attendant

Gospel Purpose

To do practical tasks to enable others to use their gifts for Christ

HOSPITALITY

The special ability God gives to some...

...provide an open home and warm welcome to those in need of food, lodging, and fellowship. It involves a readiness to invite strangers to your home (or church) for the sake of the Gospel. The spiritual gift of hospitality is the ability to welcome strangers and entertain guests, often in your home, with great joy and kindness so that they become friends. Hospitality is supposed to include one's family (1 Tim. 5:8), friends (Prov. 27:10), Christians (Gal. 6:10), and strangers who may not be Christians (Lev. 19:34).

The divine enablement to...

...to care for people by providing fellowship, food, and shelter.

PEOPLE WITH THIS GIFT:

- Provide an environment where people feel valued and cared for
- Meet new people and help them to feel welcomed
- Create a safe and comfortable setting where relationships can develop
- Seek ways to connect people together into meaningful relationships
- Set people at ease in unfamiliar surroundings
- Thinks of their home from the perspective of guests who will visit
- Consider their home a place of ministry

IN SCRIPTURE

- Jesus spent time befriending social outcasts (Matt. 11:19), often ate with His disciples, and has welcomed us into the family of God (John 14:2; Rev. 19:6-9).
- Simon (Acts 9:43)
- Cornelius (Acts 10:48)
- Lydia (Acts 16:14-15)
- Philippian jailer (Acts 16:34)
- Martha (Luke 10:38)

HOW TO DEVELOP THIS GIFT:

- Don't be hindered by self-imposed standards. God blesses take-out chicken served from the bucket with napkins on a card table!
- Study the importance of simplicity and how it can set you free to concentrate on the people you are serving instead of your concern about details and preparations.
- Study God's heart for the outcast and pray to develop that in your own heart as well.

HOW TO USE THIS GIFT:

- Host a community group
- Open your home for visiting guests
- Come to church early to meet visitors
- Serve on the Welcome Team, Coffee Team, or as a Journey Kids Welcome Desk volunteer
- Work your budget around being able to host dinner for others, purchase board games for large groups, etc.
- Volunteer with an organization that serves college students, refugees, etc.

In The Bible

φιλοξενία

philoxenos — love of strangers

Gospel Purpose

To welcome and become Christ to the stranger and outcast

INTERCESSION/PRAAYER

The special ability God gives to some to...

...to pray for extended periods of time on a regular basis and see frequent and specific answers to their prayers to a degree much greater than that which is expected of the average Christian.

The divine enablement to...

...to consistently pray on behalf of and for others, seeing frequent and specific results.

PEOPLE WITH THIS GIFT:

- Feel compelled to earnestly pray on behalf of someone or some cause
- Have a daily awareness of the spiritual battles being waged and pray
- Are convinced God moves in direct response to prayer
- Pray in response to the leading of the spirit, whether they understand it or not
- Exercise authority and power for the protection of others and the equipping of them to serve

IN SCRIPTURE

- Jesus taught us how to pray (Matt. 6:9-13), prayed for us (John 17), and prayed in all things (Hebrews 5:7)
- The Holy Spirit intercedes for us (Romans 8:26)
- "Man of prayer" (1 Kings 13:6)
- Epaphras (Colossians 4:12-13)

HOW TO DEVELOP THIS GIFT:

- Learn about and practice different types of prayer: supplication, praise, thanksgiving, intercession
- Learn about prayer from people who have chronicled their experiences.
- Keep a prayer journal to see God's faithfulness to you.
- Pray that God would increase your faith as you pray.

HOW TO USE THIS GIFT:

- Follow the leading of the Holy Spirit in praying for all aspects of our church, the congregation, and the surrounding community.
- Faithfully intercede for friends, family and others
- Join the Sunday morning prayer team
- Offer to pray at community group
- Pray for ruling authorities, systematic injustice, and worldwide persecution

In The Bible

δεόμενοι

deomenoi — praying, begging, imploring

Gospel Purpose

To intercede for others out of love for Christ

KNOWLEDGE

The special ability God gives to some to...

...understand in an exceptional way the great truths of God's Word and to make them relevant to specific situations in the church. Also, knowledge includes the desire to seek out and learn as much about the Bible as possible through gathering much information and the analysis of that data. The word of knowledge is the ability to research, remember, and make effective use of a variety of information on a number of diverse subjects.

The divine enablement to...

...to bring truth to the body through a revelation or Biblical insight.

PEOPLE WITH THIS GIFT:

- Receive truth which enables them to better serve the body
- Search the scriptures for insight, understanding, and truth
- Gain knowledge which at times was not attained by natural means
- Have an unusual insight or understanding that serves the church
- Organize information for teaching and practical use
- Love to study and learn, and are not content with a surface-level knowledge of topics.

IN SCRIPTURE

- Jesus frequently quoted the Scriptures from memory. Jesus rebuked the scholars of his day because they studied the Bible but failed to love him, which is the purpose of all study (John 5:39).
- Ezra (Ezra 7:10)
- Solomon (Ecclesiastes 1:13; 7:25; 8:9),
- Timothy (2 Timothy 2:15)
- Paul (2 Corinthians 11:6)

HOW TO DEVELOP THIS GIFT:

- A rule of life of daily scriptural reading will help to develop your gift of knowledge.
- Pray that God would grant you wisdom as well as knowledge.
- Build a library of biblical reference materials.
- Pray that you might be led by the Spirit to the knowledge that is needed for situations that arise.
- Pray that the Gospel would soak into your heart, not just your head.

HOW TO USE THIS GIFT:

- Share biblical truths with family and friends.
- Speak up in community group when you have a word of knowledge that could edify others.
- Become a Journey Kids teacher.

In The Bible

γνώσεως

gnōseōs — experientially know

Gospel Purpose

To learn and share spiritual insight for Christ

LEADERSHIP

The special ability God gives to some...

...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. The spiritual gift of leadership is found in people who have a clear, significant vision from God and are able to communicate it publicly or privately in such a way that they influence others to pursue that vision. Others tend to have trust and confidence in their abilities.

The divine enablement to...

...to cast vision, motivate, and direct people to harmoniously accomplish the purposes of God.

PEOPLE WITH THIS GIFT:

- Provide direction for God's people or ministry
- Motivate others to perform to the best of their abilities
- Present the "big picture" for others to see
- Model the values of the ministry
- Take responsibility and establish goals
- Inspire confidence in their ability to lead
- Enjoy being the "final voice" or the one with the overall responsibility for the direction and success of a group or organization
- Tend to gravitate toward the "point position" in a ministry

IN SCRIPTURE

- Jesus was a compelling, compassionate leader who still leads billions today (Matt. 4:18-22, Acts 5:31)
- Moses and Aaron (Num. 33:1)
- Joshua (Deut. 31:14)
- David (1 Sam. 16:13)
- Daniel (Daniel 2:46-49)
- Josiah (2 Kings 22)
- Many of the apostles also displayed gifts of leadership in establishing new churches

HOW TO DEVELOP THIS GIFT:

- Study Biblical passages that exemplify leadership by people under God's direction to understand what God expects of leaders, the faith that is required, and the ways in which the leadership is carried out (consider starting with Nehemiah and the rebuilding of the temple).
- Read biographies of great leaders to gain insight into effective methods used.
- Build a library of leadership materials.
- Pray God increases your compassion, love, and wisdom in your leadership.

HOW TO USE THIS GIFT:

- Help others to set healthy goals and objectives.
- Lead family projects and spiritual development.
- Serve as a community group leader or work within your community group to encourage growth toward Christ-honoring goals.
- Serve on a school board, PTO, city council, etc.
- Find a volunteer organization you are passionate about where you can chair a committee or event.

In The Bible

προϊστάμενος

proistamenos — to stand before; provide the model to direct others

Gospel Purpose

To bring others together in action for Christ

MUSIC

The special ability God gives to some to...

...present personal witness and inspiration to others through instrumental music, singing, or writing music. It 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. The spiritual aspect of the gift is revealed as the gift bearer gives witness to love and praise for the Lord, and thus glorifies God. Those listening or watching become inspired to feel the presence and majesty of God.

The divine enablement to...

...to express personal faith and provide inspiration and comfort through the playing of a musical instrument, singing, or writing music.

PEOPLE WITH THIS GIFT:

- Sing or play a musical instrument quite well, and enjoy it
- Have special joy singing praises to God, either alone or with other people
- Feel secure their musical ability will benefit other people with whom they come in contact
- Can use their musical ability to help and inspire others to worship God
- See that their singing or instrument playing is a spiritual encouragement for others
- Can often compose music or lyrics that point people toward God

IN SCRIPTURE

1 Samuel 16:14-23
1 Corinthians 14:26
Psalm 33:1-3
Psalm 96:1-2
Psalm 100:1-2
Psalm 149:3
Psalm 150:1-6
Colossians 3:16
2 Chronicles 5:12-13
2 Samuel 6:14-15

HOW TO DEVELOP THIS GIFT:

- Consider voice or music lessons.
- Write music or lyrics and ask for honest feedback from trusted community.
- Dedicate plenty of time to practice.
- Strengthen the tie between your playing and your prayer life so that your playing will become an act of prayer for God's glory.
- Gather a music library of spiritual songs that you know and can play from memory.

HOW TO USE THIS GIFT:

- Join the Worship Team, Production Team, Journey Kids Worship team, the Journey Students Band, or the special events choir.
- Lead informal worship at community group or in your family.
- Join an area vocal group, band, or orchestra to meet others who share your passion for music.
- Record CDs of worship music to donate to people or organizations who help the shut-in, blind, elderly, etc.

In The Bible

ψαλμὸν

psalmon (there are multiple words used in Hebrew and Greek)

Gospel Purpose

To skillfully engage in music to the glory of God

PROPHECY

The special ability God gives to some to...

...proclaim the Word of God with clarity and to apply it fearlessly with a view to the strengthening, encouragement, and comfort of believers and the convincing of unbelievers. The special gift whereby the Spirit empowers certain Christians to interpret and apply God's revelation in a given situation. There may be immediate or future implications.

The divine enablement to...

...to reveal truth and proclaim it in a timely and relevant manner for understanding, correction, repentance, or edification.

PEOPLE WITH THIS GIFT:

- Expose sin or deception in others for the purpose of reconciliation
- Speak a timely word from God causing conviction, repentance, and edification
- See truth that others often fail to see and challenge them to respond
- Warn of God's immediate or future judgment if there is no repentance
- Understand God's heart and mind through experiences He takes them through

IN SCRIPTURE

- One of Jesus' chief offices was that of prophet (Mark 6:4; Matt. 16:21, 21:11; John 1:1, 7:16, 8:28, 17:8; Acts 1:8). He also was the fulfillment of all Old Testament prophecy about the salvation of God's people.
- Much of the Old Testament is prophecy (Samuel, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Hosea, Joel, Micah, Zephaniah, Jonah, Habbakuk, Amos, Isaiah, Elijah, Haggai, Nathan, etc.)

HOW TO DEVELOP THIS GIFT:

- Pray that God develops your sense of mercy and grace, and that you would desire repentance from sin and the salvation of those who are in sin.
- Leave plenty of time in prayer for God to speak to you. Record the impressions and insights you receive.
- Find a mentor or strong community to keep you accountable and test your words against Scripture.

HOW TO USE THIS GIFT:

- Trust your sense of leading from the Lord. If you feel like you should call, visit, or text a friend about something specific, act on it.
- Speak up in community group as the Lord leads you.
- Join the Sunday morning prayer team.

In The Bible

προφητεία

prophēteia — the forth-telling of the will of God

Gospel Purpose

To speak revealed truth from God

SHEPHERDING/PASTOR

The special ability God gives to some...

...assume a long-term personal responsibility for leadership and the spiritual care, protection, guidance, and feeding (teaching) of a group of believers. Pastoring is the office reserved for those men who meet the biblical criteria (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9), but there is a pastoral gift also commonly known as shepherding that God gives to people in the church beyond the pastors/elders. These people protect, guide, counsel, and disciple other people.

The divine enablement to...

...to nurture, care for, and guide people toward ongoing spiritual maturity and becoming like Christ.

PEOPLE WITH THIS GIFT:

- Take responsibility to nurture the whole person in their walk with God
- Provide guidance and oversight to a group of God's people
- Find great joy in seeing people mature in their faith and overcome besetting sin and discouragement
- Model with their life what it means to be a fully devoted follower of Jesus
- Establish trust and confidence through long-term relationships
- Lead and protect those within their span of care

IN SCRIPTURE

- Jesus is called the "Good Shepherd" (John 10:11-14; 13:20; 1 Peter 2:25) and the "Chief Shepherd" (1 Peter 5:4). Also, the Bible gives us snapshots of Jesus sitting with people to pastor them, such as his interaction with the Samaritan woman at the well in John 4.
- Paul (Acts 20:17-35)
- Many New Testament church leaders and elders

HOW TO DEVELOP THIS GIFT:

- Pray for understanding of the context within which you will be able to exercise your gift of pastoring, and determine how best to utilize the gift.
- Build a library of spiritual literature that can be lent out to persons you are shepherding to help in their spiritual development.
- Read about shepherding to understand better what is asked for in a shepherd.
- Pray for growing spiritual maturity in your shepherding.

HOW TO USE THIS GIFT:

- Lead a community group
- Lead a Journey Kids classroom or be a Journey Students small group leader
- Consider undergoing training to become a deacon or lay counselor
- Serve in a capacity where you are caring for a group of people, for example, as a scout troop leader

In The Bible

ποιμένας

poimenas — someone raised up to care for the well-being of His flock

Gospel Purpose

To guide congregations and groups for Christ

TEACHING

The special ability God gives to some to...

...explain the truths of the Word of God clearly and to apply them effectively so that those taught understand and learn. To instruct others in the Bible in a logical and systematic way so as to communicate pertinent information for true understanding and growth. The gift of teaching is the God-given ability to understand and communicate biblical truth in a clear and relevant manner so that there is understanding and application.

The divine enablement to...

...to understand, clearly explain, and apply the word of God causing greater Christ-likeness in the lives of listeners.

PEOPLE WITH THIS GIFT:

- Communicate Biblical truth that inspires greater obedience to the word
- Challenge listeners simply and practically with the truths of scripture
- Focus on changing lives by helping others understand the Bible better
- Give attention to detail and accuracy
- Prepare through extended times of study and reflection
- Enjoy studying and researching
- Enjoy imparting biblical truth to others

IN SCRIPTURE

- Jesus was commonly referred to as Rabbi, which means “teacher.” He was characterized as a teacher with authority (Matthew 4:23, 7:28-29)
- Aquila and Priscilla (Acts 18:26)
- Paul (Acts 19:8-10; 20:20; Colossians 1:28; 1 Timothy 2:7)
- Timothy (1 Timothy 4:11,13; 6:2),
- Godly women (Titus 2:2-4)

HOW TO DEVELOP THIS GIFT:

- Build a library of resources or sources that can help enliven, broaden, or deepen the perspective being presented.
- Increase your knowledge of Christianity by reading some of the spiritual writings of well-known Christian authors and theologians.
- Pray God would use your teaching to strengthen your own relationship with Him.
- Ask for gracious feedback from those you are teaching.

HOW TO USE THIS GIFT:

- Lead a community group
- Teach in Journey Kids
- Lead a friend through a Bible study
- Volunteer to teach a class for older adults, those with special needs, or children in the community.

In The Bible

διδάσκων

didaskōn — to cause to learn

Gospel Purpose

To communicate Biblical principles and meanings to others for Christ

WISDOM

The special ability God gives to some to...

...sort through opinions, facts, and thoughts in order to determine what solution would be best for the individual believer or the community of believers. The ability 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. The gift of wisdom is the ability to have insight into people and situations that is not obvious to the average person, combined with an understanding of what to do and how to do it.

PEOPLE WITH THIS GIFT:

- See and apply the principles of God's Word to the practical matters of life by the "Spirit of Wisdom"
- Synthesize biblical truth so people understand their good choices and avoid foolish mistakes.
- Focus on the unseen consequences of potential next steps
- Receive an understanding of what is necessary to meet the needs of the body
- Provide divinely given solutions in the midst of conflict and confusion
- Hear the Spirit provide direction for God's best in a given situation

HOW TO DEVELOP THIS GIFT:

- Practice being able to hear all sides fully, to gather and absorb all relevant facts and consider all perspectives before making a determination as to the best course of action to take.
- Learn how to present your determination in a convincing manner, helping all sides realize how their views were carefully considered and weighed.
- Ensure the Holy Spirit is guiding your decision-making through prayer.
- Develop the ability to ask probing and pertinent questions.

In The Bible

σοφίας
sophias — clarity

The divine enablement to...

...to know the mind of the Holy Spirit in such a way as to receive insight into how knowledge may best be applied to specific needs arising in the body of Christ.

IN SCRIPTURE

- Jesus was filled with and grew in wisdom (Luke 2:40-52, 21:15; Mark 6:2; Matthew 12:42). Jesus is the "wisdom of God" (1 Cor. 1:24, 30)
- Joshua (Deut. 34:9)
- Solomon (1 Kings 3:5-28)
- Daniel (Daniel 1:17-20; 2:19-23)

HOW TO USE THIS GIFT:

- Be available to family and friends making difficult decisions.
- Consider undergoing training to become a deacon or lay counselor.
- Join a community group and ask God to help you share your wisdom as appropriate.

Gospel Purpose

To share insightful spiritual knowledge or experience with others for Christ