



Youth and
Children's
Ministries



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Welcome!

GIFTS

Inside this booklet you will find loads of gifts. Yes, we know it's not Christmas, but we want to give you these gifts anyway! These gifts are so special that they can change your life. Excited? So read on...!

I am pretty sure we all love receiving gifts. Christmas and birthdays are extra special when we receive the perfect gift that really demonstrates that someone has thought about us, cares for us and knows us well. It's also lovely to be surprised by a gift at any time of the year, and even great fun to give gifts to others as well.

What was the best gift that you ever received?

God loves to give us gifts too. He takes great delight in blessing us with way more than we need. In the Bible we read that there are some specific gifts that God loves to give to his followers, called spiritual gifts. He placed these gifts inside each one of us when we became Christians. Discovering our spiritual gifts is a bit like opening presents at Christmas! We all have different gifts according to the plan that God has for each of our lives. You see, God has made us all unique. We are all different and special; we each have a specific purpose for our lives, something that only we can do, a special contribution to this world that only we can make. God gives us each spiritual gifts so that we can stay close to him and outwork his purpose for our lives more effectively. When we unwrap our gifts we know that God loves us, values us and knows us really well and we understand our place in the world a little better.

When God began crafting the masterpiece of your life, he made some decisions about how you would be gifted. And the Bible tells us that all people who follow Christ are given unique special gifts (these gifts have become known as spiritual gifts) that help these believers, or followers, fulfil God's plan for them. The one who knows you best picked the right gifts that would fit you perfectly. (Fields and Rees)

'FOR WE ARE GOD'S MASTERPIECE. HE HAS CREATED US ANEW IN CHRIST JESUS, SO WE CAN DO THE GOOD THINGS HE PLANNED FOR US LONG AGO.' (EPHESIANS 2:10 NLT)



You're bound to have loads of questions about spiritual gifts... so let's see how many questions we can answer here.

WHAT IS A SPIRITUAL GIFT?

A spiritual gift is a supernatural ability given by God to a person when they become a Christian. It's an ability beyond that which is normal. Spiritual gifts are different from natural abilities and talents such as being a great musician, sports person or cook. The spiritual gifts are not personality traits either, like being optimistic, confident, shy, imaginative or lazy. Also, don't get confused with the Fruits of the Spirit that we read about in Galatians 5, such as gentleness, faithfulness, peace, joy.

HOW MANY SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE THERE?

The Bible tells us about the great diversity of the way that the Holy Spirit works in and through the lives of all believers, and gifts are one way that the Holy Spirit works through us. We read about spiritual gifts in the Bible but there is no single complete list found in any single book of the Bible. Instead, there are several different Bible passages that tell us about spiritual gifts, many written by the apostle Paul. And there may be many more that are not actually mentioned in Scripture. We will consider 20 spiritual gifts in more detail in this booklet.

WHATEVER GIFTS WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN, WE MUST BE SURE THAT WE MANAGE OUR GIFTS SO THAT THEY ARE USED PROPERLY AND NOT WASTED. (1 CORINTHIANS 12:7)

A SPIRITUAL GIFT IS GIVEN TO EACH OF US SO WE CAN HELP EACH OTHER. (NLT)

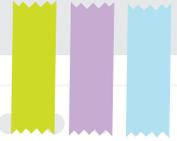
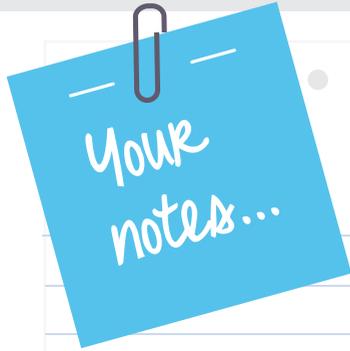
EACH PERSON HAS HIS OWN GIFT FROM GOD. ONE HAS ONE GIFT, ANOTHER HAS ANOTHER GIFT. (1 CORINTHIANS 7:7) (NCV)

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

God gives us spiritual gifts so that he can use us to help others. The clue is in the word gift: we receive these gifts from God and must give them away by using them to serve and bless others. The gifts are not given to enable us to become more popular or successful, for our own personal fulfilment, or to gather up like trophies or rosettes. Spiritual gifts are most often used in rather ordinary ways and places, as we live our daily lives at home, school, work, church and leisure. They are to help and to bless others, and to bring God closer into our world. Some gifts are used to tell others about Jesus; some gifts are given to serve and help others and the Church, some gifts are given to lead others in their Christian faith, and some are given to strengthen our relationship with God.

DOES EVERY CHRISTIAN RECEIVE A SPIRITUAL GIFT?

Yes, absolutely! Every person who has a relationship with God has been given at least one spiritual gift – often more. Nobody has every gift, though – remember what we said earlier, God gives us gifts depending on the unique purpose that he has for us in this world. Some gifts God will reveal when it's time. And some gifts will grow over time. You may feel you have one set of gifts at this point in your life, but down the road these gifts may change as the Holy Spirit plans different work for you to do.



HOW DO I KNOW IF I HAVE A SPIRITUAL GIFT ?

How do I know what spiritual gift I have? Keep reading and we will answer this question in detail later on in the booklet, and help you begin to identify some of your own spiritual gifts.

WHAT ARE THE Spiritual gifts

There are many spiritual gifts listed in Scripture, most often by Paul. These are the five key Bible passages to read: Romans 12:6–8; 1 Corinthians 12:8–10; 1 Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 4:11; 1 Peter 4:8–11. These five passages mention at least 20 spiritual gifts. (The list could vary, though, according to the translation you use.)

READ THE BIBLE PASSAGES BELOW,
AND WRITE DOWN OR HIGHLIGHT ANY
SPIRITUAL GIFTS THAT ARE MENTIONED.



(Romans 12:6–8)

6 We all have different gifts, each of which came because of the grace God gave us. The person who has the gift of prophecy should use that gift in agreement with the faith. 7 Anyone who has the gift of serving should serve. Anyone who has the gift of teaching should teach. 8 Whoever has the gift of encouraging others should encourage. Whoever has the gift of giving to others should give freely. Anyone who has the gift of being a leader should try hard when he leads. Whoever has the gift of showing mercy to others should do so with joy. (NCV)



WRITE DOWN THE
SPIRITUAL GIFTS
MENTIONED IN
THIS PASSAGE

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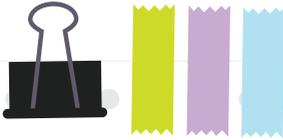
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7

4

(1 Corinthians 12:1,4-11)

Now, brothers and sisters, I want you to understand about spiritual gifts... 4 There are different kinds of gifts, but they are all from the same Spirit. 5 There are different ways to serve but the same Lord to serve. 6 And there are different ways that God works through people but the same God. God works in all of us in everything we do. 7 Something from the Spirit can be seen in each person, for the common good. 8 The Spirit gives one person the ability to speak with wisdom, and the same Spirit gives another the ability to speak with knowledge. 9 The same Spirit gives faith to one person. And, to another, that one Spirit gives gifts of healing. 10 The Spirit gives to another person the power to do miracles, to another the ability to prophesy. And he gives to another the ability to know the difference between good and evil spirits. The Spirit gives one person the ability to speak in different kinds of languages and to another the ability to interpret those languages. 11 One Spirit, the same Spirit, does all these things, and the Spirit decides what to give each person. (NCV)



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WHAT ARE THE Spiritual gifts?

1 Corinthians 12:27-31

27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. 28 And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? 30 Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? 31 Now eagerly desire the greater gifts. (NIV)

WRITE DOWN THE
SPIRITUAL GIFTS
MENTIONED IN
THIS PASSAGE

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Ephesians 4:11-12

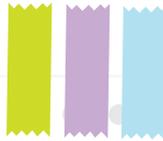
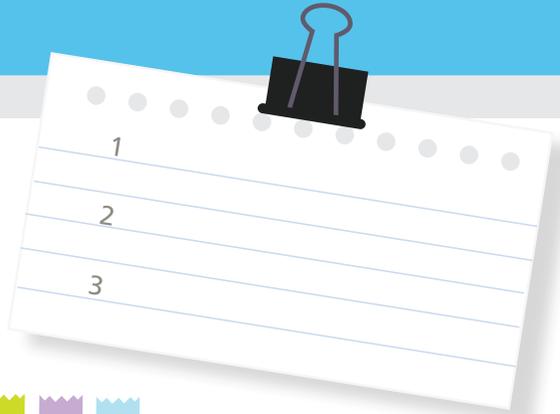
11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. (NIV)

5

1 Peter 4:8-11

8 Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 9 Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. 10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 11 If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. (NIV)

*Collate all your lists together.
How many different gifts do you have?*

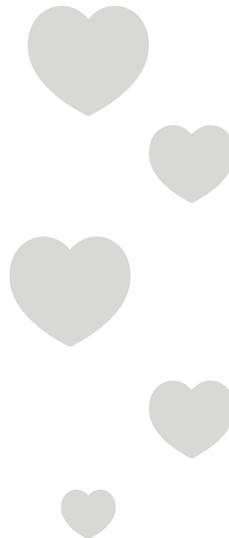


THE GREATEST Gift is Love

The apostle Paul discusses spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians 12 and 1 Corinthians 14, but sandwiched in the middle he talks about love.

1 If I had the gift of being able to speak in other languages without learning them and could speak in every language there is in all of heaven and earth, but didn't love others, I would only be making noise. 2 If I had the gift of prophecy and knew all about what is going to happen in the future, knew everything about everything, but didn't love others, what good would it do? Even if I had the gift of faith so that I could speak to a mountain and make it move, I would still be worth nothing at all without love. 3 If I gave everything I have to poor people, and if I were burned alive for preaching the Gospel but didn't love others, it would be of no value whatever... 8 All the special gifts and powers from God will someday come to an end, but love goes on forever... 13 There are three things that remain – faith, hope, and love – and the greatest of these is love. (1 Corinthians 13: 1–3,8,13 TLB)

We may have the most impressive or valuable of spiritual gifts, but without love the gifts mean nothing. Love supersedes the gifts because it outlasts them all. Without love the gifts could even cause more harm than good. Spiritual gifts are given to serve, help and bless others, not to be used out of selfishness in order to gain something for ourselves. Spiritual gifts are to be used to demonstrate the love of God to the world. Start to live life loving others, and God will surprise you by all he can do in you and through you!



THE

Gifts!



We are going to look in more detail at 20 spiritual gifts that we have just read about in the above passages. These are:

Helping/Serving
Prophecy
Teaching
Encouragement
Giving
Leadership
Mercy
Knowledge
Wisdom
Faith

Healing
Miracles
Discernment
Tongues
Interpretation
Apostleship
Administration
Evangelism
Pastoring/Shepherding
Hospitality

REMEMBER!

These are only 20 gifts; there are loads of other ways that God may have gifted you and ways in which you can make a difference for him.

THE GIFT OF Helping

ORIGINAL GREEK WORD: *antilepsis*...meaning an act helping or aiding in love within the community.

ANYONE WHO HAS THE GIFT OF SERVING SHOULD SERVE. (ROMANS 12:7 NCV)

How helpful are you? Do you regularly see jobs that need doing at home, school, college, work or church and get stuck in? Are you often found with your hands in the washing-up bowl or pushing the vacuum cleaner? Do you love to support others by doing some of the behind-the-scenes jobs that keep your family or church running smoothly? If so, then it sounds like you have the spiritual gift of helping. This spiritual gift is sometimes called 'service' or

'helps' and is the ability to recognise and meet needs through prompt, cheerful and practical assistance. The person with this gift tends to work behind the scenes to get things done and is not bothered about recognition for his or her work. This gift provides support for other people with practical action, blesses the Church and displays the love of God to the world.

IF YOU HAVE THIS SPIRITUAL GIFT YOU WILL:

- Enjoy helping others and look for ways to do this.
- Be able to see what others need often before they know that they need it.
- Put the needs of others before your own.
- Look for ways to help behind the scenes without seeking recognition for your contribution.
- Have good attention to detail.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLE

Acts 9:36 – A lady called Tabitha (also known as Dorcas) was well known and loved within her community for her good and kind acts that she did to help and support others.



BE CAREFUL

Don't become a 'Martha' and become bitter about doing all the work.

Don't forget that God loves you for who you are, not for what you do.





Who do you know who demonstrates this gift?

jot down an example of when you have seen this gift in action.

Do you think you may have this gift?

Yes Maybe No

Why?

THE GIFT OF Prophecy

ORIGINAL GREEK WORD: *PROPHETEIA* ...
MEANING *SPEAKING FORTH THE MIND AND COUNSEL OF GOD.*

AND CHRIST GAVE GIFTS TO PEOPLE – HE MADE SOME TO BE... PROPHETS. (EPHESIANS 4:11 NCV)

The Holy Spirit empowers certain Christians with the spiritual gift of prophecy to receive messages from God to share with his people. God uses prophets sometimes as 'foretellers' – that is, to tell us of things to come; and also as 'forth-tellers', which is to proclaim God's truth, to warn people about going off track with God, or to give guidance or encouragement during tough

times. The person with the gift of prophecy may not always understand the message but feels strongly compelled to share it. It is important that all prophecies are checked against God's word in the Bible. Prophecy is a rare gift that carries a lot of responsibility.

IF YOU HAVE THIS SPIRITUAL GIFT YOU WILL:

- Feel something so strongly on your heart that you speak with biblical
- Have authority to show people the way to live as God describes.
- Frequently receive messages from God that may comfort, confront, challenge or guide his people.
- Are confident to publicly communicate God's word, by a variety of means.
- See yourself as God's mouthpiece, ready to be used by him to change lives.
- Be able to confidently confront others' motives or attitudes when they are not God's way.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLE

Luke 3:2–18 – John the Baptist is an example of a prophet who warned people about the consequences of their sinfulness.



BE CAREFUL

Don't present your own opinions as though they are biblical and from God.





Who do you know who demonstrates this gift?

Jot down an example of when you have seen this gift in action.

Do you think you may have this gift?

Yes Maybe No

Why?

THE GIFT OF Teaching

ORIGINAL GREEK WORD: *didasko...* means to teach, instruct, instil doctrine, explain and expound.

ANYONE WHO HAS THE GIFT OF TEACHING SHOULD TEACH. (ROMANS 12:7 NCV)

Who is/was your favourite teacher? What makes them special? Probably it is that they have a great ability to bring lessons to life, to teach in a way that is interesting and informative, and in which you can understand. Such teachers inspire you to grow and learn and reach for your best.

People who have been given the spiritual gift of teaching just love to share lessons from the Bible

with other people. They are skilled at presenting good Bible teaching in relevant ways, making scriptural truth come alive, helping people gain a strong and mature spiritual education. They enjoy seeing other people applying God's truth to their lives and growing in their relationship with him.

IF YOU HAVE THIS SPIRITUAL GIFT YOU WILL:

- Enjoy studying the Bible so you can teach others.
- Be able to teach others in a way that makes the Bible clear and understandable.
- Understand how biblical principles are relevant to today's culture.
- Feel confident to lead a small group Bible study or teach a group of people.
- Have had times where you have been able to explain something from the Bible to a friend in a way that they have been able to understand.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLE

Jesus was the best example of a teacher. He taught others by his words, using parables and illustrations that the listeners would understand. He also taught others by the way he lived his life. Matthew chapters 5 to 7 contain one of Jesus' best known 'sermons', known as the Sermon on the Mount.



BE CAREFUL

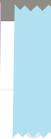
Be sure to live a lifestyle that is consistent with what you are teaching.



'My gift from God is teaching.

It all started when I had this huge urge to do a talk but did not have the courage. With help from my youth worker Claire, I was able to put all my ideas into a sermon. While writing it I had a few Bible verses running through my head that I had to use. During the planning I was encouraged by my youth worker that she had been thinking about the same verses. This was such a big shock as it showed me what I was doing was the right thing. After I had done my sermon I had so many people come up to me and express that what I said was what God needed to tell them but they had not been listening until now.'

Scott



Who do you know who demonstrates this gift?

Jot down an example of when you have seen this gift in action

Do you think you may have this gift?

Yes Maybe No

Why?

THE GIFT OF Encouragement

ORIGINAL GREEK WORD: PARAKALEO MEANING TO BESEECH,
EXHORT, CALL UPON, TO ENCOURAGE AND TO STRENGTHEN.

WHOEVER HAS THE GIFT OF ENCOURAGING OTHERS SHOULD ENCOURAGE. (Romans 12:8 NCV)

Do you have someone in your life who is a great encourager? Perhaps they always notice when you are a bit down and say something to cheer you up. Perhaps they bless you with kind and thoughtful acts... a little gift, a helping hand, a text just at the right time. They make you feel special and valued. These people have the spiritual gift of encouragement, and they are people who make a difference in all of our lives. The spiritual gift of encouragement is sometimes called 'exhortation'.

It means to inspire and strengthen others, and to come alongside a person to encourage and support him or her. Through encouragement people are able to live God-centred lives and those who are struggling in their faith can be helped to keep going. Encouragement can also motivate people into action and to face new challenges in their lives. The goal of the encourager is to remind others about our amazing, powerful and loving God.

IF YOU HAVE THIS SPIRITUAL GIFT YOU WILL:

- Find ways to encourage others through words or actions.
- Be able to give comfort and good advice to people who may be struggling.
- Be a good listener.
- Find that people may seek you out when they are feeling low or sad, or need help with something.
- Enjoy helping people live well by your words and actions.
- Be able to help someone get back on track with God.
- Be pleased when friends do well.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLE

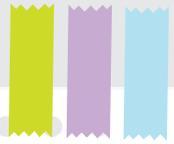
Acts 4: 36–37 – Barnabas ('son of encouragement') was a great encourager in many different ways. Here he blesses the apostles with the proceeds from selling a piece of land.



BE CAREFUL

Don't just give easy answers to difficult problems or say encouraging things without really meaning them.





Who do you know who demonstrates this gift?

Jot down an example of when you have seen this gift in action.

Do you think you may have this gift?

Yes Maybe No

Why?

THE GIFT OF Giving

ORIGINAL GREEK PHRASE: HAPLOTES METADIDOMI...MEANING SINCERE AND GENEROUS GIVING WITHOUT PRETENCE OR HYPOCRISY.

WHOEVER HAS THE GIFT OF GIVING TO OTHERS SHOULD GIVE FREELY. (ROMANS 12:8 NCV)

What's the most generous act you've ever experienced? Has someone given a gift of money to you just as you needed it, or have you spent just that little bit extra to give someone a gift that you knew would mean a lot to them? Do you find it easy share with your friends... even your last chocolate or sweet?! Are you prepared to go the extra mile to give of your time or abilities to support a friend or someone in need?

The gift of giving is a special ability that the Holy Spirit gives to people to be able generously and cheerfully to contribute their time, resources or

abilities to God's work and to others. We most often think of this type of giving as financial, but it doesn't have to be only about money. The Holy Spirit gives this gift to people to meet various needs in the Church and its work, or to support people who are not able to provide for themselves. People with this gift love to share with others and help to meet a need, and give generously out of the blessings that God has given them.

IF YOU HAVE THIS SPIRITUAL GIFT YOU WILL:

- Cheerfully and generously give of your money, possessions or time to help others and/or see God's work prosper.
- Respond quickly and enjoy helping people in need with time or money.
- Look for ways to share what you have.
- Prefer your donations to remain anonymous or low profile.
- Understand that all that you have is God's and for God's use.
- Be a good steward of your money /possessions/time and seek ways to increase your resources so that you can give away more.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLE

Luke 21:1-4 – A poor widow gives all the money that she had into the Temple offering box.



BE CAREFUL

Don't give in such a way that ensures everybody knows what you're doing.

Always remember that everything you have comes from God and belongs to him.





Who do you know who demonstrates this gift?

Jot down an example of when you have seen this gift in action.

Do you think you may have this gift?

Yes Maybe No

Why?

THE GIFT OF Leadership

ORIGINAL GREEK WORD: PROISTEMI... MEANING TO LEAD,
TO ASSIST, TO PROTECT AND TO CARE FOR OTHERS.

ANYONE WHO HAS THE GIFT OF BEING A LEADER SHOULD TRY HARD WHEN HE LEADS. (ROMANS 12:8 NCV)

Think about the various leaders that you have encountered in your life. Is there one that stands above the rest? Perhaps one leader has inspired you, comforted you or challenged you in certain ways. What makes one leader better than another? Can you identify certain traits that make a good leader?

The gift of leadership is the special ability that the Holy Spirit gives to some people to care for God's people and to lead them into a deeper relationship with God and with each other. We sometimes think of a 'leader' as an authority figure standing above

everyone else and directing others, but the spiritual gift of leadership is much more about caring for others, setting an example and leading others to work together to achieve their goals. This gift is close to the gift of pastoring. It is also similar to the gift of administration, but leadership is more people-orientated than task-orientated. Leaders are 'visionary' and are often less concerned with the practical details. Leaders can motivate and inspire others to work together to accomplish God's plans.

IF YOU HAVE THIS SPIRITUAL GIFT YOU WILL:

- Enjoy, and be good at, taking charge of a project or a task.
- Notice that other people may look to you to organise or run a group or project.
- Find it easy to inspire and encourage other people in their relationship with God.
- Be able to motivate a group of people to work together.
- Set a good example for others to follow.
- Be able to see the 'big picture'.
- Care for others and want to see them be all that they can be with God.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLE

Philippians 2:20–22 – Timothy was a young companion of the apostle Paul who became the leader of a church at a young age. Paul saw leadership qualities in Timothy, and Paul's letters (1 Timothy and 2 Timothy) contain words that Paul wrote to encourage Timothy in his leadership.



BE CAREFUL

Don't manipulate or 'lord it' over people, be bossy or do what you want rather than what's best for the good of other people.



Who do you know who demonstrates this gift?

Jot down an example of when you have seen this gift in action.

Do you think you may have this gift?

Yes Maybe No

Why?

THE GIFT OF Mercy

ORIGINAL GREEK WORD: ELEEO...
MEANING TO BE PATIENT AND COMPASSIONATE
TOWARD THOSE WHO ARE SUFFERING OR IN DISTRESS

WHOEVER HAS THE GIFT OF SHOWING MERCY TO OTHERS SHOULD DO SO WITH JOY. (ROMANS 12: 8 NCV)

Have you ever been moved to tears by a news report detailing great human suffering? Do you feel compelled to stop and chat to a homeless person and provide them with a hot drink or sandwich? Do you have a burden for a particular social injustice, in our country or around the world? If so, this sounds like you may have the spiritual gift of mercy.

A person with the spiritual gift of mercy has great empathy for others who are suffering in some

way and is motivated to come alongside those going through tough times. They are able to put themselves in another's shoes and, maybe literally, 'weep with those who weep'. This is more than just sympathy, it's being moved towards action on behalf of someone else. People who have the gift of mercy demonstrate God's compassion through their love, care and kindness both in words and actions.

IF YOU HAVE THIS SPIRITUAL GIFT YOU WILL:

- Be drawn to and feel compassion towards others who are hurting or in need.
- Be motivated into action to help people, both through words and actions.
- Genuinely feel other people's pain and suffering.
- Be sensitive to the feelings and circumstances of others.
- Place the needs of others above your own.
- Be a good listener and like to 'be there' for others.
- Pray regularly for those in need.
- Maybe have a specific 'burden' for a people group in need, eg, people in hospital, prisoners, underprivileged, drug addicts / alcoholics, teenagers who are struggling, victims of abuse, disabled, elderly, the poor.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLE

Luke 10:30–37 – The story of the Good Samaritan demonstrates the spiritual gift of mercy in action.



BE CAREFUL

Don't let manipulative people take advantage of you.

Don't end up doing acts of kindness for your own satisfaction rather than genuinely helping others.



Who do you know who demonstrates this gift?

Jot down an example of when you have seen this gift in action.

Do you think you may have this gift?

Yes Maybe No

Why?

THE GIFT OF knowledge

ORIGINAL GREEK WORD: *gnosis*...meaning
depth of knowledge, understanding, spiritual insight.

SOME OF US CAN SPEAK WITH WISDOM, WHILE OTHERS CAN SPEAK WITH KNOWLEDGE, BUT THESE GIFTS COME FROM THE SAME SPIRIT. (1 CORINTHIANS 12:8)

Do you ever find that you just seem to know stuff – about God or the right way to live – when others just don't seem to get it? If so, you could have the spiritual gift of knowledge or of wisdom.

These two gifts have nothing to do with how clever you are or what your IQ score is, but are about the ability to know God's truths that you wouldn't naturally understand. The gift of knowledge is more brain understanding, as compared to the gift of wisdom where understanding comes directly into the heart. Knowledge goes hand in hand with wisdom (how shall we communicate/do this?), prophecy (what is God saying to us?) and discernment (does this come from God?).

The spiritual gift of knowledge is sometimes known as 'word of knowledge'. It is the ability of some people to be able to bring the ideas and truths contained in the Bible to others in a given situation. The Holy Spirit gives this gift to some people to bring about understanding and to inform other believers. The person with this spiritual gift will know the Bible well and be able to communicate effectively just when it is needed. They seem to know just how God's words in the Bible are relevant to everyday life. The knowledge may be a fact they supernaturally know, but may also be a depth of insight into a situation – a supernatural ability to see below the surface

IF YOU HAVE THIS SPIRITUAL GIFT YOU WILL:

- Enjoy reading and studying the Bible, and give lots of time to this.
- Be able to understand things in the Bible that others just don't get.
- Be able to remember what you read in the Bible, probably memorise lots of it too!
- Enjoy helping others to understand God's truths.
- Understand how the Bible relates to everyday situations and circumstances.
- Find you can share a truth from the Bible to someone at just the right time to make a difference in their life.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLE

2 Samuel 12:1–13 – The prophet Nathan knew all about King David's sin with Bathsheba. Nathan confronted David and brought the word of God to him in a way that caused David to understand what he had done and ask for God's forgiveness.



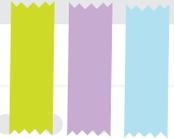
BE CAREFUL

The gift of knowledge is not about special, secret knowledge.

Just because you know a fact, doesn't mean that it's a 'gift of knowledge'. You also need to have a depth of understanding of that information and an ability to communicate it in the best possible way.

'There have been times in preaching when I have felt that someone needed to hear a particular emphasis. There have been times in leading worship when I have felt that someone may have been holding back in response. Sometimes, in leadership, you just know what the needs of a fellowship are: reconciliation, healing, challenge... There have been times in pastoral situations when God has led me to the right line of questioning or passage of Scripture.'

Stephen



Who do you know who demonstrates this gift?

Jot down an example of when you have seen this gift in action.

Do you think you may have this gift?

Yes Maybe No

Why?

THE GIFT OF Wisdom

ORIGINAL GREEK WORD: sophia...meaning wisdom, a deep understanding of God's word and commandments, which results in holy living.

SOME OF US CAN SPEAK WITH WISDOM, WHILE OTHERS CAN SPEAK WITH KNOWLEDGE, BUT THESE GIFTS COME FROM THE SAME SPIRIT. (1 CORINTHIANS 12:8 CEV)

In some ways the spiritual gift of wisdom is similar to that of knowledge. The Holy Spirit gives the gift of wisdom to a person so that they can give others sound advice and counsel, and also to also encourage and instruct them to live holy lives. Wisdom isn't just about knowing a lot of stuff, but it's the ability to see clearly how that knowledge

can bring about changed lives. The person who has the gift of wisdom often seems to be able to look at a situation and know just how to deal with it. They make wise decisions and can give others solid advice with steps for practical action, all in accordance with God's will.

IF YOU HAVE THIS SPIRITUAL GIFT YOU WILL:

- Often be able to see solutions to problems when others are confused.
- Find that friends come to you for advice.
- Seem to be able to make good decisions and judgments.
- Understand the Bible and how it applies to everyday life.
- Recognise where a decision or action may lead to difficulties and advise people accordingly.
- Understand that your wisdom comes from God, and spend time praying about decisions for yourself or others.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLE

1 Kings 3–5 – King Solomon was a person who, at one stage in his life at least, was gifted with wisdom. He asked God for wisdom above riches or fame. You can read about how he solved the problem of two women who both claimed the same baby was theirs in 1 Kings 3:16–28.



BE CAREFUL

Don't think you're always right!



Who do you know who demonstrates this gift?

Jot down an example of when you have seen this gift in action.

Do you think you may have this gift?

Yes Maybe No

Why?

THE GIFT OF

Faith

ORIGINAL GREEK WORD: pistis...
meaning confidence, trust, assurance and certainty

TO OTHERS THE SPIRIT HAS GIVEN GREAT FAITH... (1 CORINTHIANS 12:9 CEV)

Do you know people who just seem to have so much confidence in God? No matter what they are going through, they seem to have a deep sense of peace that God will never let them down and is working things out for the best in their lives – and in the world as well! These people are showing evidence of the spiritual gift of faith.

Of course, we all have faith – that’s how we became a Christian in the first place – but those who have the gift of faith just seem to have that extra ability to trust God come what may. They know for sure that God’s promises are true and that he is trustworthy, even if circumstances seem otherwise and other

people are doubting and worrying. Their faith in God is so strong that they are willing to step out and take a risk for God, and see God’s purposes accomplished in and through their lives. This faith goes beyond all earthly reason. The Holy Spirit gives the gift of faith to some people so that they can encourage the Church and build up others’ faith in God. In the Bible the gift of faith is often accompanied by great works of faith – for example, when Peter heals a lame man in the name of Jesus (Acts 3).

IF YOU HAVE THIS SPIRITUAL GIFT YOU WILL:

- Be able to trust God even in difficult circumstances.
- Have a strong belief that God can and will do anything.
- Be confident in taking risks when God has spoken something to you.
- Inspire and encourage others by your faith and trust in God.
- Often feel you know God’s will even when others aren’t sure.
- Believe in God for supernatural miracles.
- Spend time praying and hearing God’s voice.
- Get frustrated or feel challenged when people tell you things are impossible.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLE

Acts 27:21–26 – Paul has faith in God’s promise that no lives will be lost when the ship runs aground.

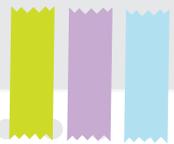


BE CAREFUL

Don’t just expect to God to act instead of getting stuck in and playing your part.

Be sure that you have heard God speak before you jump in at the deep end!





Who do you know who demonstrates this gift?

Jot down an example of when you have seen this gift in action.

Do you think you may have this gift?

Yes Maybe No

Why?

THE GIFT OF Healing

ORIGINAL GREEK PHRASE: CHARISMATA IAMATON TRANSLATED AS THE GIFTS OF HEALINGS. (NOTICE THE DOUBLE PLURAL!)

TO OTHERS THE SPIRIT HAS GIVEN... THE POWER TO HEAL THE SICK. (1 CORINTHIANS 12:9 CEV)

Have you ever seen someone supernaturally healed? Maybe a blind person who was prayed for and could see, or someone get up out of a wheelchair and walk? These things do still happen today, even in our own country! Maybe you have prayed for a family member who was feeling poorly and they got better quickly, or you've asked God to take away a fever or an infection and seen these things happen.

Those who have the spiritual gift of healing are able to pray for people who are sick and see them miraculously made better. They see people who are hurting or suffering in some way restored to health. This is nothing to do with the person themselves, of

course; rather it is God's amazing power working through them. This gift is closely related to the spiritual gifts of faith and miracles, and the person with this gift has an immense amount of trust in God to pray for healing for those who need it. There is no guarantee that the person will be able to heal anyone he or she desires, as it is only God working through that person as he wills, and God doesn't always choose to answer these prayers in the way that we would like or understand. This gift reveals the heart and compassion of God for those who are hurting and shows us that God cares about people's sufferings.

IF YOU HAVE THIS SPIRITUAL GIFT YOU WILL:

- Believe that people can be supernaturally healed.
- Feel compelled and take time to pray for others who are sick or ill.
- See God heal people supernaturally through your prayers.
- Have a deep compassion for those who are sick or suffering.
- Realise that healing occurs only as God chooses.
- Not be deterred when people are not healed.
- Understand that the gift of healing is a way of demonstrating God's amazing power.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLE

Acts 14:8–10 – Paul prayed for a man in the crowd who had been crippled since birth and he was healed immediately.

Acts 28:7–9 – Paul prayed for many people on Malta who were sick and they were all healed.



BE CAREFUL

Don't allow people to put you on a pedestal or idolise you – it's not you that does the healing, it's God.

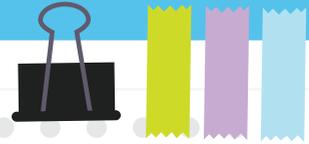
Always make sure that people praise and thank God after they are healed!

'I truly believe God has a sense of humour. From praying with someone for healing of back pain, whilst police stood back and waited until we were done to arrest him, to the time when we earnestly prayed for healing of a lady's shoulder having misheard her in telling us the problem was with her knee... God is still in it!

I was at one Sunday morning meeting, and even though I didn't really want to be there, God still used me in healing. Straight after the service a lady from the corps asked me to pray with her for hip pain. Immediately the pain was gone, full movement returned, and she was able to immediately stop taking the medication she was previously on. God is good!

God took this situation to teach that irrespective of how I'm feeling, God still wants to do his thing, and thankfully he wants to involve us in it.'

Jon



Who do you know who demonstrates this gift?

Jot down an example of when you have seen this gift in action.

Do you think you may have this gift?

Yes Maybe No

Why?

THE GIFT OF Miracles

ORIGINAL GREEK PHRASE: ENERGETATA DYNAMION ...
LITERALLY TRANSLATES AS 'WORKINGS OF POWERS'.

TO OTHERS THE SPIRIT HAS GIVEN... THE POWER TO WORK MIGHTY MIRACLES. (1 CORINTHIANS 12:9–10 CEV)

Like the gift of healing, the spiritual gift of miracles reveals God's power through individuals. Miracles are testimonies to the power of God and designed to draw us closer to him. The person with the spiritual gift of miracles is able to do supernatural acts that point to God and to his power. We see this gift at work throughout the Bible, and many people

became Christians due to seeing the miracles that were performed by the Early Church. Those with this gift expect God to work miracles, signs and wonders. They have a special measure of faith and desire for God to reveal himself in this way.

IF YOU HAVE THIS SPIRITUAL GIFT YOU WILL:

- Be someone who believes there is no boundary or barrier to the things that God can do in our world.
- Spend time praying that God will reveal himself to people on earth.
- Pray and look for supernatural results wherever you encounter an impossible situation.
- Understand that it is God who enables these miracles to happen.
- Give credit and thanks to God for his amazing power and works.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLE

Exodus 7 – Aaron threw down his staff in front of Pharaoh and it became a snake.

Acts 8:4–8 – Philip performs miracles in Samaria.

Acts 13:4–12 – Paul causes Elymas the sorcerer to go blind to demonstrate the power of God.



BE CAREFUL

Don't allow people to put you on a pedestal or idolise you – it's not you that does the miracles, it's God.

Always make sure that people praise and thank God after they witness a miracle.





Who do you know who demonstrates this gift?

Jot down an example of when you have seen this gift in action.

Do you think you may have this gift?

Yes Maybe No

Why?

THE GIFT OF Discernment

ORIGINAL GREEK WORD: DIAKRISIS ...
MEANING BEING ABLE TO DISTINGUISH, DISCERN, JUDGE OR
APPRAISE A PERSON, STATEMENT, SITUATION OR ENVIRONMENT.

...AND HE GIVES TO ANOTHER THE ABILITY TO KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL SPIRITS. (1 CORINTHIANS 12:10 NCV)

Do you ever have the feeling that someone is lying to you, or get a sense that a person is not all that he/she seems? Are you good at spotting when someone is manipulating you or others or a situation to their own advantage? If so, you may have the gift of discernment. The spiritual gift of discernment is also known as the gift of 'discernment of spirits' or 'distinguishing between spirits.'

The Holy Spirit gives the gift of discernment to enable certain people to clearly recognise and

distinguish between right and wrong; to be able to tell if something is from God, from humans, or from the enemy (the devil or his spirits). Discernment means looking beyond the surface of what is going on or being said to find the truth in it, and establishing if it fits in with God's intentions. People with this gift help to keep us on track with God and to point out if we are getting drawn away from his best for our lives.

IF YOU HAVE THIS SPIRITUAL GIFT YOU WILL:

- Be able to tell the difference between right or wrong, truth and error, good and evil.
- Be able to detect when someone is manipulative or phony.
- Notice inconsistencies in others.
- Know when people are saying things that aren't true about God or the Bible.
- Usually tell if someone isn't telling the truth.
- Recognise people's true motives and agendas.
- Be a good judge of character.
- Be able to look at situations and just know whether or not they are God's intentions.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLE

Acts 8:14–21 – Peter discerns that Simon only wanted the gift of Holy Spirit in order to impress people and make money.

Acts 5:1–11 – Peter knew that Ananias and Sapphira had lied

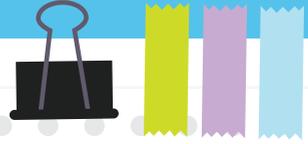


BE CAREFUL

Don't become judgmental or cynical of others or look for the worst in people.

'The Holy Spirit works in mysterious and wonderful ways; I have been blessed enough to experience some of the gifts and blessings that God has placed upon my life and I am going to share one of these with you. I have always been very observant of other people, their reactions, thoughts and feelings. I have been blessed with the ability to discern how other people are feeling and what sort of character they have. Then suddenly a few years ago God developed my discernment in a more spiritual way. I can now sense the Holy Spirit working and coming into situations and I can also identify when situations or workings aren't godly. God gives us these gifts so that we can have a loving personal relationship with him and we develop these through practice and spending time with him. It is all individual and no one person ever has the same. We are given these blessings for a reason and using them is essential.'

Emily



Who do you know who demonstrates this gift?

Jot down an example of when you have seen this gift in action.

Do you think you may have this gift?

Yes Maybe No

Why?

THE GIFT OF Tongues

ORIGINAL GREEK WORD: GLOSSOLALIA
THIS TERM IS DERIVED FROM TWO GREEK WORDS: GLÖSSAI, WHICH MEANS
'TONGUES' OR 'LANGUAGES', AND LALIEN WHICH MEANS 'TO SPEAK'.

OTHERS CAN SPEAK DIFFERENT KINDS OF LANGUAGES, AND STILL OTHERS CAN TELL WHAT THESE LANGUAGES MEAN. (1 CORINTHIANS 12:10 CEV)

The gift of tongues is communicating God's message in a special language unknown to the speaker. The language can be interpreted by others with the gift of interpretation, or it can be part of a private conversation with God. To those who don't know what tongues are, it sounds like a lot of gibberish!

In the Christian faith, speaking in tongues and the interpretation of tongues are perhaps the gifts of

the Spirit that have caused the most controversy. Christians tend to have different opinions on these gifts. Some say speaking in tongues is not a spiritual gift; others say it is a gift. Some say the gift was only for first-century Church; others believe tongues to be evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Some believe that this gift should only be used as part of a Christian's personal prayer life, whilst others think it can be used publicly.

IF YOU HAVE THIS SPIRITUAL GIFT YOU WILL:

- Be able to speak words of an unknown language when you pray, and sense a connection to God through these words.
- Feel God sometimes prompting you to communicate a message during a time of prayer in a specific language that you don't understand.
- Find that these unknown words come naturally to you, and are not forced.
- Use this gift when you run out of human words to express how you are feeling to God.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLE

Acts 2:1–13 – The disciples spoke in tongues after the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost.



BE CAREFUL

Don't think that speaking in tongues is a sign of superior spirituality to others who don't have this gift.

'The night that I asked God to reveal himself in and through me at a summer school worship event named 'Sanctuary', was the beginning of a fantastic new dimension to my spiritual journey and one that has revolutionised my prayer life forever.

Speaking in tongues had never really been on my 'to do' list, but when I was praying for someone very precious to me that evening, the Holy Spirit took over my words and I began to speak in an unknown language in earthly senses. It was one of the most bizarre and yet exhilarating experiences of my life. I felt like I had no control of what was coming out of my mouth but the peace and excitement that I experienced was unmatched.

Four years on, praying in tongues still plays a vital role in my prayer life. It's not the uncontrollable wave that it was in the beginning. With time it has refined and often provides my most intimate moments with God, for when I don't have or know the words, the Holy Spirit most certainly does and that's amazing!

As with all gifts, it's not for everyone, it definitely doesn't make me a 'better Christian' and it may only be for a season, but for as long as I can, I shall enjoy experiencing God in this way. Why not pray on it? God may just reveal himself in this way to you too.'

Helen



Who do you know who demonstrates this gift?

Dot down an example of when you have seen this gift in action.

Do you think you may have this gift?

Yes Maybe No

Why?

THE GIFT OF Interpretation

OTHERS CAN SPEAK DIFFERENT KINDS OF LANGUAGES, AND STILL OTHERS CAN TELL WHAT THESE LANGUAGES MEAN. (1 CORINTHIANS 12:10 CEV)

The person with the spiritual gift of interpretation will be able to understand and translate the message coming from a person publicly speaking in tongues. When someone speaks publicly in tongues (eg, in a church meeting or prayer group) it is believed that God is bringing a message for all (similar to a prophecy). But most people will not understand this language. The person with the gift of interpretation will have a strong sense of what God wants to say to the people who are present, and the confidence to speak out the message in public.

Not all messages in tongues are interpreted. Sometimes words spoken in tongues are for the encouragement and use of the person speaking only.

IF YOU HAVE THIS SPIRITUAL GIFT YOU WILL:

- Have a clear idea of what is being said when a person speaks out publicly in tongues, even though the speaker is using a language unknown to them and to you.
- Feel a deep connection to God when you understand what is being spoken, and feel compelled to share this with those who are present.
- Be able to translate these messages from God in a way that encourages, comforts or challenges believers.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLE

Acts 19:5–7 – Paul prayed for a group of believers who spoke in tongues and prophesied.



BE CAREFUL

Don't be tempted to make up an interpretation or slip in some of your own thoughts or opinions to embellish God's message.





Who do you know who demonstrates this gift?

Jot down an example of when you have seen this gift in action.

Do you think you may have this gift?

Yes Maybe No

Why?

THE GIFT OF Apostleship

ORIGINAL GREEK WORD: apostolos ...meaning one who is sent.

CHRIST CHOSE SOME OF US TO BE APOSTLES... (EPHESIANS 4:11 CEV)

Have you ever been on a missions trip or worked on a local evangelistic campaign? Did you enjoy this? A modern-day apostle is someone who feels called to take the message of Jesus Christ to the world and set new things in motion.

The term apostle means 'sent one'. It refers to someone who is sent out like an ambassador, with a message to take to others. The first apostles in the Bible, like Paul, took the message of the good news of Jesus to the world.

The mission for those with the gift of apostleship today is to get out there and start new projects

and plant new ministries and churches for God. Sometimes they may be missionaries, sometimes church planters. They will go into places where the gospel is not preached and establish churches in different cultures and challenging environments. They will identify and develop leaders and pastors to carry on God's work. People with the gift of apostleship may also have other gifts to enable them to fulfil their ministry.

IF YOU HAVE THIS SPIRITUAL GIFT YOU WILL:

- Be eager to start new ministries for God.
- Sense what God wants to do and not be afraid to try.
- Be willing to take a risk for God.
- Be confident and comfortable with people of different cultures and in different surroundings.
- Want to be known as a representative of Jesus.
- Enjoy making a difference in the lives of both believers and non-believers.
- Have an entrepreneurial flair.
- Enjoy being a leader and having responsibility for other people or projects.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLE

Paul is a great example of an apostle. He would go where the Holy Spirit led him and start a church in that place. He would train the people there to lead the church, and then move on to start a church in another area. Acts 16:6–10 is an example of Paul being led to a place by the Holy Spirit.



BE CAREFUL

Listen carefully to God's voice and go only where he leads, which may be different from what appears to be the best next step to you!



Who do you know who demonstrates this gift?

Jot down an example of when you have seen this gift in action.

Do you think you may have this gift?

Yes Maybe No

Why?

THE GIFT OF Administration

ORIGINAL GREEK WORD: *kubernesis*...
meaning steering like a shipmaster or captain, guiding and directing a group of people toward a goal or destination.

AND IN THE CHURCH GOD HAS APPOINTED... THOSE WITH GIFTS OF ADMINISTRATION. (1 CORINTHIANS 12:28 NIV)

What's your bedroom like? Do you have a space for everything and like order rather than chaos? Do you have a homework schedule on your wall and plan your work in time to meet your deadlines? Are you good at organising a group of people and encouraging them to move forward together towards the group goal? Then it sounds like you are a gifted administrator.

We tend to think of the word 'administrator' as someone who sits in an office typing out letters.

But it is much more than that. In fact, this gift is closely related to leadership, but administrators are more goal- or task-orientated. You may understand this gift better if it was called organisation. With this gift the Holy Spirit enables people to organise, direct and help others become more efficient in reaching their ministry goals.

IF YOU HAVE THIS SPIRITUAL GIFT YOU WILL:

- Be good at organising people and projects, and enjoy being in charge.
- Have a clear picture of the steps that need to be taken to reach a specific goal and make plans accordingly.
- Enjoy making decisions.
- Like making plans and meeting targets.
- Be a good problem solver.
- Be able to get people involved in working together.
- Able to delegate responsibilities to others and help them achieve them.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLE

Acts 6:1-7 – The twelve disciples delegate responsibility for caring for the poor to seven men who were good organisers.



BE CAREFUL

Don't just rely on your own plans. Make sure that people always remain more important than projects.



Who do you know who demonstrates this gift?

Jot down an example of when you have seen this gift in action.

Do you think you may have this gift?

Yes Maybe No

Why?

THE GIFT OF Evangelism

ORIGINAL GREEK WORD: euaggelistes...meaning those who bring good news

AND CHRIST GAVE GIFTS TO PEOPLE... SOME TO GO AND TELL THE GOOD NEWS (EPHESIANS 4:11 NCV)

Some people simply love to talk about Jesus! They just can't help themselves. Jesus has made such a difference in their life that they want the whole world to know about him, and believe it's their mission to tell them! People like this have the spiritual gift of evangelism.

Evangelism is sharing the love of Jesus with others in a way that draws them towards a personal relationship with God. All Christians are called to

evangelise and reach out to the lost with the gospel, of course, but some are given an extra measure of faith and effectiveness in this area. They have a knack of talking to people about their Christian faith in just the right way, and feel so strongly for those who don't know Jesus that they will go out of their way to share the truth with them. And people listen and respond!

IF YOU HAVE THIS SPIRITUAL GIFT YOU WILL:

- Feel deeply for people who don't know Jesus.
- Be able to communicate your Christian faith in a way that makes sense to the listener.
- Have most likely already seen some friends become Christians.
- Enjoy being friends with people who are not Christians.
- Find that you naturally turn your conversations with others towards faith and God.
- Sense when a person is open to the message of good news.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLE

Acts 8:26–40 – Philip explains the gospel to an Ethiopian eunuch.

Luke 10:1–12 – Jesus sends his followers away to tell others about the good news.



BE CAREFUL

Don't rely on your own words or skilled arguments to convince people to become Christians. Instead rely on the Holy Spirit working through you.



Who do you know who demonstrates this gift?

Jot down an example of when you have seen this gift in action.

Do you think you may have this gift?

Yes Maybe No

Why?

THE GIFT OF Pastoring

ORIGINAL GREEK WORD: poimen...meaning shepherd or overseer.

IT WAS HE WHO 'GAVE GIFTS TO PEOPLE'; HE APPOINTED SOME... TO BE PASTORS AND TEACHERS. (EPHESIANS 4:11 GNT)

The Bible often uses the imagery of a shepherd caring for his sheep as an illustration of how a leader should care for those under their leadership. Shepherds do everything it takes to keep sheep safe and healthy. They guide them to safe pastures where they can feed and rest, they protect them against predators, they care for sick or injured sheep, and search far and wide for a sheep that has gone missing. In return the sheep know their own shepherd and would follow that voice when they called to them.

The spiritual gift of pastoring is also known as shepherding ('pastor' is Latin for 'shepherd'). Pastors are shepherds because of their ability to care for others, protect them and guide them. People with this gift have the ability to oversee the lives of others in order to nurture and care for their spiritual development, helping them live lives directed by God's word. Pastors often have a mix of abilities, including teaching, in order to serve the needs of the church community.

IF YOU HAVE THIS SPIRITUAL GIFT YOU WILL:

- Enjoy caring for people and helping them grow in God.
- Be able to teach others in ways that help them in their Christian faith.
- Be good at relating to others and building strong, trusting relationships.
- Enjoy serving and look for opportunities to do this.
- Willingly give time to helping others.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLE

'Care for God's flock with all the diligence of a shepherd. Not because you have to, but because you want to please God. Not calculating what you can get out of it, but acting spontaneously. Not bossily telling others what to do, but tenderly showing them the way.'
(1 Peter 5:2-3 MSG)



BE CAREFUL

Don't give so much time and love away to other people that you don't have any left for yourself or your own family.





Who do you know who demonstrates this gift?

Jot down an example of when you have seen this gift in action.

Do you think you may have this gift?

Yes Maybe No

Why?

THE GIFT OF Hospitality

ORIGINAL GREEK WORD: philoxenia 'Xenos' means 'stranger' and 'phileo' means 'to love or show affection'; thus 'the love of strangers'.

WHEN GOD'S PEOPLE ARE IN NEED, BE READY TO HELP THEM. ALWAYS BE EAGER TO PRACTISE HOSPITALITY. (ROMANS 12:13 NLT)

Do you know a friend or family whose house is always full of people? It seems like a never-ending stream of people coming and going, and you know that there is always a warm welcome for friend or stranger, with the invitation to pull up a chair, share in the meal, or use a bed for the night. This family really knows how to practise the gift of hospitality!

The spiritual gift of hospitality is one where people are able to provide others with a warm and welcoming environment and make people of all ages feel 'at home' and comfortable – especially people who are guests or strangers. Hospitality is demonstrating kindness in welcoming others, putting them at ease and meeting their needs.

IF YOU HAVE THIS SPIRITUAL GIFT YOU WILL:

- Enjoy having people – friends or strangers – in your home.
- Make people feel welcome and at ease in your company and in your home.
- Look out for people who may be 'left out'.
- Be one of the first to greet new people and welcome them into a group.
- Make others feel valued and cared for.
- View your home as a place where God can bring people who need to be welcomed and cared for.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLE

Acts 16:14–15 – Lydia opens her home to Paul and his friends.

Luke 10:38 – Martha welcomes Jesus and the disciples into her home and provides a meal.

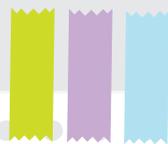


BE CAREFUL

Don't let people take advantage of your friendliness.

Don't overwhelm people who are shy.





Who do you know who demonstrates this gift?

Jot down an example of when you have seen this gift in action.

Do you think you may have this gift?

Yes Maybe No

Why?

WATCH OUT for...

- Don't compare your gifts (or perceived lack of gifts) with other people. Remember that we are all different and God has different plans for each of our lives, and different seasons for us to go through. Encourage others in their gifts without getting jealous or despondent about your own.
- Some gifts are naturally more recognisable and 'out there' whilst others are more behind the scenes, but no one gift is more important or 'better' than any other. So value all gifts equally.
- Don't think that your gifts are evidence of your great spiritual superiority.
- Value other people's gifts as much as your own, even if you don't really understand them.
- Don't expect others to have the same gifts as you.
- Don't be deceived into thinking that you have gifts that you really haven't. Always seek out advice from a more mature, trusted Christian adviser and test out what gifts you think God has given you.
- Be watchful of becoming proud of all that you may achieve through your spiritual gift... remember it's the Holy Spirit working through you who should take all the glory!



DISCOVERING MY Spiritual Gifts

As you read through the descriptions of the 20 spiritual gifts in the previous pages, did you find any gifts immediately 'jump out' at you and make your heart beat a little quicker? Did you read one particular description and think 'Yep, that sounds a bit like me'? Is there a particular area that you enjoy and feel that you would find great satisfaction from? These feelings could all be good indications that the Holy Spirit has put certain gifts inside you. You will most likely enjoy using the gifts that God has given you. But remember, God may also surprise you with gifts you never would have expected!

However, don't worry if you are feeling a bit confused after reading about the gifts, maybe wondering if God has actually given you any spiritual gifts at all.

Let's quickly reassure you... you definitely do have spiritual gifts! But sometimes gifts can take a while to grow inside of us, for us to be at the right level of maturity to be able to start using them. Discovering which gifts we feel that God may have given us is an exciting process; and if none of the gifts resonates with you at the moment, there are plenty of other ways that you can use your unique talents to serve God right now.

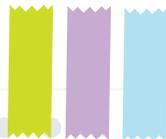


Your
notes...

Ask other people

It's not always easy to see your own gifts, and that's where Christian friends and leaders come in. Other people often have a completely different perspective about your individual gifts, and good leaders will often be able to see signs of spiritual gifts that are just beginning to blossom in your life. God can use other Christians in your life to give guidance and direction regarding spiritual gifts, and encouragement in using them too!

Who in your life can you trust to provide insight and guidance about your spiritual gifts? Take some time to ask these people what spiritual gifts they see in your life. You could show them your yes/maybe/no chart, and ask them if they agree with your own assessment.



How does what your friends/leaders say match up with what you think about yourself?

Did your friends'/leaders' response surprise you in any way? Why or why not?

Have your friends/leaders spotted a spiritual gift in your life that you had never noticed before?

DISCOVERING MY Spiritual Gifts

TRY IT OUT

Sometimes a good way to find out if God has gifted you in a certain area is to try out that gift... to simply have a go and see what happens! It's about looking for opportunities to use your gift to serve others and/or your church.

FOR EXAMPLE

If you feel you may have the gift of teaching, ask for an opportunity to lead a Bible study at your youth group, cell group or even church meeting.

If you feel you have the gift of hospitality, ask at home if you could invite some friends round for a meal, and include one or two people who you wouldn't normally mix with or who would often be left out of such a gathering.

If you feel you have the gift of encouragement, ask God to bring to mind someone who needs some support or encouragement at this time. What should your response be? You could simply write them a card or send them a text, you could offer some practical support to meet an area of need, and you could lift them up to God in your prayers.

If you think you may have the gift of leadership or administration, look for the opportunity to lead or organise a small project at school, work or at church.



YOU GET THE IDEA?!

Complete the following diagrams for two/three gifts of your choice from your 'yes' column. Consider different environments such as school/college, home, work and church.

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SPIRITUAL GIFT

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How I can try this out?

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What Happened?

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SPIRITUAL GIFT

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How I can try this out?

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What Happened?

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SPIRITUAL GIFT

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How I can try this out?

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What Happened?

DISCOVERING MY Spiritual Gifts

Sometimes an opportunity to use a particular gift keeps knocking at your door (maybe literally with the gift of hospitality!). This may be God's way of trying to point out your gifts to you. Take a few moments to think this through.



In the last few months, which spiritual gifts have you had the opportunity to use?

What happened in the situation when you used them?

When you use your spiritual gift, you will see results! And the more you use it, the more the gift will grow and the more successful you will be in God's work. Practise, persevere (it won't always go right first time!) and produce fruit!

But don't wait until you have everything figured out. Begin serving now and see what gifts God unwraps in you as you do.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS TEST

There are plenty of spiritual gifts tests, both online and in books. In these tests you answer a variety of questions about yourself, which are then evaluated or scored to create suggestions as to what your spiritual gifts could be. These tests can be really helpful if you take the time to complete the questions properly and honestly. However, we recommend that if you do complete any of these spiritual gifts test you share your results with a trusted Christian leader. These tests do not really know you. They are just adding up the scores on the response that you make. Your leader will be able to discuss the results with you, and you can evaluate your scores together to see if they really do highlight your spiritual gifts.

○ Spiritual gifts test.com

A good test to start with is on a website called Spiritual Gifts Test.Com.
<http://www.spiritualgiftstest.com>

There is a test specifically designed for young people. This test includes 15 spiritual gifts, but does not include the spiritual gifts of healing, speaking in tongues, interpretation of tongues, miracles or hospitality. You have to rate 77 statements about yourself, and then your results are calculated and you receive a score against all 15 gifts and a description of your top three.

○ Looky Lamb

<http://www.lookylamb.org/christian-spiritual-gift-test.html>

Another fun test is on a website called Looky Lamb. This has some fun comic book style illustrations of the spiritual gifts. This looks at 19 spiritual gifts, including 'craftsmanship' and 'music' that we have not discussed in this booklet. It does not test for the gifts of miracles, speaking in tongues or the interpretation of tongues.

You can also access this test via an app. On the App Store it is called Spiritual Gift Test and on Google Play it is called Christian Spiritual Gift Test.

○ Spiritual Gifts (book)

For a good written test see the book Spiritual Gifts by Jim Burns and Doug Fields. This test has 120 statements that you answer on a score sheet. Then you add up the totals yourself and see which spiritual gifts you score highest in.



Note down your spiritual gifts as indicated by any spiritual gift test that you have done.

A FINAL Word.

AND RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

We hope that you have enjoyed this quick look at spiritual gifts and are excited at the potential that God has placed within you, and that you have been able to begin to unwrap some of God's gifts in your life.

Don't be discouraged if you can't name your spiritual gifts, though. Remember, this is all about serving God and others, and the more you get stuck in, the more opportunities you will have to discover all that God has placed in your life.

Remember that you are a unique and special individual, created by God just the way he wants you, and that God has a great plan for your life and will equip you with all you need for the task.

God is the ultimate Artist, and he doesn't create anything without value. He designed you specifically and originally so you could do something unique with your life, something no one else would do just like you. God created you to spend your life loving him, loving others, and making a difference while you're alive. In fact, God is smiling right now thinking of you as you learn for the first time, or the thousandth time, that you are his original masterpiece.

(Fields and Rees)

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

The information for this booklet has been drawn from a variety of sources, including:

- Congratulations... You're Gifted by Doug Fields and Eric Rees
- Spiritual Gifts by Jim Burns and Doug Fields
- Discover Your Gifts and Learn How To Use Them by Ruth Vander Zee. (Student and Leaders booklets)
- Spiritual Gifts: Life Builder Series by R. Paul Stevens
- Christianteens.com <http://christianteens.about.com/od/christianliving/a/What-Are-Spiritual-Gifts.htm>
- Spiritualgiftstest.com <http://www.spiritualgiftstest.com>

The Salvation Army is a church and registered charity in England and Wales (214779), Scotland (SC009359) and the Republic of Ireland (CHY6399).