

## Spiritual Gifts

THE THREE DISTINCT CATEGORIES UNDER SPIRITUAL GIFTS: I Corinthians 12:1-6

### I. MOTIVATIONS:

"Charismatism"  
"Gift" the basic  
inward drive in each  
Christian to express  
His love.  
I Cor. 12:4

### II. MINISTRIES:

"Diakonion"  
Administration  
The opportunities of  
Christian service which  
are open to us for the  
exercise of our basic  
motivation. I Cor. 12:5

### III. MANIFESTATIONS:

"Enegeia Phanerosis"  
Operations.  
The actual result in  
the lives of those  
to whom we minister  
as determined by the  
Holy Spirit. I Cor.  
12:6

SCRIPTURE LISTS THE GIFTS UNDER SPECIFIC CATEGORIES:

### I. MOTIVATIONS

Romans 12:3-9

### II. MINISTRIES

I Corinthians  
12:27-31  
Ephesians 4

### III. MANIFESTATIONS

I Corinthians 12:7-11

THERE ARE SEVEN BASIC MOTIVATIONS: EACH IS COMMANDED TO PERFORM ALL SEVEN ACTIVITIES.

1. DECLARING TRUTH: "Make love your aim and earnestly desire spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy (proclaim truth)." I Cor. 14:1
2. SERVING: "Through love serve one another." Gal. 5:13  
"Whatever ye do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord...It is the Lord Christ whom ye serve." Col. 3:23-24
3. TEACHING: "Teach and help one another along the right road with your psalms and hymns and spiritual songs..." Col. 3:16  
"...teach them to observe all things that I have commanded you." Matthew 28:20
4. EXHORTING: "Exhort one another daily, while it is called today." Hebrews 3:13  
"...exhorting one another; and so much more, as ye see the day approaching." Hebrews 10:25
5. GIVING: "Freely ye have received, freely give." Matthew 10:8  
"Give and it shall be given unto you..." Luke 6:38  
"Distribute to the necessity of the saints." Romans 12:13
6. RULING: "A father must manage his own household well..." I Timothy 3:4  
"A wise servant shall have rule over a son that causeth shame, and shall have part of the inheritance among the brethren." Proverbs 17:2 "He that ruleth his spirit is mightier than he that taketh a city." Proverbs 16:36.
7. MERCY: After illustrating mercy in the account of the good Samaritan, Jesus said, "Go and do likewise" Luke 10:37. "Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ." II Cor. 13:8  
"...put on a heart of compassion." Col. 3:12.

## OBSERVATIONS ON THE CHARACTERISTICS OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS.

THE GIFT OF PROPHECY

1. The need to express his message verbally.
2. The ability to discern the character and motives of people. (II Peter 2:1-3)
3. The capacity to identify, define and hate evil. (Romans 12:9; I Timothy 3:7)
4. The willingness to experience brokenness to prompt brokenness. (John 20:21)
5. The dependence upon Scriptural truth to validate his authority. (I Peter 4:11)
6. The desire for outward evidence to demonstrate inward conviction. (I Cor. 14:25)
7. A directness, frankness and persuasiveness in speaking. (Titus 2:8)
8. A concern for the reputation and program of God. (2 Samuel 12:14)
9. An inward weeping and personal identification with the sins of those he talks with.
10. An eagerness to have others point out their blindspots. "Then will I teach other sinners and they will repent." Psalm 51.

MISUNDERSTANDINGS OR DANGERS IN THE GIFT OF PROPHECY

1. Frankness may be viewed as harshness, lack of love. (Ephesians 4:15)
2. Interest in groups may be interpreted as disinterest in individuals. (Illustration)
3. Efforts to gain results may be seen as using gimmicks. (Illustration)
4. Focus on right and wrong may be judged as intolerance of partial good.
5. Emphasis on decisions may appear as neglecting spiritual growth.
6. Public boldness and strict standards may hinder intimate personal relationships.
7. Strong desire to convey truth may be interpreted as little interest in listening to another person's point of view.
8. Quickness to size up things, opinions come quickly and tries to persuade others to his point of view, will require studying to gather the facts. (Illustration)

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THE GIFT OF SERVING

1. The ability to recall specific likes and dislikes of people.
2. The alertness to detect and meet practical needs. Especially enjoys manual projects.
3. The motivation to meet needs as quickly as possible.
4. Physical stamina to fulfill needs with disregard for weariness.
5. The desire to sense sincere appreciation and the ability to detect insincerity.
6. The desire to complete a job with evidence of unexpected extra service.
7. An involvement in a variety of activities with an inability to say "no".
8. A greater enjoyment of short-range goals with frustration over long-range goals.
9. The willingness to use personal funds to avoid delays.
10. A frustration when limitations of time are attached to jobs.

MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND DANGERS WITH THE GIFT OF SERVING

1. Quickness in meeting needs may appear to be pushy.
2. Avoidance of red tape may result in excluding others from jobs.
3. Their disregard for personal needs may extend to their own family's needs.
4. Eagerness in serving may prompt suspicion of self-advancement.
5. May react to others who do not detect and meet obvious needs.
6. Insistence on serving may appear to be rejection of being served.
7. Desire to sense sincere appreciation may result in being easily hurt.
8. Quickness in meeting needs may interfere with spiritual lessons God is teaching those with needs.
9. Meeting practical needs may be judged as lack of interest in spiritual matters.
10. Enjoyment of short-range goals may result in leadership positions and frustrations or disorganization with long-range goals.

### THE GIFT OF TEACHING

1. The belief that their gift is foundational to other gifts.
2. An emphasis on the accuracy of words.
3. A testing of the knowledge of those who teach them (credentials are important).
4. A delight in research in order to validate truth (enjoys studying).
5. The validating of new information by established systems of truth.
6. The presentation of truth in a systematic sequence. (Likes exposition)
7. An avoidance of illustrations from non-Biblical sources.
8. A resistance to Scriptural illustrations out of context.
9. A greater joy in researching truth than presenting it (as in teaching).

### MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND DANGERS WITH THE GIFT OF TEACHING

1. Emphasis on the accuracy of Scriptural interpretation may appear to neglect its practical application.
2. The research of others may appear to be dependent on more than the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit (through meditation).
3. The use of knowledge in testing others may appear to be pride of learning.
4. The concern to impart details of research may appear to be unnecessary to those listening.
5. The need to be objective in research may appear to lack warmth and feeling when speaking.

### THE GIFT OF EXHORTATION

1. A desire to visualize specific achievement and prescribe precise steps of action.
2. A tendency to avoid systems of information which lack practical application.
3. The ability to see how tribulation can produce new levels of maturity.
4. A dependence on visible acceptance when speaking to individuals or groups.
5. A discovery of insights from human experience which can be validated and amplified in Scripture.
6. An enjoyment with those eager to follow steps of action.
7. A grief when teaching is not accompanied by practical steps of action.
8. A delight in personal conferences that result in new insights.

### MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND DANGERS WITH THE GIFT OF EXHORTATION

1. The emphasis on steps of action may appear to oversimplify the problem.
2. The urgency in giving steps of action may appear as having overconfidence in them.
3. The desire to win non-Christians through living examples may appear as a lack of interest in personal evangelism. (versus the Prophet's motivation)
4. The use of Scripture for practical application may appear to take it out of context.
5. The emphasis on steps of action may appear to disregard the feelings of those being counseled — they rush through the steps.
6. The exhorter raises the anticipation of people without fulfilling it; as if it will happen almost immediately when in reality, it often is the process of a long time in growth and maturity.

### THE GIFT OF GIVING

1. The ability to make wise purchases and investments.
2. The desire to give quietly to effective projects or ministries.  
(avoiding the pressure of publicity)
3. An attempt to use his giving to motivate others to give.
4. An alertness to valid needs which he fears others might overlook.
5. An enjoyment in meeting needs without the pressure of appeals.
6. A joy when his gift is an answer to specific prayer.
7. A dependency on partner's counsel to confirm the amount of a gift.
8. A concern that his gift be of high quality.
9. A desire to feel a part of the work or persons to whom he gives.
10. The ability to be frugal in saving pennies.

### MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND DANGERS IN THE GIFT OF GIVING

1. The need to deal with large sums of money may appear to be a focus on temporal values.
2. The desire to increase the effectiveness of a ministry by his gift may appear as an attempt to control the work or person.
3. The attempt to encourage others to give may appear as a lack of generosity and unnecessary pressure.
4. The lack of response to pressure appeals may also appear as lack of generosity.
5. The personal frugality by which he lives may appear to friends and relatives as selfishness in not meeting their wants.

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### THE GIFT OF ORGANIZATION

1. An ability to see the overall picture and to clarify long-range goals.
2. A motivation to organize that for which he is responsible.
3. A desire to complete tasks as quickly as possible.
4. An awareness of the resources available to complete a task. (Illustration)
5. An ability to know what can or cannot be delegated.
6. A tendency to stand on the sideline until those in charge turn over responsibility to the one with this gift. (sees wasted time on decision making, etc.)
7. A tendency to assume responsibility if no structured leadership exists.
8. A willingness to endure reaction from workers in order to accomplish the ultimate task...willing to be unpopular, stand the brunt of reaction.
9. A fulfillment in seeing all the pieces coming together and others enjoying the finished product.

### MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND DANGERS IN THE GIFT OF ORGANIZATION

1. The ability to delegate responsibility may appear as laziness in avoiding work.
2. The willingness to endure reaction may appear as callousness, insensitivity.
3. The neglect in explaining why task must be done may prompt workers to feel they are being misused, or used.
4. The viewing of people as resources may appear that projects are more important than people.
5. The desire to complete tasks swiftly may appear to be insensitivity to the schedule weariness or priorities of workers...they can be pushers.

THE GIFT OF MERCY

1. The ability to feel an atmosphere of joy or distress in an individual or group.
2. An attraction to and an understanding of people who are in distress.
3. A desire to remove hurts and bring healing to others.
4. A greater concern for mental distress than physical distress.
5. A sensitivity to words and actions which will hurt other people.
6. An avoidance of firmness unless he sees how it will bring benefit.
7. An ability to discern sincere motives in other people.
8. An enjoyment and unity with those who are sensitive to the needs and feelings of others.
9. A closing of his spirit to those who are insincere or insensitive.

MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND DANGERS IN THE GIFT OF MERCY

1. The avoidance of firmness may appear to be weakness and indecisiveness.
2. The sensitivity to the spirit and feelings of others may cause some to feel he is guided by emotions rather than logic.
3. The attraction and understanding of those in distress may be misinterpreted by those of the opposite sex.
4. The sensitivity to words and actions which cause hurts may appear to be taking up another's offense.
5. The ability to detect insincere motives may cause some to feel he is hard to get to know.



USING THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS. If seven people representing each of the spiritual gifts were to organize an ideal church, this is what each one would want emphasized:

WHAT WE NEED IN OUR CHURCH:

PROPHECY:

Well-prepared sermons exposing sin, proclaiming righteousness and warning of judgment to come.

GIVING:

Generous programs of financial assistance to missionaries and other ministries.

SERVING:

Practical assistance to each member of the church to encourage him and to help him fulfill his responsibility.

ADMINISTRATION:

A Smooth-running organization throughout the church so that every phase will be carried out decently and in order.

TEACHING:

In-depth Bible studies with special emphasis on the precise meanings of words.



EXHORTATION:

Personal counseling and encouragement for each member to assist him in applying Scriptural principles to his daily living.

MERCY:

A special outreach and concern for the precise and varying feelings of individuals with a readiness to meet their needs.

## STEPS TO DISCOVERING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT

\*\*\*\*IMPORTANT: To distinguish between the temporary or sign gifts which are not for today and the speaking and service gifts which are permanent and are for today.

1. It should be a high priority in your life, for you will find it will be the opportunity to minister in the will of God for your life.
2. It will help you to set other priorities in your life (Matthew 6:33; Col. 3:2). Going on from the priority of God's Biblical will for your life to specific ministries you should have as a gifted believer.
3. It will help you find self-acceptance. Your part and purposes in God's plan for His body, your gift is important for the body to function. (I Cor. 12:7)
4. It will help you to identify the areas for concentration of your training and development. (II Timothy 1:6)
5. You will find a joy in doing what is enjoyable and satisfying to you in the work of the Lord, (Not that it might not be hard work).

### THE PROCESS OF DISCOVERY:

1. IT IS INITIATED BY PRAYER (Philippians 4:6,7)
2. IT IS ENLIGHTENED BY STUDY In the passages of I Cor. 12, Romans 12, Ephesians 4, I Peter 4 — Find Biblical illustrations of those who had each gift, see the gifts used in the life of Christ. You need information.
3. IT MAY BE INDICATED BY DESIRE: (Psalms 37:4; I Timothy 3:1) You must have a submissive heart.
4. IT WILL BE CONFIRMED BY ABILITY: (I Cor. 12:7) Others will be blessed by its function, grow through its ministry and the practice of your gift.
5. IT WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY BLESSING: (Romans 15:29) Appreciation for what God is doing through you. Gifts uses must become involved with people more than programs. It is the body we are to minister to.

### THE DEVELOPMENT OF YOUR GIFT:

1. BY EXERCISE: Do it, practice it, develop it, work on it, practice, practice.
2. BY EVALUATION: Setting realistic goals for your life and ministry. Some will minister to tens, some to hundreds, some to thousands. Evaluation helps improve the quality of your work; Two helpful areas —
  - a. constructive criticism
  - b. appropriate commendation
 Given in the spirit of helpfulness and humility. REMEMBER THE BASIC FUNCTION OF AN EVALUATOR IS TO ENCOURAGE! All of us need a teachable spirit (meek) and this often comes through trials, errors and some failures.
3. EDUCATION: What a blessed generation of opportunities to learn, read good books, magazines, seminars, informed pastors, Bible teachers, booklets, college, seminary, biographies, looking at other Christians who are informed.

SUMMARY: PRACTICE, LISTEN, STUDY Start NOW in this our church, in your home, in your marriage, in your family and in your school!