

DISCOVERING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

“Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant.” 1 Corinthians 12:1

Spiritual Gifts are NOT:

1. NATURAL APTITUDES, STRENGTHS OR ABILITIES

We all have natural abilities that we've learned from those around us regardless of Christian faith. Many times, our natural abilities and strengths are redeemed by the Lord to become spiritual gifts.

2. CHARACTER TRAITS

We are all called to have character and our gifts should produce the nature of Jesus Christ in each person. A person should not say he has the “gift of peace” when we are all encouraged to develop that characteristic. Spiritual gifts offer opportunities for us to exemplify Christ.

3. TITLES OR POSITIONS

Spiritual gifts often lead to titles or positions, but a person may have the gift without the role or the role without the gift. Regardless, we should serve whenever we are given the opportunity. Working in the area of your gifting will allow you to “be” the person that God has called you to be rather than just “doing” good things.

4. SELF-PROMOTING

Spiritual gifts are endowments given by God to His people for accomplishing His purpose on the earth. Spiritual gifts are given for the glory of God.

“Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts... try to excel in gifts that build up the church.”

1 Corinthians 14:1

HOW DO I RECEIVE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

1. Accept Jesus Christ as Lord of your life.
2. Acquire faith and truth in the area of spiritual gifts.
3. Apply yourself to learning about spiritual gifts.
4. Ask for the Lord to give you spiritual gifts.

“Then Jesus said to the centurion, “Go! It will be done just as you believed it would.” And his servant was healed at that very hour.” Matthew 8:13

SPIRITUAL GIFTS ASSESSMENT

HOW TO TAKE THE ASSESSMENT

To complete the Spiritual Gifts Assessment, you'll need to answer each question honestly and openly on a scale of 1 to 5 where the scores reflect "*Almost Never to Almost Always*."

(1 = Almost Never | 2 = Seldom | 3 = Sometimes | 4 = Frequently | 5 = Almost Always).

Follow the steps below:

1. Choose each response based on what most accurately describes you. That answer should be based on what you really sense to be your desires, interests, or abilities. Please do not choose an answer based on what you "have to" choose (possibly because of your position at the church or where you work) or what you feel you "should" choose. Instead, go with what your first honest instinct is for each question. This will help you to get the most accurate results.
2. On the accompanying page below titled "*Spiritual Gifts Assessment Scores*", list your score for each of the questions in the box that contains the same number as the question that you are answering.
3. Once you have answered all the questions within the assessment and have a score written in each numbered box on the score page, you'll then want to total the scores straight across each line on the score page – for example, the scores you rated yourself for questions 1, 25, and 49 should be totaled.
4. Once you've totaled the answers straight across for all boxes in the "*total*" column, you'll want to locate the THREE total scores that you scored highest in.
5. Based on the answers you provided for each of the questions, these three scores will help you to find which spiritual gifts you've scored highest in. You can find these gifts by finding the lettered gift that corresponds with the highest score totals. For example, if my highest score is located in the total box next to the "gifts" box on the score sheet is next to the gift lettered "R", then one of my strongest gifts is Music/Worship (You can easily find all of the gifts and their descriptions on the last 10 pages of this assessment booklet).

SPIRITUAL GIFTS QUESTIONS

1. I like organizing services and events.
2. I enjoy starting new churches.
3. Working with my hands is fun for me.
4. I can tell when someone is insincere.
5. I pray for the lost daily.
6. Encouraging others is a high priority in my life.
7. Believing God for our daily needs is important to me.
8. Influencing others for the kingdom of God through finances is extremely important to me.
9. I look for opportunities to pray for the sick.
10. I enjoy doing the little things that others do not.
11. Having people over to my house is something I do often.
12. Spending hours in prayer for other people is very enjoyable to me.
13. Education is very important to me.
14. I tend to motivate others to get involved.
15. My heart hurts when I see others hurting.
16. I believe God will use me to enact His miracles.
17. I enjoy sharing the gospel with other people groups and nationalities.
18. I've devoted considerable time to mastering my voice and or instrument.
19. Caring for the hurting is paramount in my eyes.
20. The willful sin of others really aggravates me.
21. I enjoy serving behind the scenes.
22. I like creating outlines of the Bible.
23. God has used me to interpret a heavenly language.
24. I enjoy the book of Proverbs more than any other book in the Bible.
25. I am passionate about managing details.
26. I prefer to pioneer new ministry projects.
27. I consider myself a craftsman or craftswoman.
28. I sense when situations are spiritually unhealthy.
29. I am greatly concerned about seeing the lost saved.
30. I try to come across loving and caring.
31. Asking God for a list of big things is exciting to me.
32. I find ways to give offerings above my tithe.
33. I believe miraculous healing is for this day and age.
34. Helping others is one of my highest achievements.
35. Creating a warm and welcoming home is important to me.
36. I am burdened to pray for situations in the world.
37. People seek me out to learn more about the Kingdom of God.
38. I prefer to take the lead whenever necessary.
39. I'm very sensitive to sad stories.
40. Miracles often happen when I'm nearby.
41. Living in another country to benefit the gospel is exciting to me.
42. I desire to serve the church through worship.
43. I enjoy connecting, caring for, and coaching others.
44. Confronting someone with sin in their life is not hard.
45. It bothers me when people sit around and do nothing.
46. I share Biblical truth with others in hopes of their personal growth.
47. I pray in tongues daily.
48. When I study scripture God gives me unique insights.
49. Creating a task list is easy and enjoyable for me.
50. I am attracted to ministries that start new churches.
51. Building something with my hands is very rewarding to me.
52. I can pinpoint issues or problems before others.
53. I enjoy sharing the gospel with a total stranger.
54. I look for ways to be an encouragement to other people.
55. I trust that God has my back in every situation.
56. Making more money means that I can give more.
57. God has used me to bring healing to those who are sick.
58. Being a part of the process is fulfilling to me.
59. I tend to make total strangers feel at home.
60. People often describe me as a prayer warrior.
61. I enjoy knowing biblical details and helping others to understand.
62. I delegate responsibilities to accomplish tasks.
63. I am motivated to help those who are less fortunate.
64. I have a constant hunger to see God's miraculous power.
65. I focus a lot on reaching the world for Christ.
66. I gain my deepest satisfaction through leading others in vocal or instrumental worship.
67. I enjoy walking with someone in times of difficulty.
68. I enjoy hearing passionate and clear preaching of the truth.
69. I like to do small things that others pass over.
70. I prefer to teach the Bible topically rather than verse by verse.
71. Praying in the Spirit is encouraging and important to me.
72. When faced with difficulty I tend to make wise decisions and choices.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS SCORES

1 – Almost Never | 2 – Seldom. | 3 – Sometimes | 4 – Frequently
5 – Almost Always

			Total	Gifts
1.	25.	49.		A.
2.	26.	50.		B.
3.	27.	51.		C.
4.	28.	52.		D.
5.	29.	53.		E.
6.	30.	54.		F.
7.	31.	55.		G.
8.	32.	56.		H.
9.	33.	57.		I.
10.	34.	58.		J.
11.	35.	59.		K.
12.	36.	60.		L.
13.	37.	61.		M.
14.	38.	62.		N.
15.	39.	63.		O.
16.	40.	64.		P.
17.	41.	65.		Q.
18.	42.	66.		R.
19.	43.	67.		S.
20.	44.	68.		T.
21.	45.	69.		U.
22.	46.	70.		V.
23.	47.	71.		W.
24.	48.	72.		X.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS PURPOSES AND DEFINITIONS

Now that you have completed the spiritual gifts assessment, you may be wondering what it all means. It is important to know that God can use people with ANY sets of gifts at ANY time to accomplish His purpose. The following contains definitions of your Spiritual gifts. Find the THREE spiritual gifts you scored the highest on and read about them below. Pray for an opportunity to use these gifts and ask about specific ways you can serve and connect with the Oasis family.

A. ADMINISTRATION

The Greek word for the spiritual gift of administration is *kubernesis*. This is a unique term that refers to a shipmaster or captain. The literal meaning is “to steer,” or “to rule or govern.” It carries the idea of someone who guides and directs a group of people toward a goal or destination. We see variations of this word in verses like Acts 27:11, and Revelation 18:17.

With this gift the Holy Spirit can enable you to organize, direct, and implement plans to lead others in the various ministries of the Church. This gift is closely related to the gift of leadership, but is more goal or task oriented and is also more concerned with details and organization.

Other scriptures to read that highlight this gift:

Luke 14:28-30, Acts 6:1-7, 1 Corinthians 12:28, Titus 1:4-5.

B. APOSTLESHIP

The mission for those with the gift of apostleship today is to plant new ministries and churches, go into places where the Gospel is not preached, reach across cultures to establish churches in challenging environments, raise up and develop leaders, call out and lead pastors and shepherds, and much more. They often have many different gifts that allow them to fulfill their ministry. These are leaders of leaders and ministers of ministers. They are influencers. They are typically entrepreneurial and can take risks and perform difficult tasks. Missionaries, church planters, certain Christian scholars and institutional leaders, and those leading multiple ministries or churches often have the gift of apostleship.

Other scriptures to read that highlight this gift:

1 Corinthians 9:1, 1 Corinthians 12:28; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Galatians 2:7-10; Ephesians 4:11-14, Acts 15:22-35

C. CRAFTSMANSHIP

People with the Craftsmanship gift are uniquely skilled at working with raw materials (wood, cloth, clay, paints, glass, etc.), helping to create things that are used for ministry or that help meet tangible needs. They might be found fixing, remodeling, and sprucing up buildings, and or creating and stitching glorious quilts, pillows, wall-hangings—with the ultimate goal of honoring God and benefitting others. They view the use of their gift as a way of serving others in practical, hands-on ways.

*Other scriptures to read that highlight this gift:
Exodus 30:22, 31:3-11; 2 Chronicles 34:9-13; Acts 18:2-3*

D. DISCERNMENT

The spiritual gift of discernment is also known as the gift of “discernment of spirits” or “distinguishing between spirits.” The Greek word for the gift of discernment is diakrisis. The word describes being able to distinguish, discern, judge, or appraise a person, statement, situation, or environment. In the New Testament it describes the ability to distinguish between spirits as in 1 Corinthians 12:10, and to discern good and evil as in Hebrews 5:14.

The Holy Spirit gives the gift of discernment to enable individuals with this gift to clearly recognize and distinguish between the influence of God, Satan, the world, and the flesh in a given situation. The church needs those with this gift to warn believers in times of danger or keep them from being led astray by false teaching.

*Other scriptures to read that highlight this gift:
Matthew 16:21-23, Acts 5:1-11, Acts 16:16-18, 1 John 4:1-6*

E. EVANGELISM

All Christians are called to evangelize and reach out to the lost, but some are given an extra measure of faith and effectiveness in this area. The spiritual gift of evangelism is found in Ephesians 4:11-12 where Paul says that Jesus “gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.” The Greek word for evangelists is euaggelistes which means “one who brings good news.”

Evangelists are given the unique ability to clearly and effectively communicate the Gospel to others. They are burdened in their hearts for the lost and will go out of their way to share the truth with them. Evangelists are able to overcome the normal fear of rejection and engage non-believers in meaningful conversations about Jesus. Their gift allows them to communicate with all types of people. They continually seek out relationships with those who don’t know Jesus and are open to the leading of the Holy Spirit to approach different people. They love giving free treasure away for Jesus and it brings them great joy knowing that the “feet that bring good news” are beautiful to those who believe.

*Other scriptures to read that highlight this gift:
Ephesians 4:11-14, 2 Corinthians 4:7, Isaiah 52:7, Acts 8:5-12, Acts 26-40, Acts 21:8, Matthew 28:18-20*

F. EXHORTATION

The spiritual gift of exhortation is often called the “gift of encouragement.” The Greek word for this gift is parakaleo. It means to beseech, exhort, call upon, to encourage and to strengthen. The primary means of exhortation is to remind the hearer of the powerful and amazing work of Jesus.

The Spirit of God gives this gift to people in the church to strengthen and encourage those who are wavering in their faith. Those with the gift of exhortation can uplift and motivate others as well as challenge and rebuke them in order to foster spiritual growth and action. The goal of the encourager is to see everyone in the church continually building up the body of Christ and glorifying God.

Other scriptures to read that highlight this gift:

Romans 12:8, Acts 11:23-24; 14:21-22; 15:32. Acts 14:22; Romans 12:8; 1 Timothy 4:13; Hebrews 10:24-25

G. FAITH

The spiritual gift of faith is not to be confused with saving faith. We have been given saving faith (Ephesians 2:8-9), but not all receive this special gift of faith. The word for faith in the New Testament is *pistis*. It carries the notion of confidence, certainty, trust, and assurance in the object of faith. The gift of faith is rooted in one's saving faith in Christ and the trust that comes through a close relationship with the Savior. Those with this gift have a trust and confidence in God that allows them to live boldly for Him and manifest that faith in mighty ways.

The Holy Spirit distributes this gift to encourage and build up the church in her confidence in God. Those with the gift of faith trust that God is sovereign and He is good. They take Him at His Word and put the full weight of their lives in His hands. They expect God to move and are not surprised when He answers a prayer or performs a miracle.

Other scriptures to read that highlight this gift:

1 Corinthians 12:9, Hebrews 11:1-40, Acts 3:1-10, Matthew 17:20, Matthew 21:21, 1 Corinthians 13:2

H. GIVING

The gift of giving is the divine strength or ability to produce wealth and to give by tithes and offerings for the purpose of advancing the Kingdom of God on earth.

The Greek word for the spiritual gift of giving is *metadidomi*. It simply means "to impart" or "to give." However, this word is accompanied in Romans 12:8 by another descriptive word: *haplotes*. This word tells us much more about the kind of giving that is associated with this gift. The word *Haplotes* means "sincerely, generously and without pretense or hypocrisy."

The Holy Spirit imparts this gift to meet the various needs of the church and its ministries, missionaries, or of people who do not have the means to provide fully for themselves. The goal is to encourage and provide, giving all credit to God's love and provision. Those with this gift love to share with others the overflow of blessings God has given them. They are typically very hospitable and will seek out ways and opportunities to help others. They are also excellent stewards and will often adjust their lifestyles in order to give more to the spread of the Gospel and the care of the needy.

They are grateful when someone shares a need with them and are always joyful when they can meet that need.

Other scriptures to read that highlight this gift:

Mark 12:41-44; Romans 12:8; 2 Corinthians 8:1-7, 9:2-7, Romans 12:8, 13, 2 Corinthians 8:1-5; 9:6-15; Acts 4:32-37, Galatians 4:15, Philippians 4:10-18.

I. HEALING

The gift of healing is the divine strength or ability to act as an intermediary in faith, prayer, and by the laying-on of hands for the healing of physical and mental illnesses.

The spiritual gift of healing found in 1 Corinthians 12:9 is actually plural in the Greek. Charismata iamatōn is literally translated “gifts of healings.” This spiritual gift is closely related to the gifts of faith and miracles. All spiritual gifts are to be exercised in faith, but gifts of healings involve a special measure of it. This gift is interesting in that there is no guarantee that a person will always be able to heal anyone he or she desires. It is subject to the sovereign will of God, as all spiritual gifts are.

The spiritual gift of healing is an intimate one as it reveals the heart and compassion of God. Those who have this gift are compassionate toward the sick and pray over them regularly. They have great faith and trust that God can and will heal some and are not deterred when He chooses not to. They are motivated knowing that God’s revealed power will draw people to faith in Jesus. Their ultimate concern is the spiritual well-being of those being healed and their relationship with Jesus. They yearn for the day that there will be no more pain and suffering, and sin will no longer wreak havoc on the people of God.

Other scriptures to read that highlight this gift:

Acts 3:1-10, Acts 9:32-35, Acts 28:7-10; 1 Corinthians 12:28, James 5:13-16

J. HELPS

The gift of helps is defined as the ability to perceive the needs of others and act with a joyful heart to meet those needs even if it requires personal sacrifice. People with this gift help increase the effectiveness of how God has created them to glorify Him by making disciples of all people groups. They also need to be aware of the tendency to find their worth and significance in others.

The gift of Helps is one that meets the practical needs of others to enhance, support, or accomplish ministry. One attribute of this gift is that many of these servants view “helps” as such a natural extension of who they are, they have a hard time acknowledging that it is an essential part of the Body of Christ. Other indicators of someone with the gift of helps is that he/she serves willingly, cheerfully, humbly, and wherever needed. They spot needs before others do and are sometimes surprised when other people don’t notice the practical behind-the-scenes things that need doing.

Other scriptures to read that highlight this gift:

Mark 15:40-41; Acts 9:36; Romans 16:1-2; 1 Corinthians 12:28

K. HOSPITALITY

The gift of hospitality is defined as the ability to make others feel welcome. This gift is often combined with such natural talents like cooking, event planning, and interior design. People who have this gift view their home as a place of ministry and enjoy inviting people over. God has enabled them a longing to share their home, personal space and resources without communicating a need of performance or an expectation of anything in return. They also need to be aware of the tendency to that being hospitable is behind the scenes and they actually want to hide behind the scenes.

Other scriptures to read that highlight this gift:

Acts 16:14-15; Romans 12:13, 16:23; Hebrews 13:1-2; 1 Peter 4:9

L. INTERCESSION

Intercession—interceding, pleading, approaching God on someone else’s behalf—is something we are all to do. People with this gift are those who feel compelled by God to pray on a daily basis for others. They are completely convinced of the awesome power and necessity of prayer. These are the folks you call first about a concern you have, because you know they will pray. Many with this gift are surprised it’s a gift—they think ALL of us pray unceasingly as they do. They know that their faithfulness in prayer for others invites the power and the presence of God into every circumstance, and that prayer is not something to be taken lightly but is a battleground.

Other scriptures to read that highlight this gift:

Hebrews 7:25; Colossians 1:9-12, 4:12-13; James 5:14-16

M. KNOWLEDGE

The spiritual gift of knowledge is also known as the “word of knowledge” or “utterance of knowledge.” The Greek word for this gift is Gnosis and it simply means knowledge and understanding. The Scriptural emphasis in 1 Corinthians 12:8 is on the ability to speak this knowledge to others in a given situation.

The Holy Spirit gives this spiritual gift to some believers to bring about understanding and to inform the church or individual believers. The person with this gift is usually well-versed in the Scriptures and often has much committed to memory. They can retain the truth and communicate it effectively at the appropriate times. The gift of knowledge allows a believer to relate the Scriptures, and particularly the Gospel of Jesus, to all aspects of life in this world. They can see how it connects to every situation and circumstance and how the reality and truth of the Gospel is to inform every decision a Christian makes.

Other scriptures to read that highlight this gift:

Acts 5:1-11, Colossians 2:2-3, 1 Corinthians 12:8; Romans 15:14; 2 Corinthians 2:14

N. LEADERSHIP

The spiritual gift of leadership is closely related to the gift of administration and, interestingly, the spiritual gift of pastor/shepherd. The Greek word for the spiritual gift of leadership is *proistemi*. This word means to lead, to assist, to protect and to care for others. The spiritual gift of leadership is found in Romans 12:8 sandwiched between the gifts of giving and of mercy. It is placed there intentionally to show that it is a gift associated with caring for others. This is what connects it to the gift of pastor/shepherd, and what differentiates it from the gift of administration. It is more people oriented than task oriented in its application. This is not to say those with the gift of administration do not care for people, of course they do, but those with the spiritual gift of leadership focus on people and relationships more directly.

The Holy Spirit gives the spiritual gift of leadership to some to care for God's people and lead them into deeper relationship with Christ and each other. They base their success on how well they help others succeed and grow in their spiritual walk with Jesus. They are able to accomplish many different tasks and objectives as they lead, but they will always lead relationally and with a deep concern for the well-being of others. They are "visionary" and less concerned with mundane details than those with the spiritual gift of administration. Many are entrepreneurial and willing to take risks to see the kingdom of God advanced through the church. They will go to great lengths to protect those under their care and are well-equipped to lead through crisis situations.

Other scriptures to read that highlight this gift:

1 Timothy 3:1-13, 5:17, Hebrews 13:17, 1 Thessalonians 5:12

O. MERCY

All Christians are called to be merciful because God has been merciful to us. The Greek word for the spiritual gift of mercy is *eleeo*. It means to be patient and compassionate toward those who are suffering or afflicted. The concern for the physical as well as spiritual need of those who are hurting is covered by the gift of mercy. Those with this gift have great empathy for others in their trials and sufferings. They are able to come alongside people over extended periods of time and see them through their healing process. They are truly and literally the hands and feet of God to the afflicted.

The Holy Spirit gives the spiritual gift of mercy to some in the church to love and assist those who are suffering, and walk with them until The Lord allows their burden to be lifted. The gift of mercy is founded in God's mercy towards us as sinners and is consistently expressed with measurable compassion. Those with this gift are able to "weep with those who weep" (Romans 12:15) and "bear one another's burdens" (Galatians 6:2). They are sensitive to the feelings and circumstances of others and can quickly discern when someone is not doing well. They are typically good listeners and feel the need to simply "be there" for others.

Other scriptures to read that highlight this gift:

Matthew 9:35-36, Mark 9:41, 1 Thessalonians 5:14, Romans 12:8, Matthew 5:7; Luke 10:30-37; James 3:17; Jude 22-23

P. MIRACLES

The spiritual gift of miracles is described in Scripture much like the gift of healing. It is found in 1 Corinthians 12:10 and the Greek phrase *energemata dynameon* literally translates “workings of powers.” The double plural most likely means that these gifts were diverse and were not permanently available at the will of the gifted believer, but instead were bestowed at various times and circumstances. Thus, the gifts are subject to the divine will of God and His purposes and are not decided by the one who performs the miraculous works.

Those with the spiritual gift of miracles often have a heightened sensitivity to the presence and power of God through His Holy Spirit. They have a special measure of faith and desire for God to reveal Himself and draw many to faith in His Son Jesus Christ. They take care not to draw attention to themselves or have a following of people, but are constantly pointing others to Jesus. Those with this gift understand that God is Sovereign and He can work when and how He desires, but they make sure they are available and listening to the prompting of the Holy Spirit. This gift is often accompanied by prayer and strong petition by these individuals for God to reveal His glory to people. They do not claim power themselves, but always give credit and glory to God for His mighty works. Often God will deliberately humble them to keep them relying on His grace and pointing to His Son, rather than miracles.

Other scriptures to read that highlight this gift:

Acts 9:36-42, 19:11-12, 20:7-12; Romans 15:18-19, 28, John 20:30-31, Acts 2:22, Acts 1:8; Galatians 3:5

Q. MISSIONARY

The gift of missions is the divine strength or ability to reach others outside of your culture and nationality, while in most cases living in that culture or nation.

Other scriptures to read that highlight this gift:

Acts 8:4, 13:2-3, 22:21; Romans 10:15

R. MUSIC/WORSHIP

The gift of music/worship is the divine strength or ability to sing, dance, or play an instrument primarily for the purpose of helping others worship God.

Other scriptures to read that highlight this gift:

Deuteronomy 31:22; 1 Samuel 16:16; 1 Chronicles 16:41-42; 2 Chronicles 5:12-13, 34:12; Psalm 150

S. PASTOR/SHEPHERD

The spiritual gift of pastor or pastor/shepherd is one that carries many different responsibilities. This gift is closely related to the spiritual gifts of leadership and teaching. The Greek word for pastor is *poimen* and simply means shepherd or overseer.

The Holy Spirit gives the spiritual gift of pastor to some in the church to humbly teach them, guide them, protect them, and to lead them in the mission that God has for His church, namely the Great Commission. The pastor loves the Gospel of Jesus Christ and

puts it at the center of his life and ministry. Pastors do not seek fame or recognition for themselves, but they are placed in a position of authority by the Holy Spirit. The role of a pastor is one of humility and service as he is reminded daily of his overwhelming need of God's grace for the task at hand.

Other scriptures to read that highlight this gift:

John 10:1-18; Ephesians 4:11-14; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; 1 Peter 5:1-3, Ephesians 4:11; Jeremiah 3:15; Acts 20:28; John 10:11-18

T. PROPHECY

The spiritual gift of prophecy is an extraordinary and unique gift. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 14:1 to "Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy." This gift is a blessing to the church and should not be quenched or despised.

The Greek word for the gift of prophecy is propheteia which is the ability to receive a divinely inspired message and deliver it to others in the church. These messages can take the form of exhortation, correction, disclosure of secret sins, prediction of future events, comfort, inspiration, or other revelations given to equip and edify the body of Christ. Again, they do not constitute the authoritative Word of God, but are the human interpretation of the revelation that was received. They are spoken in human words through a human mind which is why they must be tested against the Scriptures (1 Thessalonians 5:20-21).

The Holy Spirit gives the gift of prophecy to some believers to make God's heart known and to edify the church. This gift is for the benefit of both believers and unbelievers and is a sign that God is truly among His church (1 Corinthians 14:22-25). Those with this gift are sensitive to both the prompting of the Holy Spirit and the needs of the church body. They should be humble and continually study the Scriptures in order to test these revelations before speaking them. When they do speak, they should allow and even expect others to weigh what is said against the Scriptures and interpret the message accordingly.

Other scriptures to read that highlight this gift:

Acts 2:37-40, 7:51-53, 26:24-29; 1 Corinthians 14:4, 26, Romans 12:6, 1 Corinthians 12:10, 14:1-5, Ephesians 4:11-12, 1 Peter 4:10-11.

U. SERVICE

The spiritual gift of service, or ministering, covers a wide range of activities in its application. There are two Greek words for this gift. The first one, found in Romans 12:7, is diakonia. The basic meaning of this word is "to wait tables," but it is most often translated in the Bible as "ministry." It refers to any act of service done in genuine love for the edification of the community. The word antilepsis is translated "helping" and is found in 1 Corinthians 12:28. It has a similar meaning: to help or aid in love within the community.

The Holy Spirit endows some believers with this gift to fill the many gaps of ministry and meet the needs of the church as it fulfills the Great Commission. The goal is to energize the church and free up others to use their gifts to the fullest. The result is the continued edification of the church and the added ability to see beyond its own needs and reach out into the community.

Those with the gift of service are committed to the spread of the Gospel. They serve in ways that benefit others with different gifts and ministries that are more public. They have a heart devoted to Jesus and a desire to follow His command. Those with this gift do not seek recognition or a position in the “spotlight,” they just love to help out. They are content with serving in the background knowing that their contribution will bless the church, display the love of Christ to the world, and bring glory to God.

Other scriptures to read that highlight this gift:

Galatians 6:10; 1 Timothy 1:16-18; Titus 3:14, Romans 12:7, 1 Corinthians 12:4-7; 28, Acts 20:35; 2 Timothy 4:11; Revelation 2:19

V. TEACHING

The spiritual gift of teaching is one that carries a heavy responsibility in the church. In fact, James 3:1 warns, “Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.” Like every believer, teachers are to be stewards of every word that comes out of their mouths. But the greater responsibility to which they are called is to be stewards of the Word of God to His people. Teachers have been entrusted with the task of effectively communicating what the Bible says, what it means, and how we as followers of Jesus Christ are to apply it to our lives here and now.

The Holy Spirit gives certain people the spiritual gift of teaching so that they would help the church fulfill her ministry as “a pillar and buttress of the truth” (1 Timothy 3:15). Teachers are there to make sure that doesn’t happen. They hate when Scripture is abused and used out of context or with ill intent. They love the truth and speak the truth in love. They will never hide or withhold it. They are called to demonstrate God’s love while revealing His truth to the world without fear. The effect of their ministry is the upholding of God’s Word and the growth and maturity of His Bride until the day of His return.

Other scriptures to read that highlight this gift:

Acts 18:24-28, 20:20-21; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 4:11-14, Ephesians 4:11; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Romans 12:7; James 3:1

W. TONGUES (AND INTERPRETATION)

The spiritual gift of tongues is more accurately called the gift of languages. The Greek word for tongues is glossa, or glossolalia, which literally means “tongue.” When it is used in the New Testament addressing the subject of spiritual gifts it carries the contextual meaning of “languages.” Speaking in tongues is the utterance of prayer or of a message glorifying God, typically spoken to God (1 Corinthians 14:2), in a language that is unknown to the one speaking it.

The Holy Spirit gives some believers the spiritual gift of tongues to glorify God and, with the help of an interpreter, to edify the church. This gift is dealt with extensively in the Scriptures and its use should not be discouraged. That said, it should be used properly with pure motives and intentions, of course in the power and prompting of the Holy Spirit.

Other scriptures to read that highlight this gift:

Acts 2:1-13; 1 Corinthians 12:10, 14:1-14, 1 Corinthians 12:10, 30, 39, Acts 2:4, Acts 19:6.

X. WISDOM

The spiritual gift of wisdom, like the gift of knowledge, is also referred to as the “word of wisdom” or “utterance of wisdom.” The Greek word for wisdom is sophia and it refers to the intimate understanding of God’s Word and His commandments which results in holy and upright living. In the context of 1 Corinthians 12:8, it means to speak to the life of an individual or to a specific situation with great understanding and a righteous perspective, with the goal of guiding others toward a life of holiness and worship.

The Holy Spirit gives some the spiritual gift of wisdom to not only impart the truth and understanding to believers, but to invoke a response of holiness and worship lived out in the world and amongst God’s people. Wisdom doesn’t end with knowledge, but is expressed in transformed hearts and lives.

Those with the gift of wisdom have a deep understanding of the holiness of God and the lack of holiness in their own hearts. They can recognize this in others as well and have the compassion and boldness to share that truth with them. They are able to take from their own life experiences and share what God has taught them through those things. They can easily recognize where a decision or action may lead and can warn against those that may be harmful or unfruitful. They can often see through the confusion of a situation and can give direction that would help an individual or group obtain a God-glorifying goal. The church needs those with the spiritual gift of wisdom to guide her through uncertain or difficult times.

Other scriptures to read that highlight this gift:

Acts 6:3,10; 1 Corinthians 2:6-13, 12:8, 1 Corinthians 1:17-31, 2:1-16, 12:8; Colossians 1:9-10, 2:1-3; James 3:13-18