



Equipped Disciples Resource Series

Spiritual Gifts Inventory List

The subject of spiritual gifts is often misunderstood. What are spiritual gifts, and how does God use them within His Church? They are abilities given to individual Christians by the Holy Spirit that enable them to participate in His work and His mission on earth. Each person who has trusted Christ as their Lord and Savior has at least one spiritual gift, and we read in Hebrews 2:4 that the 'gifts of the Holy Spirit are distributed according to his will.'

Spiritual gifts are different from natural talents in that a natural talent is a physical ability to do some activities better than others, like musical ability, mechanical aptitude or artistic skills. God can use these too, but a spiritual gift is a spiritual ability. Interestingly, natural talents are often the mode by which spiritual gifts can be used. For example, someone with a mechanical aptitude may have the spiritual gift of evangelism and while helping someone with a car repair, he or she may very naturally use that opportunity to have a spiritual conversation with the person who is being helped.

There are three main passages of Scripture that lay out for us the spiritual gifts that God gives to us as we accept Christ. Hopefully this resource will help you to discover what your spiritual gifts may be.

Below you will find each spiritual gift located under the heading of each of the passages where it is found, so that if you would want to read about them in the Bible, you'll know where they are found.

I Corinthians 12:8

Wisdom - to apply knowledge to life in such a way as to make spiritual truths quite relevant and practical in proper decision-making and daily life situations.

Knowledge - to seek to learn as much about the Bible as possible through the gathering of much information and the analysis of that data.

I Corinthians 12:9

Faith - to be firmly persuaded of God's power and promises to accomplish His will and purpose and to display such a confidence in Him and His Word that circumstances and obstacles do not shake that conviction.

Healing - to be used as a means through which God makes people whole either physically, emotionally, mentally, or spiritually.

I Corinthians 12:10

Miraculous Powers – This spiritual gift is different than healing, in that those with this gift can bring about supernatural events that occur outside the bounds of what is natural. Casting out of demons and raising people from the dead may be a couple of biblical examples. (And before you cast this gift aside as inactive in modern times, I have heard of multiple stories of these types of events continuing to happen in our ministry in China).

Prophecy - to speak forth the message of God to His people.

Distinguishing Between Spirits (sometimes referred to as Discernment) - to clearly distinguish truth from error by judging whether the behavior or teaching is from God, Satan, human error, or human power.

Speaking in tongues - to speak in a language not previously learned through one's own human efforts, for the purpose of allowing unbelievers to hear God's message in their own language or the Church to be edified.

I Corinthians 12:28

Helps - to render support or assistance to others in the body so as to free them for ministry to others. Those with this gift often seem to know just the right thing to do to be of greatest assistance.

Administration- to steer the body toward the accomplishment of God-given goals and directives by planning, organizing, and supervising others.

I Corinthians 14

Speaking in Tongues- See note above from I Corinthians 12. For this to be a biblical spiritual gift, someone must be present who is able to interpret the language.

I Corinthians 14:7

Service - to identify undone tasks in God's work, however menial, and use available resources to get the jobs done.

Teaching - to instruct others in the Bible in a logical, systematic way so as to communicate pertinent information for true understanding and growth.

I Corinthians 14:8

Encouraging (sometimes referred to as Exhortation) – to sense someone's need for encouragement and then come alongside someone with words of comfort, consolation, and counsel to help them be all God wants them to be.

Contributing to the needs of others - to willingly share one's material resources with liberality and cheerfulness, and without thought of being repaid.

Leadership - to stand before people in such a way as to attend to the direction of the church body with such care and diligence so as to motivate others to get involved in the accomplishment of these goals.

Mercy – spiritual sensitivity toward those who are suffering, whether physically, mentally, or emotionally, so as to feel genuine sympathy with their misery, speaking words of compassion and caring for them with deeds of love to help alleviate their distress.

Ephesians 4:11

Apostleship (sometimes referred to as Missionary, although I'm not personally a fan of that designation) – 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.

Prophecy - to speak forth the message of God to His people.

Evangelism - to be a gifted messenger of the good news of the Gospel.

Pastor - to be responsible for spiritually caring for, protecting, guiding, and teaching a group of believers entrusted to one's care.

