

Spiritual Gifts

TEACHING NOTES

 **God's design and plan (1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 1 Peter 4:10)**

 **How do I go about using my spiritual gifts? (Galatians 5:13, 25)**

KEY VERSES

1 Corinthians 12:4-7; 1 Peter 4:10

KEY THEMES

Spiritual gifts are given to build up the body of Christ; God's plans involve surrendered people

INTRODUCTION

INNOCENCE

CONSCIENCE

HUMAN GOVT.

PROMISE

LAW

GRACE

What spiritual gift(s) do I have?

Lesson Objective: *To understand how God has equipped every believer with at least one spiritual gift to be used for His purposes and for the edification of the body of Christ.*

Spiritual Gift	Description	Reference Verses	Biblical Examples
Administration	The gift of Administration is the God-given ability to understand what makes an organization function and the special ability to plan and execute procedures that accomplish the goals of the group or organization	1 Corinthians 12:28	Exodus 18:13-25 Acts 6:1-7
Discernment	The gift of Discernment is the God-given ability to distinguish between truth and error. It is being able to discern the difference between good and evil, right and wrong, truth and deception.	1 Corinthians 12:10	Acts 15:1-35 1 John 4:1-6
Encouragement	The gift of Encouragement is the God-given ability to present words of comfort, consolation, and encouragement so as to strengthen or urge to action those who are discouraged or wavering in their faith.	Romans 12:8	Acts 11:22-24 Acts 15:30-32 Ephesians 5:19 Colossians 3:16
Evangelism	The gift of Evangelism is the God-given ability to effectively communicate the Gospel to nonbelievers so they respond in faith and move toward discipleship.	Ephesians 4:11-12	Acts 8:5-6 Acts 14:21
Faith	The gift of Faith is the God-given ability to act on God's promises with confidence and unwavering belief in God's ability to fulfill his purposes.	1 Corinthians 12:9 1 Corinthians 13:2 Hebrews 11:1	Romans 4:19-21 2 Timothy 1:5 Hebrews 11
Giving	The gift of Giving is the God-given ability to contribute money and resources to the work of the Lord with cheerfulness and generosity	Romans 12:8	Luke 21:1-4 John 12:3-8 2 Corinthians 8:1-7 2 Corinthians 9:2-8
Helps	The gift of Helps is the God-given ability to accomplish practical and necessary behind-the-scenes tasks, which frees up, supports, and meets the needs of others.	1 Corinthians 12:28	Acts 9:36 Romans 12:7 Romans 16:1-2

Spiritual Gift	Description	Reference Verses	Biblical Examples
Hospitality	The gift of Hospitality is the God-given ability to care for people by fostering environments where people feel valued and cared for.	Romans 12:13 1 Peter 4:9-10	Matthew 8:15 Luke 10:38 Acts 16:13-15
Intercession	The gift of Intercession is the God-given ability to consistently pray on behalf of and for others, seeing frequent and specific results.	Romans 8:26-27 James 5:13-16	Luke 1:5-23 Acts 12:12-17 Colossians 1:9-12 Colossians 4:12-13
Knowledge	The gift of Knowledge is the God-given ability to learn, analyze, and uncover insights from the Bible that are pertinent to the growth and well-being of the church.	1 Corinthians 12:8	Acts 18:24-28 1 Corinthians 11:6 1 Corinthians 14:6
Leadership	The gift of Leadership is the God-given ability to cast vision, motivate, and direct people to harmoniously accomplish the purposes of God.	Romans 12:8	1 Timothy 5:17 Hebrews 13:17 1 Peter 5:1-4
Mercy	The gift of Mercy is the God-given ability to feel deeply for those in physical, spiritual, or emotional need and then demonstrate actions to meet those needs.	Romans 12:8	Matthew 25:34-40 Mark 9:41 Luke 10:30-37
Prophecy	The gift of Prophecy is the God-given ability to reveal God's truth and proclaim it in a timely and relevant manner for understanding, correction, repentance, or edification.	Romans 12:6 1 Corinthians 12:10 1 Corinthians 12:28 1 Corinthians 13:2 Ephesians 4:11-13	2 Samuel 12:1-25 Acts 15:32 Acts 21:10-14
Shepherding	The gift of Shepherding is the God-given ability to show concern for the spiritual welfare of an individual or small group of Christ-followers by nurturing and guiding them toward ongoing spiritual maturity.	Ephesians 4:11-12	Acts 6:1-6 1 Corinthians 4:15-16 1 Peter 5:1-4 1 Timothy 3:1-13
Teaching	The gift of Teaching is the God-given ability to understand, clearly explain, and apply the Word of God in such a way that it is clearly understood by others.	Romans 12:7 1 Corinthians 12:28-29	Acts 14:1-3 Acts 18:24-28
Wisdom	The gift of Wisdom is the God-given ability to apply spiritual truth effectively to meet a need in a specific situation.	1 Corinthians 12:8	Proverbs 2-4 1 Corinthians 2:3-5 James 3:13-18 2 Peter 3:15-16

PERSONAL STUDY**Study 1****Prepare your heart and mind**

Open up your Bible and read 1 Peter 4:8-10. Give yourself a few minutes to prepare your heart and mind by reflecting on these verses.

God's design and plan

"Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives."
—Galatians 5:25

There is a deeper purpose for living, found only when we follow the Spirit's leading. As we surrender, God's Spirit shows us what has been there all along—the opportunities and relationships where we can use our spiritual gifts to bring Him glory.

Describe a time in your life when you felt a greater sense of meaning and purpose.

How did you get to play a part or make a contribution in that season, relationship, or event?

What opportunities or relationships might God be calling you to invest more in today?

The gifts and the Giver

"There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all."
—1 Corinthians 12:4

In our culture, we're losing the sense of connection between the gift and the giver. At Christmas, more presents are bought with the click-of-a-button than are hand-crafted by the giver themselves. You can even have a stranger wrap your gifts for you. For this reason, we may struggle to understand that God's gifts are not detached from Him. When God gave us spiritual gifts, His intention was (and is) for us to use them in service to Him and His church, and for us to understand that He is with us as we use our spiritual gifts. As we begin to appreciate

the connection between the gifts of the Spirit and the One who gives them, our gratitude to God for these gifts will come naturally.

When have you received a hand-crafted gift made especially for you? Did receiving this gift feel different than receiving a store-bought present? Why or why not?

In what ways do you think your relationship is changed when someone gives you something with extra care and intention?

God gives with no strings attached. We have the freedom to use our gifts for Him or not. What are some reasons why we would not want to use our gifts for His glory? What are a few reasons why we would or should use our gifts for His glory?

Building up the Body

“For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don’t use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love.” –Galatians 5:13

We live in a world that tends to believe that if everyone would just carry and pull their own weight, we’d be able to carry on with our happy lives. This, however, is not God’s plan for the church. God’s desire is for the church to be closer to a team or a family. We are meant to work in concert with one another, to build each other up, and to build up the church so that the world can see there is more to life than carrying your load well.

How have you been tempted to believe that you’re supposed to be self-sufficient?

What are a few ways you could use your spiritual gifts to build others up?

Key verse

Put to memory 1 Peter 4:10. Place the provided card somewhere you'll see it throughout the day so you can be frequently reminded of the truth of God's Word.

God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.

Prayer time

As you close out this time of study, thank God for all the ways we can experience and share His love by using the spiritual gifts He has given us. Thank Him for the sense of His presence, but also the meaning, gratitude, and sense of community we will find as we engage in service to Him and the Church with our gifts.

Study 2

The following personal study coincides with the Spiritual Gifts Discovery Assessment you should have already taken last week. If you have not completed this assessment, please do so now.

Prepare your heart and mind

As you prepare to learn more about spiritual gifts, pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal a fuller vision of how God intends to use your gifting in building the body of Christ. Ask God to help you surrender to His purposes and plans while you explore your God-given abilities.

Growing into your giftedness

As Christ followers, we have a responsibility to identify, develop, and use the spiritual gifts that have been given to us by God. As we pursue understanding our giftedness, we grow into the fullness of who God wants us to be.

Using the results of the *Spiritual Gifts Discovery Assessment*, what were your highest scoring gifts?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Using the *Individual Profile Sheets*, found at the end of this week's handouts, spend some time exploring 1 or 2 of the gifts listed above. Read through the sheets and highlight areas that are true of you and your experiences.

Do you feel the identified characteristics of your gift fit with who you are? Why or why not?

Next, using the Spiritual Gift chart, found between this week's session notes and the first personal study, look up the scriptures that reference where your gift is identified in the Bible, as well as the biblical examples.

Is there anything new you learned?

What ministries are you currently involved in that are in line with your gifting?

Are there any ministries you are involved in that you feel you may not be especially gifted for?

Has this opened your mind to possibly getting involved in an area of ministry more suited to your giftedness? If so, what are they?

Another great way to process your gifts is to discuss your findings with other believers who know you. What giftings do they see in you? Share with them your results. Are they surprised by any results or do they recognize your gifts? Record their comments below.

Key verse

Continue working to memorize 1 Peter 4:10. Attempt to write it out from memory now in the space below:

Prayer time

Because your gift comes from the Holy Spirit, take some time to allow Him to speak to all that you have read and studied. Ask the Holy Spirit to continue to reveal to you how He wants you to use your giftedness.

PARENT GUIDE

Have a discussion with your kids about how God has gifted each one of us. Here are some questions and statements to talk through:

What's the best gift you've ever gotten?

Why do you think people give gifts?

Did you know that God has given us each special gifts?

1 Corinthians 12:7 says that God has given us each the ability to help others.

How do you help? At school? At home? With your friends?

Who benefits when we help?

What happens when we don't help?

Read the story of the boy sharing his meal with the people listening to Jesus in John 6:5-13. Then discuss the story using the prompts below:

What happened because the boy was willing to help?

What would have happened if he didn't help?

Is it ever hard for you to be willing to help? Why?

God wants to help other people as we are willing to use the talents He has given us.

End your time of discussion in prayer.

The Spiritual Gift of Administration

Definition

The gift of Administration is the God-given ability to understand what makes an organization function and the special ability to plan and execute procedures that accomplish the goals of the group or organization.

Gifts in Action

Aaron, Moses' brother, demonstrated this gift. God used him to execute the details of the departure plan when the Israelites left Egypt for the Promised Land. Moses provided the visionary leadership, and Aaron made it happen!

Scripture References for Administration

- 1 Corinthians 12:28
- Acts 6:1-7
- Exodus 18:13-25

People With This Gift Like to...

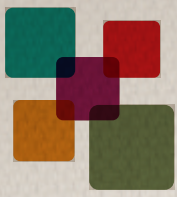
- Develop strategies or plans to reach identified goals.
- Organize people, tasks, or events.
- Assist ministries to become more effective and efficient.

Characteristics of People With Administration

- Thorough
- Objective
- Responsible
- Organized
- Goal-oriented
- Efficient
- Conscientious

Potential Ways to Use the Gift of Administration

- Member of a planning team, committee, or board
- Administrative assistant
- Event organizer
- Chairperson of a group
- Data management



The Spiritual Gift of Discernment

**SPIRITUAL GIFTS
DISCOVERY**

equip to serve

Definition

The gift of Discernment is the God-given ability to distinguish between truth and error. It is being able to discern the difference between good and evil, right and wrong, truth and deception.

Gifts in Action

While on a mission trip in Philippi, Paul met a slave girl who was earning money for her owner by predicting the future. Paul was able to discern that her ability was not from God but an evil spirit. This gift helped him expose the deception that led people to believe in fortunetelling and superstition.

Scripture References for Discernment

- 1 Corinthians 12:10
- Acts 5:1-4
- Romans 9:1

People With This Gift Like to...

- Identify deception in others with accuracy and appropriateness.
- Sense the presence of ungodly forces.
- Recognize inconsistencies in a biblical teaching or message.

Characteristics of People With Discernment

- Perceptive
- Insightful
- Intuitive
- Sensitive
- Truthful
- Decisive

Potential Ways to Use the Gift of Discernment

- Member of a decision-making team, committee, or board
- Church officer or board of directors member
- Counseling
- Advisor to those who make ministry decisions

The Spiritual Gift of Encouragement

Definition

The gift of Encouragement is the God-given ability to present words of comfort, consolation, and encouragement so as to strengthen or urge to action those who are discouraged or wavering in their faith.

Gifts in Action

Barnabas, a respected leader of the early church, was nicknamed “son of encouragement.” He traveled with Paul on his first missionary journey. He supported, encouraged, and affirmed Paul when others sought to harm him. When we encourage others, it builds them up to utilize their full potential for ministry.

Scripture References for Encouragement

- Romans 12:8
- Acts 11:22-24
- Acts 15:30-32

People With This Gift Like to...

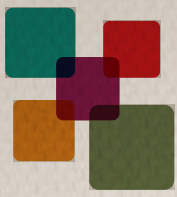
- Comfort others to trust and hope in the promises of God.
- Motivate others to grow in personal and spiritual development.
- Urge others to action by applying biblical truth.

Characteristics of People With Encouragement

- Positive
- Motivating
- Affirming
- Reassuring
- Supportive
- Trustworthy

Potential Ways to Use the Gift of Encouragement

- Visiting the sick or elderly
- Counseling
- Hospitality team member
- Prayer ministry



The Spiritual Gift of Evangelism

Definition

The gift of Evangelism is the God-given ability to effectively communicate the Gospel to nonbelievers so they respond in faith and move toward discipleship.

Scripture References for Evangelism

- Ephesians 4:11
- Acts 8:5-6
- Acts 14:21

People With This Gift Like to...

- Communicate the message of Christ with clarity and conviction.
- Seek out opportunities to talk about spiritual matters with those outside the Christian faith.
- Participate in conversations that allow for questions and dialogue about God.

Characteristics of People With Evangelism

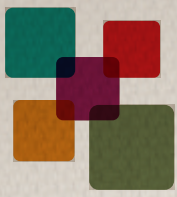
- Sincere
- Candid
- Influential
- Confident
- Commitment-oriented

Potential Ways to Use the Gift of Evangelism

- Outreach events
- Mission trips
- Activities which involve people who are new to the Christian faith
- Personal faith-sharing in conversational settings

Gifts in Action

John, the son of Zebedee and brother of James, worked actively with Peter in missionary events and travels after the death of Jesus. He actively shared his faith during his travels. Five books of the New Testament are believed to have been written by John, showing how his efforts to evangelize extended to his writing as well.



The Spiritual Gift of Faith

Definition

The gift of Faith is the God-given ability to act on God's promises with confidence and unwavering belief in God's ability to fulfill his purposes.

Gifts in Action

Lois, the grandmother of Timothy, was known for her great faith. Paul's letter to Timothy commended her for raising him in a home that demonstrated sincere belief. Living your faith in daily life impacts the spiritual growth of others. (2 Timothy 1:5)

Scripture References for Faith

- 1 Corinthians 12:9
- 1 Corinthians 13:2
- Romans 4:19-21

People With This Gift Like to...

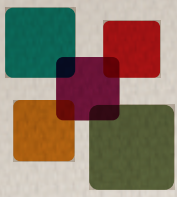
- Act in complete confidence of God's ability to overcome obstacles.
- Advance the mission of Christ because they'll step out in action when others are doubtful.
- Ask God for what is needed and have complete trust that those needs will be met.

Characteristics of People With Faith

- Prayerful
- Optimistic
- Trusting
- Assured
- Inspiring
- Hopeful
- Positive

Potential Ways to Use the Gift of Faith

- Prayer ministry
- Teaching the Christian faith
- Children or youth leader
- Mission work



The Spiritual Gift of Giving

Definition

The gift of Giving is the God-given ability to contribute money and resources to the work of the Lord with cheerfulness and generosity.

Gifts in Action

Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus, demonstrated this gift at a supper for Jesus in Bethany. She donated a very expensive jar of perfume to pour on the feet of Jesus as an act of love and devotion. Her sacrificial giving was criticized by Judas who selfishly wanted to keep the money. Mary's act of giving provided comfort and support to the One who gave his life for us all. (John 12:3-8)

Scripture References for Giving

- Romans 12:8
- 2 Corinthians 6:8
- Luke 21:1-4

People With This Gift Like to...

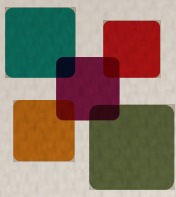
- Manage their finances and limit their lifestyle in order to donate as much of their resources as possible.
- Meet tangible needs so that spiritual growth in others can develop.
- Support the work of ministry with sacrificial gifts in order to advance the work of the church.

Characteristics of People With Giving

- Resourceful
- Responsible
- Stewardship-oriented
- Charitable
- Disciplined

Potential Ways to Use the Gift of Giving

- Provide support for missionaries
- Establish trust accounts and foundations to provide ongoing resources for ministry
- Share testimonies of how God has provided for your needs
- Assist with fundraising projects



The Spiritual Gift of Helps

Definition

The gift of Helps is the God-given ability to accomplish practical and necessary behind-the-scenes tasks, which frees up, supports, and meets the needs of others.

Gifts in Action

Phoebe was known for her acts of helping and serving. She supported the faith community in any way possible. She was highly regarded in the church, and Paul commended the help she gave him when he wrote his letter to the Romans. (Romans 16:1-2)

Scripture References for Helps

- 1 Corinthians 12:28
- Romans 12:7
- Acts 9:36

People With This Gift Like to...

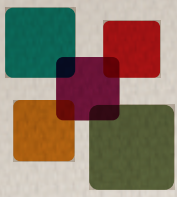
- Serve behind the scenes wherever needed.
- See the tangible and practical things that need to be done to complete a task or project—and enjoy doing them.
- Associate spiritual value with practical service.

Characteristics of People With Helps

- Willing
- Reliable
- Loyal
- Dependable
- Helpful
- “Whatever-it-takes” attitude

Potential Ways to Use the Gift of Helps

- Office helper
- Teacher’s assistant
- Service projects
- Assistance to church visitors



The Spiritual Gift of Hospitality

Definition

The gift of Hospitality is the God-given ability to care for people by providing friendly reception, food, and lodging.

Gifts in Action

Lydia made her living selling purple cloth and dyed goods in the city of Thyatira. After Paul presented the Gospel she became a believer in Jesus. She volunteered to host Paul and his companions during his missionary journey to Philippi, insisting they stay at her home as long as they wanted. Her gracious hospitality freed Paul from having to find lodging and preparing meals while doing his mission work. (Acts 16:13-15)

Scripture References for Hospitality

- 1 Peter 4:9-10
- Romans 12:13
- Luke 10:38

People With This Gift Like to...

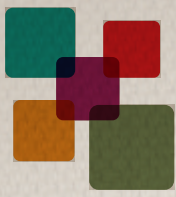
- Provide an environment where people feel valued and cared for.
- Seek ways to connect people together into meaningful relationships.
- Set people at ease in unfamiliar surroundings.

Characteristics of People With Hospitality

- Friendly
- Gracious
- Inviting
- Trusting
- Caring
- Responsive
- Warm

Potential Ways to Use the Gift of Hospitality

- Host a small group Bible study
- Provide food for church meals (funerals, receptions, special events)
- Serve meals at a local soup kitchen or food pantry
- Be a member of the guest services team (usher, greeter, etc.)
- Prepare coffee for church services and events



The Spiritual Gift of Intercession

Definition

The gift of Intercession is the God-given ability to consistently pray on behalf of and for others, seeing frequent and specific results.

Gifts in Action

Zacharias was a priest and the father of John the Baptist. His wife, Elizabeth, was related to Mary, the mother of Jesus, and described as “barren” because she never had a child. Her condition didn’t stop Zacharias from praying daily for a child. He prayed for many years until finally, in his old age, an angel announced that he and Elizabeth would have a son. (Luke 1:5-23)

Scripture References for Intercession

- Romans 8:26-27
- Colossians 1:9-12
- Colossians 4:12-13

People With This Gift Like to...

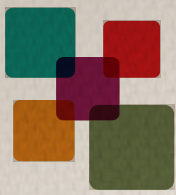
- Earnestly pray on behalf of someone or some cause.
- Set a daily time to pray for spiritual victories over the challenges and obstacles of life.
- Pray in response to a leading from God, whether understood or not.

Characteristics of People With Intercession

- Advocate
- Sincere
- Trustworthy
- Burden-bearer
- Spiritually sensitive

Potential Ways to Use the Gift of Intercession

- Join a prayer group
- Pray for the needs of your congregation and its people
- Become a prayer partner of your pastor or a church leader
- Participate in the National Day of Prayer



The Spiritual Gift of Knowledge

Definition

The gift of Knowledge is the God-given ability to learn, analyze, and uncover insights from the Bible that are pertinent to the growth and well-being of the church.

Gifts in Action

The people who lived in Berea of Macedonia were known for their thirst for biblical knowledge. These “Bereans” were considered “more noble” than the Christ-followers in Thessalonica because they examined Scripture every day to verify what Paul was teaching. They used this gift to provide direction to those who were searching for the true God.

Scripture References for Knowledge

- 1 Corinthians 12:8
- 1 Corinthians 14:6
- 2 Corinthians 11:6

People With This Gift Like to...

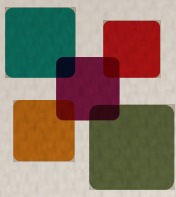
- Research the Bible for insight, understanding, and truth.
- Organize information for teaching and practical and personal use.
- Come up with biblical solutions for life’s challenges.

Characteristics of People With Knowledge

- Inquisitive
- Observant
- Insightful
- Reflective
- Studious
- Truthful

Potential Ways to Use the Gift of Knowledge

- Member of a decision-making team, committee, or board
- Church officer or board of directors member
- Counseling
- Teaching
- Provide research for those who present biblical messages



The Spiritual Gift of Leadership

Definition

The gift of Leadership is the God-given ability to cast vision, motivate, and direct people to harmoniously accomplish the purposes of God.

Gifts in Action

Moses was one of the greatest leaders of God's people. God appointed him to free the children of Israel from bondage in Egypt and lead them to the land of promise in Canaan. Moses was successful in his mission despite the challenges he faced from the pharaoh and the doubts and fears of the people he was leading.

Scripture References for Leadership

- Romans 12:8
- 1 Timothy 5:17
- Hebrews 13:17

People With This Gift Like to...

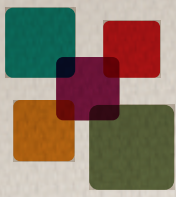
- Motivate others to perform to the best of their abilities.
- Take responsibility, cast a vision, and establish goals.
- Provide direction for God's people or ministry.

Characteristics of People With Leadership

- Influential
- Visionary
- Persuasive
- Motivating
- Goal setter

Potential Ways to Use the Gift of Leadership

- Team or ministry leader
- Small-group Bible study leader
- Church leadership board or council
- Children or youth leader



The Spiritual Gift of Mercy

Definition

The gift of Mercy is the God-given ability to feel deeply for those in physical, spiritual, or emotional need and then demonstrate actions to meet those needs.

Gifts in Action

A man from Samaria became the hero of a story Jesus told to answer the question “Who is my neighbor?” The parable tells of how a man on the road to Jericho was attacked by robbers and left to die. Both a priest and Levite passed by without helping, but a “certain Samaritan” took pity on the wounded traveler and gave him aid. This story demonstrates how those gifted in Mercy have compassion that seeks to help anyone in need. (Luke 10:30-37)

Scripture References for Mercy

- Romans 12:8
- Mark 9:41
- Matthew 25:34-40

People With This Gift Like to...

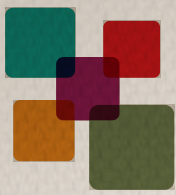
- Alleviate the source of pain or discomfort in suffering people.
- Concern themselves with issues that cause harm to or oppress people.
- Address the needs of the lonely, neglected, or forgotten.

Characteristics of People With Mercy

- Empathetic
- Caring
- Responsive
- Kind
- Compassionate
- Sensitive

Potential Ways to Use the Gift of Mercy

- Hospital or shut-in visitation
- Homeless ministry
- Food bank assistance
- Involvement in recovery programs, prison ministry, or social justice causes



The Spiritual Gift of Prophecy

**SPIRITUAL GIFTS
DISCOVERY**
equip to serve

Definition

The gift of Prophecy is the God-given ability to reveal God's truth and proclaim it in a timely and relevant manner for understanding, correction, repentance, or edification.

Gifts in Action

Paul was transformed by God from a persecutor of Christians to a preacher for Christ. During his public ministry he made three missionary journeys in which he challenged people to live more fully for God. Paul drew from his background, training, and life experiences to proclaim the Gospel in such a way that it was easily understood and accepted. He was not afraid to expose the things that were contrary to God's Word. His preaching and writing inspired people to live for Christ.

Scripture References for Prophecy

- Romans 12:6
- 1 Corinthians 12:10,28
- 1 Corinthians 13:2

People With This Gift Like to...

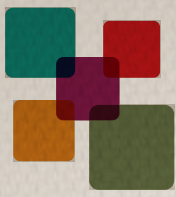
- See a truth that others often fail to see and challenge them to respond.
- Understand God's heart and mind through life experiences.
- Expose sin or deception in others for the purpose of making things right.

Characteristics of People With Prophecy

- Discerning
- Compelling
- Uncompromising
- Authoritative
- Confronting
- Convicting

Potential Ways to Use the Gift of Prophecy

- Sunday school/Bible teacher
- Spiritual advisor
- Preaching
- Member of a board or council that sets future direction



The Spiritual Gift of Shepherding

**SPIRITUAL GIFTS
DISCOVERY**

equip to serve

Definition

The gift of Shepherding is the God-given ability to assume long-term personal responsibility for the spiritual welfare of an individual or small group of Christ-followers by nurturing and guiding them toward ongoing spiritual maturity.

Gifts in Action

With the rapid growth of the early church, it soon became apparent that help was needed to shepherd the people. One group needing extra attention was the widows. Some felt they were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. The disciples selected seven men to be responsible for this group of women. These seven were selected because they were “full of the Spirit and wisdom.” They demonstrated the gift of shepherding by establishing long-term care for this select group. The seven men chosen were Stephen, Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas of Antioch. (Acts 6:1-6)

Scripture References for Shepherding

- Ephesians 4:11-12
- 1 Peter 5:1-4
- 1 Timothy 3:1-13

People With This Gift Like to...

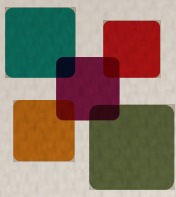
- Provide guidance and oversight to a small group of people.
- Establish trust and confidence through long-term relationships.
- Lead and protect those who are in their care.

Characteristics of People With Shepherding

- Nurturing
- Guiding
- Supportive
- Relational
- Influential

Potential Ways to Use the Gift of Shepherding

- Small group leader
- Youth leader
- Sunday school/Bible teacher
- College ministry



The Spiritual Gift of Teaching

Definition

The gift of Teaching is the God-given ability to understand, clearly explain, and apply the Word of God in such a way that it is clearly understood by others.

Gifts in Action

Paul took every opportunity to teach, write, preach, and communicate the Gospel. He's the author of 13 New Testament epistles whose content displays his ability for analytical thinking and clear communication. On his first missionary journey, Paul taught at Iconium and "spoke so effectively" that a large number of Jews and Gentiles started believing in God that day. (Acts 14:1-3)

Scripture References for Teaching

- Romans 12:7
- 1 Corinthians 12:28-29
- Acts 18:24-28

People With This Gift Like to...

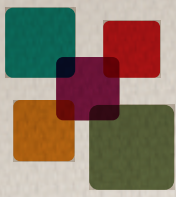
- Have extended times of study and reflection of God's Word.
- Challenge learners simply and practically with the truths of the Bible.
- Give attention to detail and accuracy.

Characteristics of People With Teaching

- Disciplined
- Perceptive
- Teachable
- Practical
- Analytical
- Articulate

Potential Ways to Use the Gift of Teaching

- Bible teacher to children, youth, or adults
- Teacher's assistant
- Small group leader/teacher
- Tutor
- Coach



The Spiritual Gift of Wisdom

Definition

The gift of Wisdom is the God-given ability to apply spiritual truth effectively to meet a need in a specific situation.

Gifts in Action

Philip, of Samaria, was recognized by his peers as having the gift of wisdom. This led to his selection as one of the seven deacons of the early church to oversee the distribution of food to widows. His service in this area enabled the apostles to focus on their ministry of proclaiming the Word of God. When each person serves in their area of gifting, it helps the church accomplish its mission.

Scripture References for Wisdom

- 1 Corinthians 12:8
- James 3:13-18
- 1 Corinthians 2:3-5

People With This Gift Like to...

- Focus on the unseen consequences in determining the next steps to take.
- Provide God-given solutions in the midst of conflict and confusion.
- Apply spiritual truth in specific and practical ways.

Characteristics of People With Wisdom

- Sensible
- Insightful
- Practical
- Wise
- Fair
- Experienced

Potential Ways to Use the Gift of Wisdom

- Member of a decision-making board or committee
- Counseling; mentoring; coaching
- Spiritual advisor