

Spiritual Gift Definitions and Scripture References

SERVICE – the gift of service is the special ability that God gives to members of the body of Christ to identify the unmet needs involved in a task related to God’s work, and to make use of available resources to meet those needs and help accomplish the desired goals. (Romans 12:7; Ephesians 6:5-9)

INTERCESSION –The gift of intercession is the desire and ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to pray consistently and specifically for others—often for extended periods of time—trusting by faith that God hears and will move in His time and in His way. (I Timothy 2:1-2; Colossians 1:9-12)

TEACHING – the gift of teaching is the special ability that God gives to members of the Body of Christ to communicate information relevant to the health and ministry of the Body and its members in such a way that others will learn. (Acts 13:1, 18:24-28; Romans 12:7; Ephesians 4:11)

HOSPITALITY – The gift of hospitality is the special ability that God gives to members of the Body of Christ to create spaces of comfort and care—whether by opening their home, offering a warm greeting, or helping people feel known and loved in the family of God. (Acts 16:15; Romans 12:9-13; Hebrews 13:1-2; I Peter 4:9)

LEADERSHIP –The gift of leadership is the special ability that God gives to members of the Body of Christ to clarify vision in line with God’s purposes and to inspire others to move toward that vision, working together willingly and wisely for the glory of God. (Acts 15:7-12; Romans 12:8; I Timothy 5:17)

FAITH –The gift of faith is the special ability that God gives to members of the Body of Christ to trust God’s promises with bold confidence and to see His purposes with clarity—even when the path forward may feel uncertain to others. (Acts 11:22-24, 27:21-25; I Corinthians 12:9)

ADMINISTRATION – the gift of administration is the special ability that God gives to members of the Body of Christ to understand clearly the immediate and long-range goals of a particular unit of the Body of Christ and to devise and execute effective plans for the accomplishment of those goals. (Acts 6:1-7; I Corinthians 12:28)

EVANGELIST – The gift of evangelism is the special ability that God gives to members of the Body of Christ to share the gospel with unbelievers in such a way that men and women become Jesus' disciples and responsible members of the Body of Christ. (Acts 8:5, 16:26-40, 21:8; Ephesians 4:11; II Timothy 4:5)

MISSIONARY – The gift of missionary is the special ability that God gives to members of the Body of Christ to use their spiritual gifts in a different culture—sharing the gospel, building relationships, and serving others for the sake of Christ—as well as to those who feel called to support this work through prayer, giving, encouragement, or sending. (Acts 8:4-5, 13:2-3, 22:21; I Corinthians 9:19-23; Ephesians 3:7-8)

WISDOM – the gift of wisdom is the special ability that God gives to members of the Body of Christ to know the mind of the Holy Spirit in such a way as to receive insight into how given knowledge may best be applied to specific needs arising in the Body of Christ. (Acts 6:3, 10; I Corinthians 12:8; James 1:5,6; II Peter 3:15)

HELPS –The gift of helping is the special ability that God gives to members of the Body of Christ to come alongside others with practical support, using their time and talents to strengthen someone's life or ministry, and to help them flourish in their God-given calling. (Romans 16:1-2; I Corinthians 12:28)

GIVING – the gift of giving is the special ability that God gives to members of the Body of Christ to contribute their material resources to the work of the Lord with liberality and cheerfulness. (II Corinthians 9:6-10)

DISCERNMENT – the gift of discernment is the special ability that God gives to members of the Body of Christ to know with assurance whether certain behavior purported to be of God is in reality divine, human or Satanic. (Acts 16:16-18; I Corinthians 12:10; I John 4:1-6)

SHEPHERDING – the gift of shepherding is the special ability that God gives to members of the Body of Christ to assume a long-term personal responsibility for the spiritual welfare of an individual or group of believers. (Ephesians 4:11; I Thessalonians 5:12; I Timothy 3:1-7)

EXHORTATION – The gift of exhortation is the special ability that God gives to members of the Body of Christ to speak words of encouragement, comfort, and counsel in such a way that others feel strengthened in their faith and supported in their struggles. (Acts 14:22; Romans 12:8; I Timothy 4:13; Hebrews 10:25)

KNOWLEDGE – the gift of knowledge is the special ability that God gives to members of the Body of Christ to discover, accumulate, analyze, and clarify information and ideas that are pertinent to the growth and well-being of the Body. (I Corinthians 12:8)

MERCY – the gift of mercy is the special ability that God gives to members of the Body of Christ to feel genuine empathy and compassion for individuals, both Christian and non-Christian, who suffer distressing physical, mental or emotional problems, and to translate that compassion into cheerfully done deeds that reflect Christ's love to help alleviate the suffering. (Acts 16:33-34; Matthew 5:7; Romans 12:8; Hebrews 4:16)