

Spiritual Gifts

Spiritual Gifts are *unique, Holy Spirit-given abilities granted to individual Christians for the purpose of building up the church and serving others*. The New Testament outlines these gifts primarily in Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, and Ephesians.

The definitions of the primary spiritual gifts, grouped logically for clarity, include:

Leadership & Administration

Leadership: The capacity to set goals, motivate others, and guide a church or ministry in fulfilling its mission with diligence and a servant's heart. *Ref: Romans 12:8*

Administration (Governments): The ability to organize, plan, and manage the details and long-term operations of a ministry so that it functions smoothly and effectively. *Ref: 1 Corinthians 12:28*

Apostleship: The ability to pioneer new ministries, plant churches in different contexts, and provide spiritual oversight to multiple congregations. *Ref: 1 Corinthians 12:28, Ephesians 4:11*

Teaching & Wisdom

Teaching: The ability to clearly communicate, explain, and apply the truths of God's Word so that others learn and grow in their faith. *Ref: Romans 12:7, 1 Corinthians 12:28*

Wisdom: The ability to understand God's will and apply scriptural truth to specific situations or problems with practical, godly insight. *Ref: 1 Corinthians 12:8*

Knowledge: The supernatural ability to understand deep spiritual truths, grasp God's Word, and communicate that insight to build up the church. *Ref: 1 Corinthians 12:8*

Service & Care

Service (Helps): A practical ability to assist, volunteer, and meet the physical or logistical needs of others, freeing up other leaders to focus on their ministries. *Ref: Romans 12:7, 1 Corinthians 12:28*

Mercy: The extraordinary capacity to empathize with those who are suffering (physically, mentally, or emotionally) and provide compassionate, long-term care. *Ref: Romans 12:8*

Giving: The grace and ability to contribute personal resources—whether time, finances, or possessions—generously and cheerfully to support the church and those in need. *Ref: Romans 12:8*

Hospitality: The ability to provide a warm, welcoming, and safe environment (such as opening one's home) for guests, strangers, or fellow believers. *Ref: 1 Peter 4:9*

Pastor (Shepherd): The ability to provide long-term spiritual care, guidance, and protection for a community of believers. *Ref: Ephesians 4:11*

Exhortation & Communication

Exhortation (Encouragement): The competence to comfort, encourage, and counsel others, motivating them to grow spiritually and stand firm in their faith. *Ref: Romans 12:8*

Evangelism: The special ability to share the Gospel message effectively, particularly with non-believers, leading them to faith in Christ. *Ref: Ephesians 4:11*

Prophecy: The ability to receive and boldly proclaim God's message, which often involves forthrightly speaking truth into a situation, calling people to repentance, or revealing God's will. *Ref: Romans 12:6, 1 Corinthians 12:10*

Faith & the Supernatural

Faith: An extraordinary, unwavering confidence in God's promises, power, and presence, which allows individuals to stand strong through trials and step out boldly for God. *Ref: 1 Corinthians 12:9*

Discernment (Distinguishing of Spirits): The spiritual ability to recognize the truth and distinguish whether a teaching, behavior, or situation is from the Holy Spirit, the world, or a deceptive source. *Ref: 1 Corinthians 12:10*

Healing: The supernatural ability to act as an instrument through which God restores physical, emotional, or spiritual wholeness. *Ref: 1 Corinthians 12:9*

Miracles: The ability to perform acts that go beyond the ordinary course of nature, demonstrating the power and presence of God. *Ref: 1 Corinthians 12:10*

Tongues: The ability to pray or speak in a language the speaker has never learned, praising God and edifying the church. *Ref: 1 Corinthians 12:10*

Interpretation of Tongues: The ability to understand and translate the message of someone speaking in tongues, so that the entire congregation can understand and be edified. *Ref: 1 Corinthians 12:10*