

# SPIRITUAL GIFTEDNESS

*Read: 1 Corinthians 12:4-7*

## Story

Have you ever wondered how that special friend has the uncanny ability to frequently bring truth to life's difficult situations - when no one else could? Or why your dental hygienist, while cleaning teeth, somehow has you or a family member embarked on a path of discovery through the Bible with seemingly effortless conversation? Or how some women can easily create an unbelievably warm and welcoming atmosphere for others, no matter where they are? These are just a few of the gifts of the Spirit (word of knowledge, evangelism, & hospitality) that God distributes to believers for the common good. We are instructed to use the gifts we have received to serve others. God created us ALL with gifts, each of us different. Through each of our gifts we contribute to a greater whole and experience the body of Christ working together to display the glory of God.

*Before we dive in...*

*What are some things that you notice or your friends notice that you do well? Do you find joy when you are doing those things?*

It is helpful to organize spiritual gifts in three categories: ministry gifts, manifestation gifts, and motivational gifts. These gifts are God's supernatural ability showing up in our lives in various ways and all believers take part in these gifts in different ways."

**1. Ministry Gifts** - how we minister the love, grace and truth of God to others.

*The divine strength or ability to serve as...*

- Apostles - pioneer new churches and ministries through planting, overseeing, and training.
- Evangelists - help non-Christians take the necessary steps to becoming a born-again Christian.
- Helpers (or Helps) - work in a supportive role for the accomplishment of tasks in Christian ministry with the ability to often see the need before others do.
- Pastor/Shepherd - care for the personal needs of others by nurturing and mending life issues.
- Prophets - speak on behalf of God.
- Teacher - help others to acquire knowledge, competence or virtue.

*Read: Ephesians 4:11-13*

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**2. Manifestation Gifts** - supernatural demonstration of the Holy Spirit's power to serve others and minister to ourselves.

*The divine strength or ability to exercise...*

- Discernment - spiritually identify falsehood, to distinguish between right and wrong motives and the spiritual forces at work in situations.
- Faith - to believe in God for unseen supernatural results in every arena of life.
- Healing - act as an intermediary in faith, prayer, and by the laying-on of hands for healing of physical, mental and spiritual sickness.
- Miracles - alter the natural outcomes of life in a supernatural way through prayer, faith, and divine direction.
- Prophecy - communicate God's truth and heart in a way that calls people to a right relationship with God.
- Tongues - pray in heavenly language to encourage your spirit and to commune with God.
- Interpretation of Tongues - reveal messages spoken in an unknown tongue.
- Word of Knowledge - bring truth to a situation by supernatural revelation, often accompanied by a word from God.
- Word of Wisdom - understand and bring clarity to situations and circumstances to others through applying the truths of Scripture in a practical way.

*Read: 1 Cor. 12:8-11*

**3. Motivational Gifts** - how the Spirit of Grace moves through us motivating our words and actions.

*The divine strength or ability to offer...*

- Administration - organize multiple tasks and groups of people to accomplish these tasks.
- Craftsmanship - plan, build, and work with your hands in construction environments to accomplish multiple ministry applications.
- Exhortation/Encouragement - strengthen, comfort or urge others to action through the written or spoken word and Biblical truth.
- Giving - produce wealth and to give by tithes and offerings for the purpose of advancing the Kingdom of God on earth.
- Hospitality - create warm, welcoming environments for others in places such as your home, office or church.
- Intercession - stand in the gap in prayer for someone, something, or someplace, believing for profound results.
- Leadership - influence people at their level while directing and focusing them on the big picture, vision, or idea.
- Mercy - feel empathy and to care for those who are hurting in any way.
- Service - do small or great tasks in working for the overall good of the body of Christ.
- Teaching - study and learn from the Scriptures primarily to bring understanding and depth to other Christians.

*Read: Romans 12:6-8*

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One way to find out more about your gifts and talents is to take a spiritual gifts test at [giftstest.com](http://giftstest.com).

(Step 1: input your name and correct email address etc. Step 2: be sure to carefully read and respond accordingly to the questions so you don't receive unexpected future emails, then proceed to the test. Step 3: the Gifts Test.

*What are your Top 5 spiritual gifts according to [giftstest.com](http://giftstest.com)?*

*"...use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)*

## **Take Action**

- 1) Take a spiritual gift test and discover your primary gifts.
  - 2) Meet with a friend and get their feedback regarding your conclusions!
  - 3) Take a step forward, in putting your unique gifting into practice and watch God work in exciting ways!
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