

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

I CORINTHIANS 12:8-10, 28

Word of wisdom
Word of knowledge
Faith
Healings
Miracles
Prophecy
Discerning spirits
Tongues (languages)
Interpretation of tongues
Apostles
Teachers
Helps Administrations

ROMANS 12:6-8

Prophecy
Ministry (service)
Teaching
Exhorting (encouraging)
Giving
Leading
Mercy

EPHESIANS 4:11

Apostle
Prophet
Evangelist
Pastor/teacher

SPEAKING GIFTS

Word of wisdom
Word of knowledge
Prophecy
Tongues (languages)
Interpretation of tongues
Apostle
Teacher
Exhort/Encourage
Leadership
Evangelist
Pastor

SERVING GIFTS

Faith
Healings
Miracles
Service
Discerning spirits
Helps
Administrations
Giving
Mercy

MINISTRY GIFTS (I CORINTHIANS 12:5; EPHESIANS 4:11) - Apostle, Evangelist, Pastor, Prophet, Ministry or Serving

MOTIVATION GIFTS (I CORINTHIANS 12:6; ROMANS 12:6-8) - Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhorting/Encouraging, Giving, Leading, Mercy

MANIFESTATION GIFTS (I CORINTHIANS 12:7-10, 28) - Word of wisdom, Word of Knowledge, Faith, Healings, Miracles, Discerning Spirits, Tongues (Languages), Interpretation of Tongues, Administrations, Helps

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS OF ROMANS 12:6-8

1. **PROPHECY** – Not primarily prediction, but the communication or proclamation of revealed truth that will both convict and build up the hearers. Some characteristics:
 - The need to *express* thoughts and ideas verbally, especially regarding right and wrong.
 - The tendency to make *quick judgments* on what is seen and heard, and to speak up quickly.
 - An ability to sense when someone or something is not what it appears to be and to react harshly to dishonesty.
 - An openness about personal faults and failures and an honesty about himself as well as others.
 - A tendency to be impulsive in actions and to be wholeheartedly involved in whatever is done.
 - A tendency to be painfully direct when correcting friends.
 - An ability to be very persuasive in defining what is right and what is wrong.
2. **SERVING** – Primarily, ministration to the material needs of believers. Some characteristics:
 - An ability to see practical needs and a desire to meet them.
 - A joy in serving when it frees others to do more important things; thus makes a good administrative aid.
 - A tendency to disregard personal health and comfort in serving others
 - A difficulty in saying “no” resulting in a variety of involvements and a tendency to get sidetracked.
 - A strong desire to be with others, thus providing more serving opportunities.
 - An ability to remember likes and dislikes and other details pertinent to others.
3. **TEACHING** – As used here, the aim probably was to give help in the area of Christian living rather than formal instruction in doctrine. Some characteristics:
 - A delight in researching and reporting as many facts on a subject as possible.
 - The need to verify truth; to certify statements which have been made by others.
 - The desire to present truth in a systematic, logical sequence.
 - An emphasis on the importance and accuracy of reporting.
 - An alertness to factual details which are not noticed or mentioned by others.
4. **EXHORTING** – Can also be rendered “encouraging” or “comforting.” The context will indicate which is the dominant meaning. Some characteristics:
 - A motivation to urge people to their full spiritual maturity.
 - An ability to discern where a person is in spiritual growth and to speak on that level.
 - A desire to give precise steps of action in urging towards spiritual maturity.

- An ability to visualize spiritual achievement for people and to use this to motivate them to action.
 - A desire for face to face discussion in order to determine and insure a positive response; enjoyable to be around because of their positive outlook.
 - An ability to identify with people of different types and backgrounds in order to gain a wider hearing; makes friends easily.
 - An ability to bring harmony between diverse groups of Christians and an awareness that harmony is basic to spiritual maturity; wants to clear up problems.
 - An ability to welcome personal trials as a motivator of spiritual growth.
5. **GIVING** – Also, “contributing to the needs of others.” Has to do with spontaneous private benevolence. Some characteristics:
- A keen ability to discern wise investments in order to have more money available to give away.
 - A desire to give quietly without public notice; a generous spirit.
 - Can see giving as giving directly to Jesus Christ.
 - An ability to test faithfulness and wisdom by how people handle funds.
 - An alertness to see what other people do with their money.
 - A tendency to practice personal frugality and an ability to be content with the basic necessities of life.
 - An ability to see financial needs which others tend to overlook.
6. **LEADING** – This is the translation of a word that means to stand before others, so the idea of governing or **ADMINISTERING** derives from it. Some characteristics:
- An ability to visualize the final result of a major undertaking.
 - An ability to break down major goals into smaller, achievable tasks.
 - An ability to know what resources are available and needed to reach a goal.
 - A tendency to remove himself from distracting details in order to focus on the ultimate goal; very creative.
 - A willingness to endure reaction from insiders and outsiders in order to reach the goal.
 - An ability to know what he should and what he should not delegate to others; natural leader.
 - An ability to inspire and encourage workers by cheerfulness, approval, praise and challenges.
 - A joy and fulfillment in seeing all the parts come together in a finished product.
7. **MERCY** – Does not pertain first and foremost to the area of forgiveness or sparing judgment. Has primarily to do with ministering to the sick and needy and doing so in a cheerful, spontaneous way. Some characteristics:
- An ability to sense genuine love. A greater vulnerability to deeper and more frequent hurts from the lack of love. Very considerate of others feelings.

- A need for deep friendships in which there is mutual commitment.

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- A tendency to react harshly when intimate friends are rejected, criticized; a defender of the underdog.
- A tendency to attract people who are having mental and emotional distress.
- A desire to remove the causes of hurts rather than to look for benefits from them.
- A tendency to avoid decisions and firmness unless they will eliminate greater hurts.

THE GIFTS OF ROMANS 12:6-8

KJV	NIV	NAS	RSV	LIVING
Prophecy	Prophecy	Prophecy	Prophecy	Prophecy
Ministry	Serving	Service	Service	Serving
Teaching	Teaching	Teaching	Teaching	Teaching
Exhorting	Encouraging	Exhorting	Exhorting	Preaching
Giving	Contributing	Giving	Contributing	Generosity w/money
Ruling	Leadership	Leading	Giving aid	Administrative ability
Mercy	Mercy	Mercy	Acts of mercy	Offering comfort

PHILLIPS	MOFFATT	GOODSPEED	NEB
Preaching	Prophecy	Preaching	Inspired utterance
Serving others	Practical serving	Practical service	Administration
Teaching	Teaching	Teaching	Teaching
Stimulating faith of others	Speaking	Speaking	Stirring speech
Giving	Contributing	Giver of charity	Giving to charity
Wielding Authority	Superintending	Office holder	Leading
Feeling sympathy	The sick visitor	One who does acts of mercy	Helping others in distress

HOW THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS OF ROMANS 12:6-8 CAN BE MISUSED

1. HOW PROPHETS CAN MISUSE THEIR GIFT

- Correcting people who are not their responsibility
- Jumping to conclusions about words, actions and motives
- Judging and exposing an offender rather than restoring the offender – quick to judge
- Dwelling on the negative rather than the positive – looks for negatives
- Lacking cautiousness and tactfulness in expressing opinions – blunt
- Demanding a positive response to a harsh rebuke – pushy

2. HOW SERVERS CAN MISUSE THEIR GIFT

- Neglecting home responsibilities to help others
- Accepting too many jobs at one time – has a hard time saying “no”
- Wearing themselves out physically
- Being too persistent in giving unrequested help to others – alert to needs that are not his responsibility to meet
- Excluding others from helping on a job
- Interfering with God’s discipline by premature help – consider example of prodigal son who needed to repent.
- Can have the wrong motive for serving
- May overlook personal problem areas in his own life because he is too busy

3. HOW TEACHERS CAN MISUSE THEIR GIFT

- Becoming proud of their knowledge (I Corinthians 8:1)
- Despising practical wisdom of “uneducated” people
- Criticizing sound teaching because of technical flaws
- Depending on human reasoning rather than the Holy Spirit’s teaching
- Boring listeners with details of research
- Retreating into their own world of books – more interested in research than in people

4. HOW EXHORTERS CAN MISUSE THEIR GIFT

- Raising the expectations of others prematurely
- Taking family time to counsel others
- Treating family and friends as “projects” rather than persons
- Encouraging others to depend on them rather than on God and on the authorities in their lives
- Trusting visible results rather than a true change of heart
- Neglecting proper emphasis on basic Bible doctrines

- Giving counsel before understanding the type of person or problem
- Can develop mechanical responses and be cut and dried in steps of action

5. HOW GIVERS CAN MISUSE THEIR GIFT

- Giving too sparingly to their own family
- Causing family to resent gifts to others and may upset family with unpredictable patterns of giving
- Listening to unscriptural counsel on money management
- Judging those who misuse funds rather than advising them
- Corrupting people by giving too much
- May use financial giving to excuse self from other responsibilities

6. HOW ADMINISTRATORS CAN MISUSE THEIR GIFT

- Viewing people as “human resources” rather than a human beings
- Using people to accomplish personal ambitions
- Showing favoritism to those who appear to be more loyal
- Delegating too much work to others
- Overlooking serious character faults in valuable workers to complete goals
- Being unresponsive to suggestions and appeals
- Failing to give proper explanations and praise to workers
- Can be power hungry

7. HOW THOSE GIFTED WITH MERCY CAN MISUSE THEIR GIFT

- Failing to be firm and decisive when necessary
- Taking up offenses for those who have been hurt
- Basing decisions on emotions rather than on reason
- Being offended at someone who corrects a friend – sees the one correcting as insensitive
- Reacting to God’s purposes in allowing people to suffer – wants to remove the cause of suffering as soon as possible
- Sympathizing with those who are violating God’s laws
- Establishing possessive friendships with others
- Projects irrational fears – the worriers
- Since ruled by the heart, may not always get the facts of a situation