

UNWRAPPING YOUR GIFTS

The Bible does not lock us into tight restrictions as to the number of spiritual gifts, or even their definitions. The four major lists of gifts are found in Romans 12:3-8, 1 Cor. 12:1-11; 27-31, Eph. 4:11-12, and 1 Peter 4:9-11, but there are other passages that mention or illustrate gifts not included in these lists.

All gifts are given to help the church fulfill its five main purposes:

- Celebrate God's Presence -- **Worship**
- Demonstrate God's Love -- **Ministry**
- Educate God's People -- **Discipleship**
- Communicate God's Word -- **Evangelism**
- Participate in God's Family -- **Fellowship**

As you read through this list, check off your initial impression concerning yourself. Remember you can have many gifts.

GIFTS THAT COMMUNICATE GOD'S WORD (to both unbelievers and believers)

		I'm pretty sure I have this gift	I may have this gift	I don't think I have this gift
1 Cor. 14:3	PREACHING ("Prophecy") The ability to publicly communicate God's Word in an inspired way that convinces unbelievers and both challenges and comforts believers. The ability to persuasively declare God's will.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Acts 8:26-40	EVANGELISM The ability to communicate the Good News of Jesus Christ to unbelievers in a positive, non-threatening way. The ability to sense opportunities to share Christ and lead people to respond with faith.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 Cor. 9:19-23, Acts 13:2-3	MISSIONS The ability to adapt to a different culture in order to reach unbelievers and help believers from that culture.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Romans 15:20	APOSTLE The ability to start new churches and oversee their development.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

GIFTS THAT EDUCATE GOD'S PEOPLE

Eph. 4:12-13	TEACHING The ability to educate God's people by clearly explaining and applying the Bible in a way that causes them to learn. The ability to equip and train other believers for ministry.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Acts 14:22	ENCOURAGEMENT ("Exhortation") The ability to motivate God's people to apply and act on biblical principles, especially when they are discouraged or wavering in their faith. The ability to bring out the best in others and challenge them to develop their potential.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

1 Cor. 2:1,6-16 **WISDOM**
The ability to understand God's perspective on life situations and share those insights in a simple, understandable way. The ability to explain what to do and how to do it.

1 John 4:1-6 **DISCERNMENT**
The ability to distinguish right from wrong, truth from error, and to give an immediate evaluation based on God's Word. The ability to discern whether the source of an experience is Satan, self, or God's Spirit.

Daniel 1:17 **KNOWLEDGE**
The ability to discover, collect, analyze, and organize information that is vital to individual believers or the entire church family. The ability to comprehend a large amount of information and provide it when needed for effective decision-making.

GIFTS THAT DEMONSTRATE GOD'S LOVE

Acts 6:1-7 **SERVICE**
The ability to recognize unmet needs in the church family, and take the initiative to provide practical assistance quickly, cheerfully, and without a need for recognition.

Luke 10:30-37 **MERCY**
The ability to detect hurt and empathize with those who are suffering in the church family. The ability to provide compassionate and cheerful support to those experiencing distress crisis, or pain.

1 Peter 4:9-10 **HOSPITALITY**
The ability to make others, especially strangers, feel warmly welcomed, accepted, and comfortable in the church family. The ability to coordinate factors that promote fellowship.

1 Peter 5:2-4 **PASTORING ("Shepherding")**
The ability to care for the spiritual needs of a group of believers and equip them for ministry. The ability to nurture a small group in spiritual growth and assume responsibility for their welfare.

2 Cor. 8:1-7 **GIVING**
The ability to generously contribute material resources and/or money beyond the 10% tithe so that the Body may grow and be strengthened. The ability to earn and manage money so it may be given to support the ministry of others.

GIFTS THAT CELEBRATE GOD'S PRESENCE (Worship or prayer-related gifts)

Psalms 150 **MUSIC**
The ability to celebrate God's presence through music, either vocal or instrumental, and to lead the church family in worship.

Exodus 31:3-11	ARTS & CRAFTS The ability to build, maintain, or beautify the place of worship for God's glory. The ability to express worship through a variety of art forms.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
----------------	--	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

FOUR PRAYER-RELATED GIFTS

Col. 1:9-12	INTERCESSION The ability to pray for the needs of others in the church family over extended periods of time on a regular basis. The ability to persist in prayer and not be discouraged until the answer arrives.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-------------	---	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Col. 1:9-12	HEALING The ability to pray in faith specifically for people who need physical, emotional, or spiritual healing and see God answer. The ability to sense when God is prompting you to pray this kind of prayer.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-------------	---	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Mark 11:23-24	MIRACLES The ability to pray in faith specifically for God's supernatural intervention into an impossible situation and see God answer. The ability to sense when God is prompting you to pray this kind of prayer.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
---------------	---	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

1 Cor. 14:13-15	PRAYING WITH MY SPIRIT (Tongues/Interpretation) The ability to pray in a language understood only by God or one who is given the gift of interpretation at that time.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-----------------	---	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

GIFTS THAT SUPPORT ALL FIVE PURPOSES

Heb. 13:7 & 17	LEADERSHIP The ability to clarify and communicate the purpose and direction ("vision") of a ministry in a way that attracts others to get involved. The ability to motivate others by example to work together in accomplishing a ministry goal.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
----------------	--	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

1 Cor. 14:40	ADMINISTRATION ("Organization") The ability to recognize the gifts of others and recruit them to a ministry. The ability to organize and manage people, resources, and time for effective ministry. The ability to coordinate many details and execute the plans of leadership.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------	---	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Rom. 4:18-21	FAITH The ability to trust God for what cannot be seen and to act on God's promise, regardless of what the circumstances indicate. The willingness to risk failure in pursuit of a God-given vision, expecting God to handle the obstacles.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------	---	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Acts 8:26-40 (ESV)

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. ²⁷ And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." ³⁰ So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹ And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³² Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. ³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." ³⁴ And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" ³⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹ And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

1 Corinthians 2:1 (ESV)

¹ And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom.

⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him" — ¹⁰ these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹⁴ The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵ The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. ¹⁶ "For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

⁴ But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." ⁵ And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶ These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. ⁷ And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

Luke 10:30-37 (ESV)

³⁰ Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion.

³⁴ He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" ³⁷ He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

2 Corinthians 8:1-7 (ESV)

¹ We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, ² for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. ³ For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, ⁴ begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— ⁵ and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. ⁶ Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. ⁷ But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also.

Exodus 31:3-11 (ESV)

⁷ the tent of meeting, and the ark of the testimony, and the mercy seat that is on it, and all the furnishings of the tent, ⁸ the table and its utensils, and the pure lampstand with all its utensils, and the altar of incense, ⁹ and the altar of burnt offering with all its utensils, and the basin and its stand, ¹⁰ and the finely worked garments, the holy garments for Aaron the priest and the garments of his sons, for their service as priests, ¹¹ and the anointing oil and the fragrant incense for the Holy Place. According to all that I have commanded you, they shall do."