

How to identify your spiritual gifts

- Open your heart to God in prayer –
- Only to the degree you open your heart to God in prayer will you be able to make new spiritual discoveries.

How to identify your spiritual gifts

- Be ready to apply your gifts –
- If we are not willing to use certain gifts, why should God give them to us?

How to identify your spiritual gifts

- Get informed –
- You will have difficulty determining which gifts are yours if you don't know what gifts exist.

How to identify your spiritual gifts

- Begin with what you enjoy –
- It has always been God's intention that using our spiritual gifts would bring joy.

How to identify your spiritual gifts

- Experiment as much as possible –
- How are you going to find out whether you enjoy using a certain gift if you have never tried it?

How to identify your spiritual gifts

- Verify your effectiveness –
- Spiritual gifts are given to produce concrete results.

How to identify your spiritual gifts

- Seek the opinion of others –
- Other Christians, from your own church and beyond, should provide confirmation of your gifts.

Category 1- Green Area

- Relate primarily to God's revelation in creation:
 - Social Needs;
 - Giving hospitality
 - Mercy
 - Voluntary Poverty

Category 1- Green Area

- Relate primarily to God's revelation in creation:
 - Human mind;
 - Knowledge
 - Organization
 - Wisdom

Category 1- Green Area

- Relate primarily to God's revelation in creation:
 - Creative potential;
 - Artistic creativity
 - Craftsmanship
 - Music

The gift of artistic creativity

Chapter 5:
30 spiritual gifts

The gift of artistic creativity appears in a great variety of forms such as dance, sculpture, pottery, pantomime, music, composition, and writing. In contrast to the gift of craftsmanship, the gift of artistic creativity focuses on the *creative* element. Whatever the medium used, it is only a means to the end of expressing a specific idea or feeling.

Scripture references

Exodus 31:1-11, 2 Samuel 6:12-16, 1 Kings 7:14

Possible tasks

Layout of church publications, pantomime, developing public relations materials, arts and crafts group, drama, interior decoration, lyrics, musical composition ...

Dangers

- Some Christians are so taken up with the "great artists" and their "immortal accomplishments" that they don't trust themselves to employ their own creative genius.
- Some people who have this gift are extremely sensitive and are not able to deal with criticism.
- Some artistic productions that Christians create are more for the purpose of self-exposure than for aiding the kingdom of God.



This gift enables Christians to use artistic expression for the edification of others.

The gift of craftsmanship



This gift enables Christians to use a trade or craft for the good of the body of Christ.

The gift of craftsmanship can be used in a multitude of ways (gardening, building, car repair, as well as tasks that might be traditionally seen as “female” tasks, such as sewing, etc.). Observe, however, that not everyone who is skillful with his or her hands has this gift. People who don’t have this gift might love crafts, but they don’t experience the overwhelming joy that arises from exercising their gift for the benefit of others. This joy of ministering to others, however, is characteristic of those who have the spiritual gift of craftsmanship.

Scripture references

Exodus 30:22-31, 2 Kings 12:11-13, 2 Chronicles 34:9-13, Acts 18:3

Possible tasks

Building, gardening, helping others with odd jobs in the neighborhood, maintenance, foreign missions, sewing projects ...

Dangers

- Some Christians with this gift suffer from feelings of inferiority because their gifts are not perceived as spiritual.
- Countless Christians with this gift use their skills in their circle of friends and relatives, but not in their church.

The gift of giving

Chapter 5: 30 spiritual gifts

You don't need a special gift to tithe regularly. There are individuals, however, that give a significant percentage beyond their tithe to the kingdom of God. The gift of giving is not to be confused with the gift of voluntary poverty (see page 111), even if these two frequently appear together in one's gift mix.

Scripture references

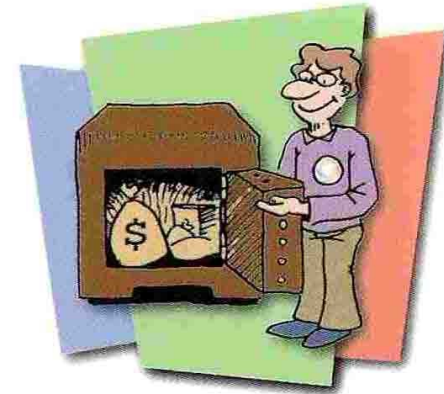
Luke 3:11, Luke 21:1-4, John 12:3-8, Acts 4:32-37, Acts 20:35, Romans 12:8, **2 Corinthians 8:2-5**

Possible tasks

Finance committee member, supporting missionaries, treasurer, full-time financial adviser, tithe coordinator, assisting in crises, supporting special projects ...

Dangers

- Some Christians with this gift run the risk of holding back when they face tight situations in their personal finances. This gift's use should not depend on prosperity, however.
- At times God blesses people that have this gift with vast amounts of money. There is danger in thinking that this money should be withheld for one's own personal use.
- Some Christians tend to give their money away to non-profit organizations out of the pure joy of giving, yet without an overall plan. Some structure and long-term planning would compound the value of such donations.
- Some Christians with this gift believe that giving money toward certain projects is all that they need to do.



This gift enables Christians to give material things cheerfully and generously to others.

The gift of hospitality



This gift enables Christians to maintain an open home, offering food and lodging to guests.

People with the gift of hospitality are usually happier when they have guests than when they don't. Please note that it is not a prerequisite that you possess this gift to maintain an open home and be friendly to visitors. Hospitality is to be exercised by all Christians as one of the universal Christian responsibilities (see page 48). Those with this gift, however, are able to make their guests really feel at home. Most of them can create this atmosphere even outside their own homes.

Scripture references

Genesis 18:1-8, Matthew 10:11-14 and 40, Matthew 25:35, Luke 10:38-42, Romans 12:9-13, Titus 1:7-8, 1 Peter 4:9-10, Hebrews 13:1-2, 3 John 5-10

Possible tasks

Small group host, caring for the homeless, worship service greeter, ministry to the underprivileged, retreat leadership, church exchanges, hosting guests, preparing accommodations for groups, youth ministry ...

Dangers

- Some Christians enjoy exercising this gift to such a degree that family members without this gift suffer from the constant influx of guests.
- Gift projection (see page 97) is common among people with the gift of hospitality. When those with this gift are being hosted by people who don't have this gift, they might feel as if they are being treated in an unfriendly manner. No fault is to be found in the host; it's just that he or she doesn't have the gift of hospitality.

The gift of knowledge

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Christians differ in their understanding of the gift of knowledge. Some understand knowledge (and wisdom) to be supernatural insight into specific situations. This phenomenon certainly exists, but in this book it is addressed under the gift of prophecy (see page 132). Christians with the gift of knowledge develop new ideas that are valuable for the church. Sixty-six percent of those with the gift of knowledge also have the gift of teaching—a particularly useful gift mix.

Scripture references

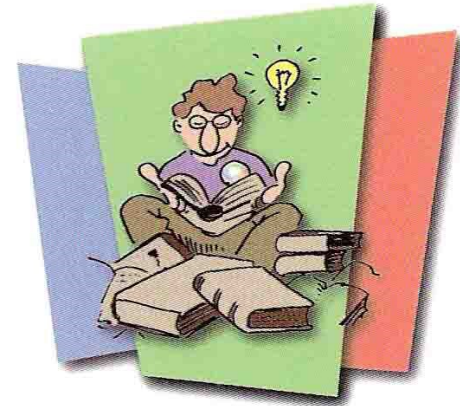
Romans 15:14, 1 Corinthians 8:1-2, 1 Corinthians 12:8, 1 Corinthians 13:2 and 8-10, 2 Corinthians 12:7, Ephesians 3:14-19

Possible tasks

Church growth research, seminar preparation, writing, long-term planning, Bible study, journalism, theological studies, creative evangelistic outreach ...

Dangers

- For some Christians, this gift has become an end in itself. They accumulate knowledge for the sake of knowledge, without ever asking about its value for building up the church.
- Some Christians with this gift have an underdeveloped view of practical ministries. This is particularly true of those who don't have the gift of teaching as a part of their gift mix.
- People with the gift of knowledge run the risk of developing a proud spirit since they are typically more knowledgeable than others.



This gift enables Christians to generate, collect, and analyze ideas which are important for the health of the church.

The gift of mercy



This gift enables Christians to demonstrate empathy through practical deeds toward those who are troubled in mind, body, or spirit.

The gift of mercy can be distinguished from the gift of helps or service in that it typically reaches out to those on the perimeter of society. While Christians with the gift of counseling minister primarily through loving *words*, those with the gift of mercy seek to meet the needs of others through loving *action*. In many cases, this gift is still undiscovered. Our research indicates that 13 percent of all Christians have the gift of mercy as a part of their gift mix.

Scripture references

Matthew 25:37-40, Mark 9:41, **Luke 10:33-37**, Acts 9:36-42, Romans 12:4-8, James 1:27, James 2:14-17

Possible tasks

Counseling sessions, intercessory prayer, ministry to the underprivileged, prison ministry, foreign missions, ministry to single mothers/fathers, ministry to the handicapped, hospital/sick calls, ministry to the chemically dependent ...

Dangers

- Some Christians with this gift are so sensitive to injustice that they tend to have an overly negative view of the world.
- Others have the tendency to react to isolated needs too spontaneously, rather than trying to deal with the root cause of the problem.
- Those with the gift of mercy must be careful not to regard people without this gift as unmerciful.

The gift of music

The gift of music doesn't involve composing music or writing lyrics (that ability belongs to artistic creativity), but rather singing and playing music itself. The Old Testament mentions a variety of roles that apply to this gift: instrumentalists (1 Chron. 15:20f; 2 Chron. 29:26), vocalists (1 Chron. 15:19), worship leaders (Neh. 12:46), and choir directors (1 Chron. 15:22).

Scripture references

Deuteronomy 31:14-23, **1 Samuel 16:14-23**, 1 Chronicles 16:41-42, 2 Chronicles 5:12-14, Psalm 150, 1 Corinthians 14:26, Ephesians 5:18-20, Colossians 3:15-17

Possible tasks

Worship leader, instrumentalist, worship team, street outreach, choir director, choir member, planning worship services, vocal soloist, evangelistic outreach ...

Dangers

- Some Christians, upon recognizing that they have this gift, think that they don't need to train their musical gift any more since it "comes from God." This can have unpleasant consequences.
- Some Christian musicians are so celebrated by their fans that these "stars" actually assume more authority in a variety of different areas of everyday life than is rightfully deserved.
- Not everyone that has the gift of music makes a good leader of a music group (band, worship team, choir, etc.).



This gift enables Christians to play a musical instrument or to use their voice in singing for the glory of God and the edification of others.

The gift of organization



This gift enables Christians to understand goals for specific areas of ministry and to draft effective plans toward reaching these goals.

The Greek word for “organizer” can also be translated “steerer,” the person on a ship whose job it is to mediate between the captain and the rest of the crew. The difference between the gift of leadership and the gift of organization relates to the difference between the captain and the steerer of a ship. The captain makes the basic decisions regarding the route of the ship, and the helmsman guides the ship safely to her intended destination.

Scripture references

Exodus 18:13-27, 1 Corinthians 12:28

Possible tasks

Area superintendent, overseer of ministry area(s), church growth planning, organization of events (such as workshops, conferences, concerts), finances, church celebrations, evangelistic campaigns, coordination of small groups, librarian, leadership in ministry teams, cassette ministry, preparing church retreats, computer work ...

Dangers

- Some Christians with this gift tend to view their contribution as the very essence of church ministry. They see how God blesses their planning and organization and lose the perspective that they are just one tool that God wants to use to build his church.
- People who can only see the practical, organizational side of ministry often function as “brakes” for the visionaries in a church.
- People with this gift must pay particularly close attention to their spiritual life. Experience with the supernatural works of God can help maintain balance in exercising this gift.

The gift of voluntary poverty

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30 spiritual gifts

In our understanding of the gift of voluntary poverty, the word “voluntary” is essential. Not everyone with a modest lifestyle has this gift. Rather, the gift of voluntary poverty is exercised by those who could maintain a higher standard of living but consciously choose not to. Don’t confuse this gift with that of “giving.” It is true that almost everyone who has the gift of voluntary poverty also has the gift of giving (92 percent have “giving” among their five most prominent manifest gifts). The inverse is not true, however. Our research states that only 15 percent of the Christians with the gift of giving also have the gift of voluntary poverty.

Scripture references

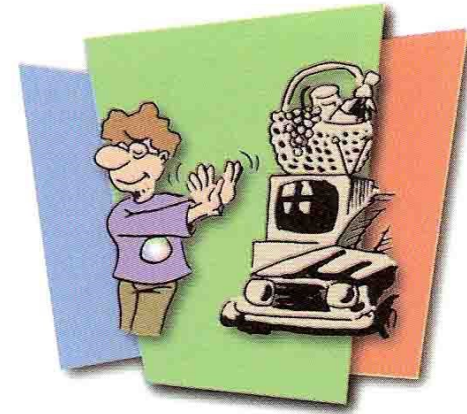
Acts 2:44-45, Acts 4:32-37, 1 Corinthians 13:3, 2 Corinthians 6:10, Philippians 4:11-13

Possible tasks

Foreign missions, ministry to the underprivileged, ministry to the homeless and refugees, community outreach, living in a monastery ...

Dangers

- People with this gift should exercise it as God intended, but guard against judging other Christians who maintain a higher standard of living.
- Poverty can become an end in itself. This is not the reason God gives this gift. It is given to achieve specific goals. Ask yourself if these goals can truly be achieved at a reduced standard of living.



This gift enables Christians to deny themselves material well-being so that they can maintain a standard of living that parallels the poor.

The gift of wisdom



This gift enables Christians to help others apply existing knowledge to specific situations.

The gift of wisdom is to be distinguished from the gift of knowledge. Those with the gift of knowledge treat spiritual matters like a medical researcher who seeks to gain insight into physiology, genetics, or the effect of a vaccine through his or her lab work. Those with the gift of wisdom, on the other hand, can be compared to a physician who offers a diagnosis and applies the medical research to each individual case. Caution: Some Christians refer to a “word of wisdom” when they really mean a prophetic utterance (see page 132).

Scripture references

1 Kings 3:5-28, 1 Corinthians 12:7-8, James 3:13-18

Possible tasks

Counseling, conflict resolution, prayer team, career consulting, training courses, gift consulting, seminars, church consulting ...

Dangers

- Since the advice of those with the gift of wisdom is eagerly sought by others, there is a danger that they will offer answers in situations where they don't have anything helpful to say. It is possible for them to be elevated to the status of a “guru” whose advice is followed blindly.
- People with this gift are able to anticipate the consequences of certain decisions much better than are others. Therefore, they must guard against browbeating or patronizing others in their charge. It is important for them to allow those under their influence enough freedom to experiment and fail from time to time.

Category 2- Red Area

- Relate primarily to proclaiming the gospel and helping people grow in their knowledge of Christ:
 - Sharing the gospel;
 - Evangelism
 - Missionary

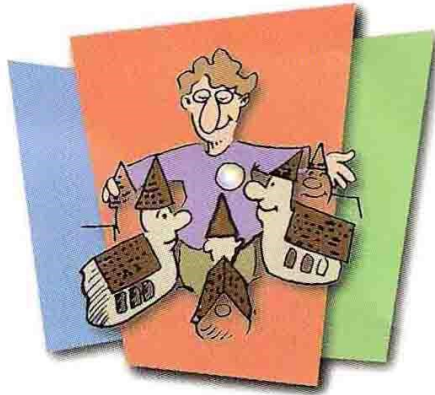
Category 2- Red Area

- Relate primarily to proclaiming the gospel and helping people grow in their knowledge of Christ:
 - Leadership gifts;
 - Apostle
 - Counseling
 - Leadership
 - Shepherding
 - Teaching

Category 2- Red Area

- Relate primarily to proclaiming the gospel and helping people grow in their knowledge of Christ:
 - Assisting Christians;
 - Helps
 - Service
 - Singleness

The gift of apostle



This gift enables
Christians to be
recognized
as spiritual leaders
by a variety of
churches.

The gift of apostle is by no means limited to the original twelve apostles. The New Testament offers examples of other men and women in apostolic ministry. An apostle's responsibility typically extends beyond his or her own local church. Their authority is independent of any office they may hold. People with this gift distinguish themselves through their farsighted perspective.

Scripture references

Matthew 10:2-15, John 13:12-17, Acts 8:14-25, Acts 14:14-15, Acts 15:1-6, Romans 16:7, **1 Corinthians 12:28-29**, 2 Corinthians 12:12, Galatians 1:1, Ephesians 4:11

Possible tasks

Church planting, church consulting, long-term planning, regional/denominational responsibilities, foreign missions ...

Dangers

- Some Christians with this gift lack spiritual correction. For this reason, it is critical for them to be involved in a group or fellowship in which they exercise no leadership function.
- Not everyone with an apostolic gift has the gifts of leadership and organization. This can lead to a lack of structure in their ministry.
- Some Christians with the apostolic gift have the role of "guru" imposed upon them. People with this gift must honestly and openly admit that they don't have the answers to each and every question. They must recognize their own limitations as human beings.
- Individuals that are in the spotlight must guard themselves from the age-old temptations of money, sex, and power.

The gift of counseling

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The gift of counseling tries to combine the two dimensions of the Greek word *parakaleo* which can mean both “admonition” and “encouragement.” This gift is different from the gift of shepherding in that the ministry of counseling doesn’t require a long-term relationship with the people who receive the ministry. Those with this gift only use it for a limited time period while seeking the personal and spiritual well-being of another. Then they apply this gift in a different situation with a different person. It’s interesting to note that 41 percent of Christians who have this gift also have the gift of hospitality.

Scripture references

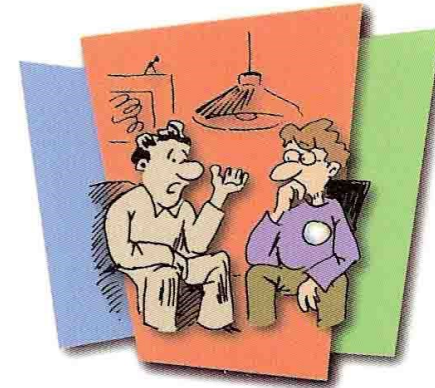
John 4:1-42, Acts 14:21-22, Romans 12:6-8, 2 Corinthians 1:3-7, 1 Thessalonians 2:11, **1 Thessalonians 5:14**, 1 Timothy 5:1

Possible tasks

Integrating new Christians, hospital ministry, counseling team, small group ministry, gift consulting, prayer team, challenging passive Christians, substance abuse counseling, ministry to the underprivileged, family counseling, seniors ministry, telephone counseling, prison ministry, hospice ministry ...

Dangers

- Some Christians with this gift take on too many responsibilities, and their personal (and spiritual) lives suffer.
- Some Christians who can identify with and show sympathy toward others lack the necessary directness and firmness to deal with the root problems.



This gift enables Christians to serve others through comfort, admonition, and encouragement, so that they experience help and healing.

The gift of evangelism



This gift enables
Christians to
communicate the
gospel to
non-Christians in a
manner conducive
to leading them
to faith.

Our research confirmed the thesis held by C. Peter Wagner that exactly 10 percent of the Christians in each local congregation have the gift of evangelism. Christians who discover this gift should be given enough time to exercise it and, in most cases, should be released from other tasks.

Scripture references

Acts 8:5-6, Acts 8:26-40, Acts 14:13-21, Romans 10:14-15, Ephesians 4:11

Possible tasks

Preaching, open houses, visitation ministry, counseling, radio ministry, foreign missions, church planting team, ministry to the underprivileged, evangelistic home groups, music or band ministry, children's evangelism, ministry to internationals ...

Dangers

- Some people with this gift give the impression of a sales person seeking to peddle their wares. In their evangelistic zeal, they can put undue pressure on those with whom they are speaking.
- Some evangelists are so preoccupied with "decisions for Christ" that the process of integrating new believers into a local church is neglected.

The gift of helps

The gift of helps, like the gift of mercy, focuses on individuals. In contrast to the gift of mercy, however, this gift is not so much intended for the benefit of the underprivileged. Rather, it is more commonly used to lighten the work load of other Christians (most frequently leaders), allowing them more time to exercise their own gifts. The gift of helps should also be distinguished from the gift of service. *Service* aims at serving organizations; *helps* aims at helping individuals.

Scripture references

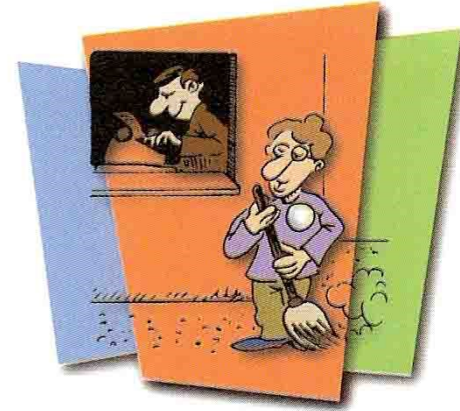
Exodus 18:21-22, Numbers 11:16-17, **Luke 10:38-42**, Romans 16:1-2, 1 Corinthians 12:28

Possible tasks

Telephone ministry, supporting leaders, secretarial help, helping families move into new homes, custodial service ...

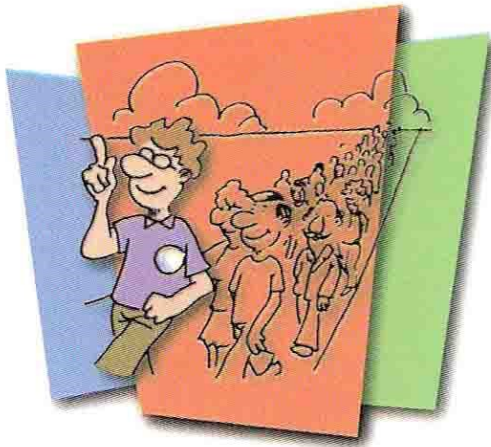
Dangers

- Some people suffer from a social disorder referred to as "helper's syndrome." Such people would likely complete the *Three-Color Gift Test* in such a manner that "helps" appears as one of their manifest spiritual gifts, but this would be a faulty result.
- On the other hand, some Christians who are exemplary in their practice of the gift of helps may be erroneously suspected as having "helper's syndrome."
- There is a general danger that people with the gift of helps exaggerate their concern for others to such an extent that those in need actually become co-dependent.



This gift enables Christians to place their own gifts at the disposal of other Christians, thus releasing them to concentrate more on their ministry.

The gift of leadership



This gift enables Christians to set goals for the church and to communicate them in such a way that others volunteer to achieve them.

The trademark of a leader is that others follow him or her of their own free will rather than by coercion. Christians with this gift usually don't have to stress their "leadership authority" (in most cases, this is an indication that one does not have this gift). It is interesting that 68 percent of all Christians with this gift also have the gift of organization.

Scripture references

Exodus 18:13-27, Romans 12:8, 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13, 1 Timothy 3:1-7, 1 Timothy 5:17-22

Possible tasks

Pastor, elder, worship service leader, department leader, long-term planning ...

Dangers

- A constant danger to all leaders is spiritual isolation. Many leaders don't have anyone who can see them as they really are and hold them accountable.
- Any public figure who spends much of his or her time in the limelight will experience temptation in the areas of money, sex, and power.
- Some leaders find it difficult to remain humble. The New Testament explicitly admonishes leaders to be humble (cf. 1 Peter 5:5-6).

The gift of missionary

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Christians with the gift of missionary enjoy leaving their own culture in order to establish a new home and ministry in a foreign culture. This gift can be exercised in a foreign country, as well as within a different social group in their home country. The gift of missionary should not be confused with the gift of evangelism (see page 116). Only 8 percent of all Christians whom God has blessed with the gift of missionary have the gift of evangelism too.

Scripture references

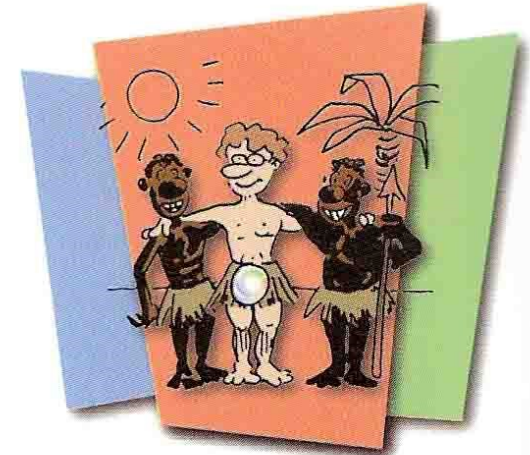
Acts 9:13-17, Acts 14:21-28, **1 Corinthians 9:19-23**, Galatians 1:15-17, Galatians 2:7-14, Ephesians 3:6-8

Possible Tasks

Ministry to the underprivileged, ministry to internationals, foreign missions, church planting ...

Dangers

- Some Christians with this gift are so accommodating that they either water down the gospel message or fail to communicate it. This is particularly true for those who don't have the gift of evangelism in their gift mix.
- More than with the other gifts, practicing this gift has implications for all areas of one's life, including family and occupation. Therefore, Christians with this gift should carefully evaluate to which long-term duties they commit themselves.



This gift enables Christians to utilize their other gifts in a second culture.

The gift of service



This gift enables Christians to recognize where their participation is needed and to make sure that the most urgent jobs get done.

In contrast to the gift of helps, which usually focuses on assisting an individual (very often a leader), the gift of service is directed toward groups and organizations. Christians with the gift of service typically have an eye for things that need to be done, and they are willing to fulfill that need themselves. Every group benefits from Christians who exercise this gift. The gifts of service and helps are among the gifts that are most frequently paired together. According to our research, 81 percent of Christians who have the gift of service also have the gift of helps.

Scripture references

Luke 10:38-42, Luke 22:24-27, Acts 6:1-7, Romans 12:6-7, 1 Timothy 3:8-13

Possible tasks

Odd jobs, gardening, caring for guests, cooking and baking, maintenance, typing/computer work, tape ministry, baby-sitting ...

Dangers

- Some Christians with this gift have a propensity to assume the ministry tasks of others, which makes these people co-dependent.
- Those with this gift are sometimes rather shamelessly taken advantage of by others.
- People with an eye for spotting ministry opportunities and actively seeking to meet existing needs often judge those who are not able to do this—a classic case of gift projection (see page 97).

The gift of shepherding

The gift of shepherding—in contrast to the gift of counseling—involves a long-term commitment to a group of fellow Christians. Contrary to widespread opinion, this gift is not necessary for a pastor of a local church. Our research indicates that the gift of shepherding is relatively widespread, appearing in 12 percent of the gift mixes of all Christians. Interestingly, 43 percent of all Christians with the gift of shepherding also have the gift of teaching.

Scripture references

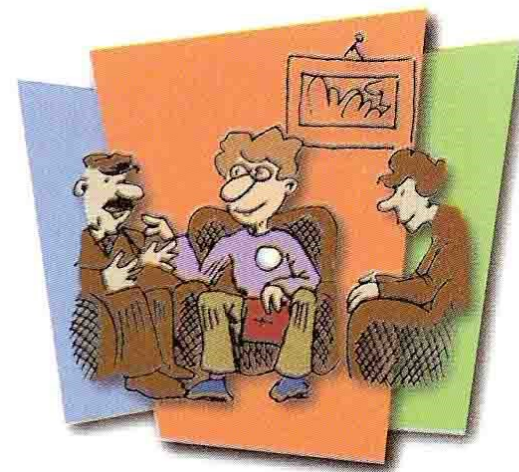
John 10:1-15, Acts 20:28-31, Ephesians 4:11, 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13, 1 Timothy 4:11-16, Hebrews 13:7,17 and 20-21, 1 Peter 5:1-5

Possible tasks

Gift consultant, children's church, small group leader, youth ministry, assimilating new Christians, training programs ...

Dangers

- Sometimes Christians with this gift lead groups that function well internally, but have difficulty integrating newcomers.
- Pastors with this gift will have difficulty leading a church of more than 150-200 believers. They want to maintain a close relationship with every single Christian, but this kind of relationship is simply not possible with more than 150-200 people.



This gift enables Christians to assume long-term, personal responsibility for the spiritual well-being of a group of believers.

The gift of singleness



This gift enables Christians to live happily as singles while contributing more effectively to the kingdom of God.

The gift of missionary and the gift of singleness are two gifts which, in contrast to all other gifts, can only be exercised meaningfully in combination with other gifts. In other words, they cannot stand on their own. Anyone with the gift of singleness will likely be able to exercise his or her other gifts more effectively. Those with this gift are happier in their singleness than they would be if they were married.

Scripture references

Matthew 19:10-12, 1 Corinthians 7:7-8, **1 Corinthians 7:32-35**, 1 Timothy 4:1-5

Possible tasks

Since the gift of singleness is intended to make other gifts more effective, it is theoretically possible to combine any task with it. However, those involved in foreign missions and church planting may particularly profit from this gift since a great degree of flexibility is required in these ministries. This kind of flexibility is often difficult to harmonize with family concerns.

Dangers

- Some Christians who have the gift of singleness marry as a concession to social pressure, which is often felt the strongest within Christian circles. Anyone with this gift should resist this kind of pressure.
- Some people who are unable to build relationships as a result of a psychological or social disorder, tend to complete the *Three-Color Gift Test* in such a way that singleness—erroneously—appears as one of their gifts.
- Other Christians are models in practicing their singleness, yet they still haven't recognized it as a spiritual gift. The result is that they are troubled with the thought that something is out of order in their lives.
- Those with the gift of singleness are not immune to sexual temptation. They should not overestimate their abilities in this area.

The gift of teaching

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Characteristic of the gift of teaching is the fact that others actually learn. Just knowing a lot (which may be an indication of the gift of knowledge, see page 107), should not be confused with the gift of teaching. Those with the gift of teaching are focused on the questions and concerns of their audience, and manage to impart their knowledge in an interesting and stimulating manner.

Scripture references

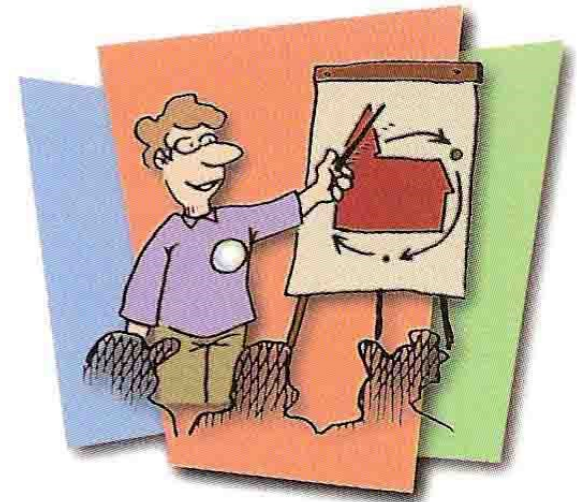
Acts 18:24-28, Romans 12:6-7, 1 Corinthians 12:28-29, Ephesians 4:11-14, James 3:1

Possible tasks

Small group ministry, seminars, training courses, Bible studies, new members/baptism class, church growth training ...

Dangers

- According to Scripture, teachers will be judged “more strictly” than others (James 3:1). Those who have discovered this gift should search for means of exercising it with a high degree of responsibility.
- Some teachers can communicate certain truths extremely well, but don’t practice what they teach.



This gift enables Christians to communicate truth in a manner that enables others to learn and contributes to the health of the church.

Category 3- Blue Area

- Demonstrate supernatural working of God – many transcend natural laws:
 - Uncompromising trust;
 - Faith
 - Prayer
 - Suffering

Category 3- Blue Area

- Demonstrate supernatural working of God – many transcend natural laws:
 - Communicate God's messages;
 - Discernment
 - Interpretation
 - Prophecy
 - Tongues

Category 3- Blue Area

- Demonstrate supernatural working of God – many transcend natural laws:
 - Supernatural power;
 - Deliverance
 - Healing
 - Miracles

The gift of deliverance

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Power over evil spirits is given to each Christian (Mark 16:15-18). Yet, experience indicates that God uses some Christians more than others in exercising this power. The gift of discernment (see page 126) should be present in any group that is involved in a ministry of deliverance.

Scripture references

Matthew 10:1, Matthew 12:28-29 and 43-45, Mark 5:1-20, Mark 9:28-29, Mark 16:17, **Luke 10:17-20**, Acts 8:5-8, Acts 16:16-18, Acts 19:13-16

Possible tasks

Exorcism, ministry to the underprivileged, prayer team ministry, counseling, evangelistic events, foreign missions ...

Dangers

- There are Christians with this gift who tend to identify evil spirits as the cause of problems that have completely different sources. This can lead to great confusion for those who are earnestly seeking solutions to their troubles.
- For those Christians who are regularly involved in this ministry, there is an inherent danger of giving too much importance to the demonic dimension.



This gift enables Christians to help people suffering from demonic oppression experience deliverance.

The gift of discernment



This gift enables Christians to know for sure whether a given behavior originates from a divine, human, or satanic source.

The gift of discernment is part of God's providential protection against error. It can express itself on a natural level by enabling Christians to distinguish between truth and deception. It can also provide them with insight into the deepest sources of truth and deception, thus entering into the supernatural realm.

Scripture references

Matthew 16:22-23, Acts 5:1-10, Acts 8:18-24, Acts 13:6-12, Acts 16:16-22, 1 Corinthians 12:10, 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22, 1 John 4:1-6

Possible tasks

Public relations, counseling, deliverance ministry, ministry to the underprivileged, church board member, evangelistic campaigns, preaching, prayer team ministry, long-term planning ...

Dangers

- Some Christians who have this gift tend to be unloving and coldhearted in exercising it. Others do not apply the gift to the edification of the church. They have difficulty confronting others and therefore, choose to remain silent.
- Even those who have this gift can be wrong at times. Anyone who acts as if he or she is infallible is not suitable for this ministry.
- Some people with this gift tend to develop a "spirit of criticism" that can cause them to criticize almost everything.

The gift of faith

Chapter 5:
30 spiritual gifts

While it is every Christian's calling to trust the Lord in all of life's challenges, God has blessed some people with a special gift of faith. These individuals literally have a "mountain-moving" faith (Matt. 17:20). They don't shy away from uncertainties and risks when they are convinced of the will of God. People with this gift are often visionaries who initiate new developments.

Scripture references

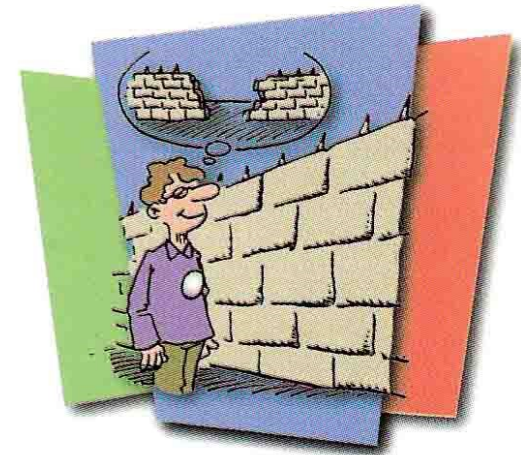
Matthew 8:5-13, Matthew 17:20b, Matthew 21:18-22, Romans 4:18-21, 1 Corinthians 12:9, James 1:5-8

Possible Tasks

Prayer group leader, church board member, long-term planning, church planting, creative ideas team, denominational leadership, church leadership for missions, evangelism ...

Dangers

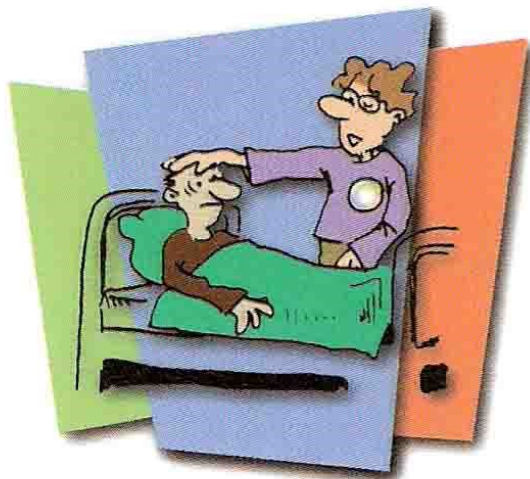
- Those with the gift of faith tend toward gift projection (see page 97). Sometimes they judge others as being "small-thinking."
- Some people with this gift are not able to admit when their goals or vision have not been realized.
- Since those with the gift of faith often demonstrate a unique assurance that they are in harmony with the will of God, they sometimes interpret criticism of themselves as criticism of God.



This gift enables Christians to discern, with an unusual degree of confidence, the will of God for the future development of ministry.

Chapter 5:
30 spiritual gifts

The gift of healing



This gift enables Christians to serve as God's instruments for restoring the health of others without the aid of medical tools.

While the New Testament admonishes all believers to pray for the sick (Mark 16:18), God has given some people the special gift of healing. It is always God who does the healing; men and women can only pray to this end. The gift of healing can appear in different variations (see page 46). There are certain individuals, for example, that God uses to heal wounds of the soul ("inner healing").

Scripture references

Mark 2:1-12, Mark 8:22-26, Mark 16:17-18, John 9:1-12, John 14:12-14, Acts 3:1-8, Acts 14:8-15, Acts 28:8-9, 1 Corinthians 12:9 and 28-30, **James 5:14-15**

Possible tasks

Counseling, prayer team, visiting the sick ...

Dangers

- Some Christians believe that when someone is not healed after much prayer, it must be due to a lack of faith. This misconception sends many sincere Christians into a spiritual tail-spin.

- God uses both medical treatment and healing by prayer.

We should never treat the two as alternatives.

The gift of interpretation

Chapter 5:
30 spiritual gifts

Some Christians with the gift of interpretation interpret the messages that another person has given in tongues; some interpret their own statements. According to the New Testament, a public message in tongues is meaningless without the corresponding interpretation (1 Cor. 14:27-28). Our research indicates that 82 percent of all Christians with this gift also have the gift of prophecy.

Scripture references

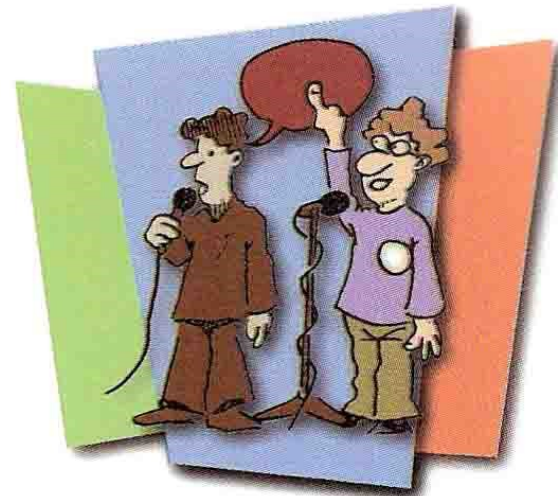
1 Corinthians 12:10, 1 Corinthians 12:27-31, 1 Corinthians 14:1-5, 1 Corinthians 14:12-19, **1 Corinthians 14:26-28**

Possible tasks

Prayer groups, worship service team, spiritual warfare ...

Dangers

- Since this gift is often exercised in a context in which people are extremely receptive toward this ministry, there is the danger that an irresponsible interpretation might cause great harm.
- This gift is not to be used in large gatherings if it has not first been confirmed in smaller circles.



This gift enables Christians to make known in a commonly understood language a message originally communicated in tongues.

The gift of miracles



This gift enables Christians to serve as human instruments through whom God performs powerful acts that surpass natural laws.

Whereas the gift of healing might not necessarily break physical laws (the focus is just that healing takes place without the use of medical tools), it is characteristic of the gift of miracles that laws of nature are—in the eyes of the observer—surpassed. Wherever God works a miracle through this gift, it is his goal to communicate a specific message to his people.

Scripture references

Exodus 14:21-31, 1 Kings 18:21-40, Matthew 14:28-33, Matthew 24:23-24, Luke 10:17-20, John 14:2-14, Acts 9:36-42, Acts 19:11, **Acts 20:9-12**, Romans 15:18-19, 1 Corinthians 12:10 and 28, 2 Corinthians 12:12

Possible tasks

Foreign missions, spiritual warfare, prayer ministry ...

Dangers

- Some Christians abuse this gift by putting on a show that exalts themselves rather than glorifying God.
- In other Christian circles, this gift is viewed so skeptically that those who have it dare not exercise, or even talk about it.
- Some Christians with this gift tend to exaggerate in retelling their experiences.

The gift of prayer

Chapter 5:
30 spiritual gifts

The gift of prayer belongs to those gifts that the Bible does not explicitly label as “spiritual gifts.” Yet, experience demonstrates that there are Christians who have a unique power in prayer. While it is every Christian’s privilege and duty to pray, those with this gift are able to spend many hours praying intensively, and they enjoy every minute of it.

Scripture references

Daniel 6:11-12, Daniel 9:1-4, **Luke 11:1-13**, Acts 16:19-34, Colossians 4:12-13, 1 Timothy 2:1-4, James 5:16-18

Possible tasks

Prayer groups, leading prayer vigils, spiritual warfare, prayer chains, intercession for specific requests, prayer ministry at specific events ...

Dangers

- Some Christians with this gift give those without it a guilty conscience, causing them to feel as if they were less spiritual.
- Some prayer warriors with many experiences of answered prayer tend to see “prayer” as an alternative to “action.”



This gift enables Christians to pray for concrete requests over long periods of time, and to receive visible answers far more frequently than most Christians

Chapter 5:
30 spiritual gifts

The gift of prophecy



This gift enables
Christians to
receive a message
from God by the
Holy Spirit and
to communicate it to
other people.

In contrast to common usage, the gift of prophecy does not only refer to the foretelling of future events. Instead, it enables people to serve as the vehicle for a divine message regarding a concrete situation. Please notice that some Christians use terms like “word of knowledge,” “word of wisdom”, “image,” or “vision” for what is referred to here as the gift of prophecy.

Scripture references

Deuteronomy 13:1-5, Deuteronomy 18:18-22, 1 Samuel 3:1-21, Matthew 7:15-20, Matthew 24:11 and 23-24, Acts 15:32, 1 Corinthians 12:28-29, 1 Corinthians 14:3 and 22-40, 2 Peter 1:19-21, **1 John 4:1-6**, Revelation 1:1-3

Possible tasks

Foreign missions, evangelistic events, long-term planning, outreach to the underprivileged, worship team, prayer team, small groups, counseling, prayer chains ...

Dangers

- People with this gift should not evade criticism. In fact, the Bible teaches that prophets must be tested by the church (1 Cor. 14:29).
- Those who have only had this gift a short time sometimes have difficulty determining for whom their prophecy is intended—for themselves, for the church, or for another group.

The gift of suffering

Chapter 5:
30 spiritual gifts

The gift of suffering involves more than just a willingness to follow Christ to the point of death, although this may be included. While every believer experiences pain and suffering at times, God endows certain Christians with a special ability to maintain a victorious mindset, even in the midst of intense suffering. The familiar phrase “the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church” expresses well the relationship between this spiritual gift and church growth.

Scripture references

Matthew 5:10-12, Acts 7:54-60, Acts 8:1-4, Acts 20:22-24, Acts 21:4-14, 1 Corinthians 13:1-3, 2 Corinthians 1:8-11, 2 Corinthians 11:21b-33, 2 Corinthians 12:9-10, Philippians 1:12-14, 1 Peter 2:20-25, 1 Peter 4:12-16

Possible tasks

Intercession, foreign missions, pioneer ministry ...

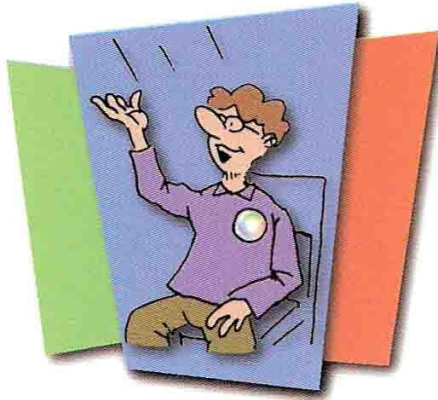
Dangers

- Some Christians with the gift of suffering expect others who don't have this gift to be willing to take enormous risks—another example of gift projection (see page 97).
- There is a phenomenon that psychology refers to as the “martyr complex.” This must be carefully distinguished from the gift of suffering.
- One of the most difficult obstacles for those with this gift is the role that friends pose. Well-meaning friends will often try to protect them from dangerous situations, thus hindering them from doing God's will.



This gift enables Christians to suffer for their faith while at the same time maintaining a joyful, victorious spirit.

The gift of tongues



This gift enables Christians to use a language they have never learned, either in their personal prayer times or for a public message.

The gift of tongues comes in two different variations, either as personal prayer or as a public utterance. The second variation should only be exercised with an interpreter (1 Cor. 14:27-28). Caution: In the *Three-Color Gift Test*, the gift of tongues is treated in the same way as all of the other gifts. Christians who only occasionally pray in tongues will probably not find tongues among their manifest gifts. It will only occur as a manifest gift if speaking in tongues is a significant part of one's spiritual life.

Scripture references

Mark 16:17, Acts 2:1-13, Acts 10:44-48, **Acts 19:1-7**, Romans 8:26-27, 1 Corinthians 12:10 and 28-30, 1 Corinthians 14:4-6 and 26-28

Possible tasks

Prayer ministry, spiritual warfare ...

Dangers

- Some Christians who pray in tongues are ashamed of their gift. They would never admit to others that God has given it to them.
- Speaking in tongues is listed among the most frequently projected spiritual gifts (see page 97). Some Christians with this gift view it as so natural and simple that they tell others, "You can do it as well, if you only want to."
- Some of the groups which understand speaking in tongues as the trademark of the "baptism of the Holy Spirit," belittle the spiritual authority of Christians who don't have this gift.

Concluding Observations

- Many Christians regard discovering their spiritual gifts to be key in helping them along their spiritual journey.
- Before we point out to others that their gifts don't match their current ministry, we should make sure they know what their gifts are.
- Churches should provide an open climate where people can joyously experiment, risk failure and learn from their experiments.