**Spiritual Gifts Descriptions**

Spiritual Gifts are supernatural motivations given to every believer. Just as many parts of the human body work together as one, so Spiritual Gifts are given to the Body of Christ to serve as one. The purpose is to encourage and mature Christians for more effective ministry. This profile focuses on twelve spiritual gifts. These twelve spiritual gifts are featured based upon their functional and practical use.

**Administration / Ruling –**

The Gift of Administration / Ruling is seen in those who either like to organize or delegate to others. Compelled by a strong sense of duty, they like to find things for people to do, focused on team participation. They see the big picture and work to keep everyone on track. Not always personally organized, they prefer delegating tasks. They simply like to evaluate what needs to be done, then design systems or give responsibilities to those who can get the job done. They are gifted to forge forward as a group.

**In a word:** Initiator

**Overuse:** Expects too much

**Goal:** Lead by example, not manipulation.

**Scripture:** Romans 12:8; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Acts 6:1-7

**Evangelism –**

Those with the Gift of Evangelism feel compelled to win souls. They seem to have a ability to communicate the gospel very effectively. Their concern for witnessing to a lost and dying world is evident. They desire to be involved in ministries to reach people for Christ. Missions and outreach are important to them. Always being ready to give an answer to every person is their goal. Conversations seem to often turn toward eternal values. The worth of souls and the task of evangelism are most important to the Evangelist’s motivation.

**In a word:** Dynamic

**Overuse:** Zeal

**Goal:** Build disciples, not statistics.

**Scripture:** Ephesians 4:7, 11; Acts 8:26-40; Luke 19:1-10

**Exhortation / Encouraging –**

Christians with this gift find themselves lifting others up. They are compelled to give advice. As counselors, they seem too often have steps of action. Encouragers like to tell you what to do with truth. They bless others with a strong sense of concern. Often looking to encourage others, they are sought out as counselors. People find Encouragers friendly, understanding and practical. They enjoy using their communication skills to share specific insights.

**In a word:** Encourager

**Overuse:** Talks too much

**Goal:** Apply truth, don’t create expectations.

**Scripture:** Romans 12:6, 8; Acts 11:23-24; Hebrews 10:24-25

**Giving –**

Givers tend to be seriously concerned about financial matters. Givers are sensitive to how money is spent and saved. Those with this gift don’t always give to the wheel that squeaks the loudest, but to the wheel that truly needs the most grease. Givers have unique financial insights. They enjoy maintaining budgets. They tend to be conscientious and conservative. The Gift of Giving may not be always evident, but a genuine interest in wise stewardship will be.

**In a word:** Steward

**Overuse:** The power of money

**Goal:** Sincere stewardship, not financial harassment.

**Scripture:** Romans 12:6, 8b; Acts 4:32-35; 2 Corinthians 9:7-8

**Spiritual Gifts Descriptions**

Spiritual Gifts are supernatural motivations given to every believer. Just as many parts of the human body work together as one, so Spiritual Gifts are given to the Body of Christ to serve as one. The purpose is to encourage and mature Christians for more effective ministry. This profile focuses on twelve spiritual gifts. These twelve spiritual gifts are featured based upon their functional and practical use.

**Helps –**

Those with the Gift of Helps love to assist and bless others. They are motivated by a strong sense of need, they feel like “someone has to do it.” Caring and concerned for others, especially those in leadership positions, they find themselves doing what no one else likes to do. They tend to do whatever is called for. Flexible, they adapt to many challenges. They simply enjoy helping others and meeting needs. Often truly selfless, those with this gift like to be involved.

**In a word:** Selfless

**Overuse:** Takes too much time.

**Goal:** Be a servant, not a martyr.

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 12:28; Acts 6:1-3; Romans 16:1-2

**Hospitality –**

The Gift of Hospitality is that special interest in opening one’s home for food and fellowship, or to just provide a place to stay for someone in need. Those with this gift seem to always be ready and willing to invite guests over or offer their home for a place to meet for any occasion. They love to provide refreshments or prepare meals for individuals or groups. They seldom show irritation over last minute requests to have someone over or to host a group. They tirelessly serve to make people comfortable and encouraged.

**In a word:** Sociable

**Overuse:** Take on too much / Get worn out

**Goal:** Provide fellowship without sacrificing family time.

**Scripture:** 1 Peter 4:9-10; Acts 16:13-15; Luke 14:12-14

**Leadership –**

The Gift of Leadership is evident in those who demonstrate an unusual ability to influence others. They seem to have an independent determination to challenge and direct others toward a specific goal. They stand out and take stands. Those with this gift tend to be multi-=talented excelling with their people and tasks skills. Often result-oriented and driven, they need to guard their strengths. They also need to be more sensitive and patient with those who don’t respond as well or positive as they would wish. They are great motivators.

**In a word:** Dreamer

**Overuse:** Too demanding and impatient

**Goal:** Lead by example and willingness to be a servant.

**Scripture:** Romans 12:6, 8c; John 13:13-17; Hebrews 13:17

**Mercy –**

Christians with the Gift of Showing Mercy demonstrates genuine sensitivity to suffering. They are compelled to help people reduce pain. They are concerned more with the person, than the reason of the suffering. Focusing on the feelings of those who hurt, “being there” when people really need them. Sympathizing and/or empathizing are their specialties. While others may care more about why, what, when or how, those with Mercy are interested in “who” needs tender loving care.

**In a word:** Caring

**Overuse:** Too sensitive

**Goal:** Wise insights, not foolish responses.

**Scripture:** Romans 12:6, 8d; Matthew 5:7

**Spiritual Gifts Descriptions**

Spiritual Gifts are supernatural motivations given to every believer. Just as many parts of the human body work together as one, so Spiritual Gifts are given to the Body of Christ to serve as one. The purpose is to encourage and mature Christians for more effective ministry. This profile focuses on twelve spiritual gifts. These twelve spiritual gifts are featured based upon their functional and practical use.

**Prophecy / Proclaiming / Perceiving –**

Prophets today are not exactly like prophets of old. Old Testament Prophets spoke the literal Word of God. Today people seem to have the same seriousness and straight forward attitude toward God’s truth. They like to share truth, regardless of what anyone thinks. Prophets today are motivated to confront anyone with what they believe is right. When controlled by the Holy Spirit, the gift is a powerful tool to reprove, rebuke and exhort others. Prophets often find themselves pointing the way, declaring specific truth or standing up for something significant.

**In a word:** Bold

**Overuse:** Fighter

**Goal:** Declare truth, don’t divide Christians.

**Scripture:** Ephesians 4:7, 11; 1 Corinthians 14:1, 3; 2 Peter 1:19-21

**Service –**

The Gift of Service refers to any act done in genuine love for the edification and to aid love within the community. The Holy Spirit endows some believers with this gift to fill the many gaps of ministry and meet the needs of the church as it fulfills the Great Commission. The goal is to energize the church and free up others to use their gifts to the fullest. The result is the continued edification of the church and the added ability to see beyond its own needs and reach out into the community.

**In a word:** Servant

**Overuse:** Doesn’t delegate

**Goal:** Without recognition, just a blessing

**Scripture:** Acts 6:1-7; 1 Corinthians 16:15-16; Matthew 20:25-28

**Shepherding / Pastor –**

The Gift of Shepherding / Pastor is obvious in those who really enjoy leading others in serving the Lord. They are compelled to encourage others to work together for the body’s sake. Influencing others to work together is important. Stressing a need for team participation, they emphasize harmony. Untrained laity can also have this gift. With a motivation to unite the ministry, they feel strong about spiritual health.

**In a word:** Discipler

**Overuse:** Takes Advantage of Others’ Trust

**Goal:** Strong leadership, not manipulating the flock.

**Scripture:** Ephesians 4:11; 1 Peter 5:2-4

**Teaching –**

Christians with the Gift of Teaching prefer explaining why things are true. While the prophet declares truth, the teacher explains the reasons why it is true. Interested in research, those with the Gift of Teaching like to dig into seemingly insignificant details. They enjoy presenting what they discover. Often negligent of the needs of others, they press toward a deeper understanding. They love to study. Searching patiently and persistently, they may miss the obvious. They stretch the limits of learning, setting high standards of education.

**In a word:** Perceptive

**Overuse:** Speak down to people

**Goal:** Consistently trust and ask God for wisdom.

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 12:7-8; James 3:13-18