



**ONE SPIRIT
MANY GIFTS**

FINDING & UNDERSTANDING
SPIRITUAL GIFTS

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

We are so encouraged that you have picked up this Spiritual Gift booklet. Please know that the staff, pastors, and elders are praying for you as you take this journey in discovering your gift{s} and as you begin to use your gift{s} in the context of the local church.

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES & HOLY HABITS

As you begin this journey and as you prayerfully consider what your Spiritual Gift{s} are we want to encourage you put into practice the Spiritual Disciplines {Prayer, Fasting, Silence & Solitude, Personal Bible Study, Fellowship with other believers, Confession, Service etc.}. These disciplines are gifts which allow us to come into God's Presence so that we can draw near to Him and hear His voice and understanding His leading. If you want to discover your Spiritual Gifts and if you want to know how to use them, then Spiritual Disciplines play an important role. As, Jon Thompson writes, "To become like Jesus, the same Spirit that was on Him and in Him must fill us, and we must incorporate the disciplines He used in His relationship with the Father."¹ So, as you start this journey or even if you already know your Spiritual Gifts, we want to encourage you to begin to practice the Spiritual Disciplines.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Now, when it comes to Spiritual Gifts, if you have surrendered your life to Jesus Christ and placed your faith in Him alone for the forgiveness of Sins, then the Bible tells us that you have been given the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 12:13 says, *"¹³For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink."* What this means is that when we placed our Faith in Jesus and Confessed Him as Lord, we were given the Holy Spirit who now lives inside of us. The Holy Spirit is a Person who guides us, leads us, helps us, assists in prayer, intercedes on our behalf and gives us at least one Spiritual Gift.

We don't choose our Spiritual Gifts; they are given by the Holy Spirit for the common good of the church. They have been given so that the church can be built up, edified, strengthen, and comforted. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 12 that the church is like the human body. Every part of the human body is needed for the body to function well and so that it can be effective in what it does. In just the same way, every Christian is a part of the Body of Christ and is needed and valuable and an indispensable part of the body of Christ.

All this to say, God has saved you. And God has gifted you. And God wants to use you to do powerful things in this world for His Glory! One of the greatest things that you can do is

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discover and discern how God has gifted you and to use that gift for His glory.

HOW DO FIND YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT{S}

God will reveal your Spiritual Gift{s} ultimately through His Holy Spirit. However, there are a few other ways that we want to encourage you to discover your Spiritual Gifts. {1} First, STUDY. Study God's Word and learn about the Spiritual Gifts. {2} Secondly, PRAY. Pray that God would show you how He has gifted you. {3} Thirdly, ASK. Ask those who you are close with {Friends, Family, Missional Community, etc.} if they see or recognize a Spiritual Gifting in you. {4} Fourthly, TRY. Get out there and try out that Spiritual Gift. And as you do look for a few things: Do you feel God's empowering? Do you see spiritual results? Do others confirm your gifting? If there is affirmation in these areas, it just may be that God has gifted you with that Spiritual Gift. And our encouragement is for you to use that Gift for God's Glory!

WHERE DO WE FIND THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

There are a few places in the Bible where SPIRITUAL GIFTS are shared and described. Here are the passages:

- ❖ 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 12:27-31
- ❖ Romans 12:6-8
- ❖ 1 Peter 4:7-11
- ❖ Ephesians 4:11-13

GIFT CATEGORIES

Although you will not find Spiritual Gift categories in scripture, it is helpful for clarity and memory. There are the 3 categories:

- ❖ **LOVE GIFTS** – These gifts manifest the love of God in practical ways to the church and to the world. These are gifts like, mercy, hospitality, serving, administration, giving etc.
- ❖ **WORD GIFTS** – These gifts manifest the love of God in practical ways to the church and to the world. These are gifts like apostleship, teaching, evangelism, leading, wisdom, shepherding, etc.
- ❖ **POWER GIFTS** – These gifts demonstrate the power and reality of God to the church and to the world. These are gifts like tongues, prophecy, healing, miracles and faith.

LOVE GIFTS

These gifts manifest the love of God in practical ways to the church and to the world.

MERCY

SCRIPTURE: Romans 12:8

DEFINITION: The gift of mercy is the God-given ability to feel and express unusual compassion, empathy, and sympathy for those in difficult or crisis situations and provide them with the necessary help and support to see them through tough times. People with the gift of mercy and people who are hurting, struggling, broken, and overwhelmed find one another so that loneliness can be reduced, a hurt can be healed, and a person at the end of their rope get a knot to hang on to.

- ❖ “This gift is about compassion and showing gracious favor. Mercy sees what someone needs even when they may not see it themselves. The gift of mercy is not an emotion but a deep calling; it is divine love under the power of the Holy Spirit, practicing compassion in Jesus’ name and bringing glory to God the Father. Genuine mercy is never applied with a sense of duty or out of anger or with a scowl. It is cheerful service to those in great need.”²
- ❖ “Cheerful acts of compassion characterize those with the gift of mercy. Persons with this gift aid the body by empathizing with hurting members. They keep the body healthy and unified by keeping others aware of the needs within the church.”³
- ❖ “The gift of mercy is the divine strength or ability to feel empathy and to care for those who are hurting in any way.”⁴

DO YOU HAVE THIS GIFT?

- ❖ Do you find yourself being drawn to people who are needy, hurting, sick, overwhelmed, disabled, or elderly?
- ❖ Do you often think of ways to minister to those who are suffering and see people who are hurting but often overlooked?
- ❖ Do you sense a great deal of compassion for people having personal, spiritual, relational, and emotional problems?
- ❖ Do a lot of people choose you as their wise counsel or confidant to talk about issues in their life with you?
- ❖ Are you more of a “feeler” than other people you know who are more of a “thinker”?
- ❖ Do you find that when you visit those who are suffering it brings you joy to share with them rather than it depressing you?
- ❖ Do you find yourself responding to people more out of compassion for what they are going through rather than judgment for the choices they made that contributed to their troubles?

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⁴ TheROCK Spiritual Gift Test

- ❖ Do you tend to see Jesus more as a priest who intercedes for people in love with patient compassion?
- ❖ If you had to define yourself as more tough like Jesus the Lion or tender like Jesus the Lamb, would you pick the tender lamb?

HOSPITALITY

SCRIPTURE: Romans 12:13

DEFINITION:

- ❖ "Hospitality is the ability to welcome strangers and entertain guests, often in your home, with great joy and kindness so that they become friends. Hospitality is supposed to include one's family, friends, Christians, and strangers who may not be Christians."⁵
- ❖ "Those with this gift have the ability to make visitors, guests, and strangers feel at ease. They often use their home to entertain guests. Persons with this gift integrate new members into the body."⁶
- ❖ "The gift of hospitality is the divine strength or ability to create warm, welcoming environments for others in places such as your home, office, or church."⁷

DO YOU HAVE THIS GIFT?

- ❖ Do you enjoy having people in your home?
- ❖ Do you enjoy watching people meet and have fun at parties and events you helped to plan and host?
- ❖ Is your home the kind that most people feel comfortable in and can drop by to visit unannounced?
- ❖ Do you feel that something is really missing in your life when you cannot have guests into your home, host events, throw parties, plan vacations, and have fun on the calendar?
- ❖ When you think of your home, do you view it from the perspective of guests who will visit so that they feel most welcome and relaxed?
- ❖ Do you consider your home as a place of ministry for others and not just a retreat for you?
- ❖ Do you tend to enjoy going all out for birthdays, holidays, and other celebrations?
- ❖ When there is a room full of people having a good time, do you find your joy in seeing their joy?

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⁶ LifeWAY Spiritual Gift List

⁷ TheROCK Spiritual Gift Test

DISCERNMENT

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 12:10

DEFINITION:

- ❖ “The spiritual gift of discernment is the ability to quickly perceive whether such things as people, events, or beliefs are from God or Satan.”⁸
- ❖ “The spiritual gift of discernment is at its heart a God-given sensitivity to truth, error, or evil. It really is about sensing the often-hidden source of a situation beyond what appears on the surface. ... If you have been given this gift, you have the supernatural capacity to recognize the source of what’s in front of you. People with the gift of discernment see behind the curtain of appearances, which can be misleading. ... Some with discernment simply know when God is present and acting. Others with this gift understand the hidden motives of people, good or bad. And others are tuned in to situations in which the demonic is present.”⁹
- ❖ “Discernment aids the body by recognizing the true intentions of those within or related to the body. Discernment tests the message and actions of others for the protection and well-being of the body.”¹⁰
- ❖ “The gift of discernment is the divine strength or ability to spiritually identify falsehood, to distinguish between right and wrong motives and the spiritual forces at work in situations.”¹¹

DO YOU HAVE THIS GIFT?

- ❖ Have you felt a special responsibility to protect the truth of God’s Word by exposing that which is wrong?
- ❖ Do you often make a swift evaluation of someone or something that was said that others did not see, but proved to be correct?
- ❖ Do you have a solid understanding of Scripture and a sensitivity to the leading of God the Holy Spirit?
- ❖ Are you keenly aware of moral sin and doctrinal heresy?
- ❖ Can you read a book or hear a teacher and almost immediately uncover any false teaching?
- ❖ Do you have an awareness of demonic presence and how to help people be free of demonic oppression?
- ❖ Do you have a gut feeling about people or things that proves to be right most of the time?
- ❖ Do people who are confused about a doctrine, leader, or teacher often ask you what your evaluation is to help them get clarity amidst confusion?

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¹⁰ LifeWAY Spiritual Gifts List

¹¹ TheROCK Spiritual Gifts Test

HELPS / SERVICE

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 12:28 // 1 Peter 4:10,11 // Romans 12:6-8

DEFINITION:

- ❖ “The gift of helps/service is the ability to joyfully work alongside others and help them complete the task God has given them. People with this gift generally prefer to work behind the scenes. They also tend to find joy in helping alleviate the burdens and responsibilities of others. This gift is usually accompanied with an attitude of humility and sacrifice, as well as an ability to perceive the needs of others.”¹²
- ❖ “This gift is mainly to aid others in practical ways; it offers effective service to people in need. It takes on commonplace tasks cheerfully, regularly, and even worshipfully. Much of the time the gift of helps is in one-on-one ministry and a large percentage of people will have this gift in any local church. . . . People with this gift render practical service in the church to people in need. They find joy in doing the simple and messy tasks other will avoid. They are the ‘foot washers’ after the model of Jesus. The actual work done by the gift of helps is very often overlooked precisely because it allows others to accomplish with their gifts much more obvious tasks. The gift of helps is instrumental in liberating and encouraging others to fully engage their gifts. But most importantly, it demonstrates the love of God in the most practical way!”¹³
- ❖ “Those with the gift of service/helps recognize practical needs in the body and joyfully give assistance to meeting those needs. Christians with this gift do not mind working behind the scenes.”¹⁴
- ❖ “The gift of helps is the divine strength or ability to work in a supportive role for the accomplishment of tasks in Christian ministry with the ability to often see the need before others do.”¹⁵

DO YOU HAVE THIS GIFT?

- ❖ Do you enjoy helping others become more effective in their work?
- ❖ Do you prefer to labor behind the scenes?
- ❖ When someone is doing a job poorly, is your first instinct to help them succeed instead of criticizing their failure?
- ❖ Do you prefer to work in a supportive role rather than a leadership capacity?
- ❖ When you hear of someone with needs, do you offer your services if possible?
- ❖ When someone asks for your help, do you have difficulty saying no?
- ❖ Do you not necessarily care what your role is as long as you are on a healthy team that is doing good ministry?
- ❖ Do more lowly tasks that other people tend to delegate or avoid not bother you and so you do them?
- ❖ Do you get asked to do a lot of things, join a lot of ministries, and help a lot of people?

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¹³ Convergence

¹⁴ LifeWAY Spiritual Gift List

¹⁵ TheROCK Spiritual Gift Test

ADMINISTRATION

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 12:28

DEFINITION:

- ❖ The gift of “[a]dministration is the God-given ability to give direction and make decisions on behalf of others that result in efficient operation and accomplishment of goals. Administration includes the ability to organize people, things, information, finances, etc. Often the mark of an administrator is the ability to accomplish things in a ‘fitting and orderly way’”¹⁶
- ❖ “Here are a few telltale signs of this gift that other may notice: You have an effortless skill for organizing tasks and people. You like to streamline and clarify the steps required to accomplish more complex tasks. You think about more work; you imagine ways to help others reach their goals. You have a concern for the good of the whole group when you are in charge of that groups, though you don’t gravitate to that top leadership role. You’re at your best meeting not only the needs of the group but also the needs of the leaders. You like to do things that help other people, and don’t mind managing things or carrying out the details involved.”¹⁷
- ❖ “Persons with the gift of administration lead the body by steering others to remain on task. Administration enables the body to organize according to God-given purposes and long-term goals.”¹⁸
- ❖ “The gift of administration is the divine strength or ability to organize multiple tasks and groups of people to accomplish these tasks.”¹⁹

DO YOU HAVE THIS GIFT?

- ❖ When things are poorly organized do you get frustrated and want to help fix things?
- ❖ Do you like to see resources best stewarded so that things like money, facilities, time, and energy are utilized for the best return on investment?
- ❖ Do you tend to have a risk radar that looks at the downside if things are not done well and seek to safeguard people and organizations by keeping them “buttoned up”?
- ❖ Are you attracted to opportunities where someone needs to bring order out of chaos?
- ❖ Do you naturally organize your life, schedule, finances, priorities, etc.?
- ❖ Do you become energized working on tasks and projects whereas that level of detail work overwhelms or exhausts other people you know?
- ❖ Do things like efficiency and promptness matter more to you than most people you know?
- ❖ Do things like spreadsheets, budgets, organizational charts and software, files, and highlighters make you happy?
- ❖ Do you tend to see Jesus more as a King who rules a perfectly architected and led Kingdom?

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¹⁸ LifeWAY Spiritual Gift List

¹⁹ TheROCK Spiritual Gift Test

GIVING

SCRIPTURE: Romans 12:8

DEFINITION: All Christians are called to give. If this is not your gifting, it doesn't mean that you do not need to GIVE or aren't required to give. Remember that the Old Testament sets the standard of giving or, as some people have said, set the bare minimum towards a Christ-followers giving. And that is 10%. However, those with the gift of giving love to give and do so very freely. There is a joy that is experienced when you give.

- ❖ "Giving is the ability to give money and other forms of wealth joyfully, wisely, and generously to meet the needs of others and help support ministries. General makeup: Regardless of the amount, people with this gift genuinely view their treasures, talents, and time as on loan from God and not their own. They are often moved to meet the physical needs of others. They enjoy giving of themselves and what they have. Even if they do not possess the resources to help, they earnestly pray for those needs to be met."²⁰
- ❖ "People with this gift have a deep sensitivity to God and a desire to channel resources to others, and they do it with joy, with right motive, and with great generosity. These are often, but not necessarily, people with supporting capabilities for generating resources. ... Here are some identifying traits of this spiritual gift: Do you find yourself earmarking certain amounts because you have a strong sense that an opportunity to give will be presented? Are you tuned in to settings and lives in a way that makes you aware that a material gift would significantly impact what God is doing through a group or in a person's life? Do you get great joy out of helping someone without them ever knowing who delivered the assistance?"²¹
- ❖ "Members with the gift of giving give freely and joyfully to the work and mission of the body. Cheerfulness and liberality are characteristics of individuals with this gift (Rom. 12:8)"²²
- ❖ "The gift of giving is the divine strength or ability to produce wealth and to give by tithes and offerings for the purpose of advancing the Kingdom of God on earth. Mark 12:41-44; Romans 12:8; 2 Corinthians 8:1-7, 9:2-7 65"²³

As one person said, "People with this gift have a deep sensitivity to God and a desire to channel resources to others, and they do it with joy, with right motive and generosity. Some of these people God has blessed financially so that they can be generous in their giving. However, some of these people don't have all that much but love to give and love to be generous."

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DO YOU HAVE THIS GIFT?

- ❖ Do you tend to see the needs of others more than other people?
- ❖ Do you enjoy giving your time, talent, and treasure to help people and ministries?
- ❖ Do you see giving to a worthwhile project as an exciting honor and privilege?
- ❖ Do you give to God through your local church regularly, cheerfully, and sacrificially?
- ❖ Do you often hear people commenting that you are a generous person? 6. Do you find yourself looking for opportunities to give your money – even when no one asks?
- ❖ Do you pray for the needs of people and organizations to be met because this is a high priority for you?
- ❖ When you get something (e.g. a home or vacation home, car, etc.) is your first instinct to think about people you could bless by sharing it with them?
- ❖ Do you live with a sense of deep awe at how generous God has been to you?

WORD GIFTS

These gifts manifest the love of God in practical ways to the church and to the world.

PREACHING / TEACHING

SCRIPTURE: Romans 12:7; 1 Corinthians 12:28

DEFINITION:

- ❖ "The gift of teaching is the God-given ability to understand and communicate biblical truth in a clear and relevant way so that people understand both its meaning and application."²⁴
- ❖ "The spiritual gift of teaching is the supernatural ability to explain and apply the scriptures. The way in which the spiritual gift of teaching differs is in the anointed impact of the communication; people get it when someone with that gift teaches. This gift communicates biblical truth that leads to obedience..."²⁵
- ❖ "Teaching is instructing members in the truths and doctrines of God's Word for the purposes of building up, unifying, and maturing the body."²⁶
- ❖ "The gift of teaching is the divine strength or ability to study and learn from the Scriptures primarily to bring understanding and depth to other Christians."²⁷

DO YOU HAVE THIS GIFT?

- ❖ Do you enjoy studying and researching?
- ❖ Do you enjoy imparting biblical truth to others?
- ❖ Do others come to you for insight into Scripture?
- ❖ When you teach, do people "get it"?
- ❖ When you see someone confused in their understanding of the Bible, do you feel a responsibility to speak to them about it?
- ❖ Do you enjoy speaking to various sizes of groups about biblical issues you have strong convictions about?
- ❖ Do people seek you out for answers to their questions and help with biblical and theological issues?
- ❖ Does your study of subjects tend to go "deeper" than most people because you are unusually curious?

EVANGELISM

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 4:11

DEFINITION: We all need to understand that every Christ follower has been called to talk about Jesus and share Jesus and to lead people to a saving faith in Jesus. So, just because we may not have the gift of evangelism doesn't mean we are off the hook or don't

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need to share. All this means is that for some evangelism comes naturally and easier than others and may see greater results. Here are some definitions for the gift of evangelism:

- ❖ The gift of evangelism is the God-given ability to share with ease and clarity the Gospel to lost people. They feel comfortable around those who are far from Jesus and feel compassion towards them. They earnestly want to understand their questions and doubts so that they can answer their questions. Their preference is to be with and round people in the culture rather than Christians in the church.
- ❖ "The gift of evangelism is the ability and desire to boldly and clearly communicate the gospel of Jesus Christ so that non-Christians can become Christians."²⁸
- ❖ "God gifts his church with evangelists to lead others to Christ effectively and enthusiastically. This gift builds up the body by adding new members to its fellowship."²⁹
- ❖ "The gift of evangelism is the divine strength or ability to help non-Christians take the necessary steps to becoming a born-again Christian."³⁰

DO YOU HAVE THIS GIFT?

- ❖ Do you enjoy being with non-Christians and sharing the Gospel?
- ❖ Are you able to effectively communicate to non-Christians in a way they can understand?
- ❖ Does a person's conversion bring you profound joy?
- ❖ Do you feel frustrated when you haven't shared your faith for a while?
- ❖ Do you enjoy teaching other Christians how to share their faith?
- ❖ Do you find it easy to direct a conversation toward the topic of Jesus Christ?
- ❖ Do you find it rather easy to have conversations about God with non-Christians that most Christians would find a bit awkward or uncomfortable?
- ❖ When you think of lost people you know, is your heart a bit like Jesus, who wept over the lost people in His city of Jerusalem?

APOSTLESHIP

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 4:11

DEFINITION: F.Y.I here at EMMANUEL we don't believe that the office of apostleship is open. However, we do believe that the gifting of apostleship is a gift that the Spirit enables. The office of Apostle refers to the 12 chosen by Jesus and/or the Holy Spirit {Acts 9:15}; who were eyewitnesses to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus; and who had a unique ability to perform signs and wonders; and were used to write scripture.

- ❖ The gift of apostleship is the "...God given ability to create new ministries. This could be church planting, cross-cultural missions, or starting a parachurch ministry. ... A person with this gifting is usually recognized by a local church and released to a new

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pioneering work."³¹

- ❖ The gift of apostleship are "...gifted individuals sent out to move from place to place in order to begin and establish local churches. This gift also includes the capacity to minister cross culturally. Today, church planters and missionaries are operating with this gift."³²
- ❖ "The church sends apostles from the body to plant churches or be missionaries. Apostles motivate the body to look beyond its walls in order to carry out the Great Commission."³³
- ❖ "The gift of apostleship is the divine strength or ability to pioneer new churches and ministries through planting, overseeing, and training."³⁴

DO YOU HAVE THIS GIFT?

- ❖ Are you a leader of Christian leaders?
- ❖ Do pastors and ministry leaders seek you out for wise counsel, oversight, and help?
- ❖ Do you have a deep compassion and concern for ministry leaders and their families?
- ❖ Can you effectively minister cross-culturally?
- ❖ Are you called and qualified to plant a church or start a new ministry?
- ❖ Are you a spiritual entrepreneur who likes to start something new or grow something healthier and larger?
- ❖ Has God given you leadership and influence over multiple churches as a movement leader?
- ❖ Can you pioneer a ministry where others have failed?
- ❖ Do you have a longing to see Christians and various ministries and church unified in love for the sake of the Gospel?

LEADERSHIP

SCRIPTURE: Romans 12:8

DEFINITION:

- ❖ "The spiritual gift of leadership is found in people who have a clear, significant vision from God and are able to communicate it publicly or privately in such a way that they influence others to pursue that vision."³⁵
- ❖ "The divine enablement to cast vision, motivate, and direct people to harmoniously accomplish the purpose of God."³⁶
- ❖ "Leadership aids the body by leading and directing members to accomplish the goals and purposes of the church. Leadership motivates people to work together in unity toward common goals."³⁷

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³⁷ LifeWay Spiritual Gifts Lists

- ❖ “The gift of leadership is the divine strength or ability to influence people at their level while directing and focusing them on the big picture, vision, or idea.”³⁸

DO YOU HAVE THIS GIFT?

- ❖ Do others have confidence in your ability to lead?
- ❖ Do you enjoy being the “final voice” or the one with the overall responsibility for the direction and success of a group or organization?
- ❖ When a difficult situation arises, do others look to you for input and leadership?
- ❖ Do you usually take leadership in a group where none exists?
- ❖ Do you find yourself carrying burdens for people and things that others do not?
- ❖ Do you find leadership enjoyable rather than frustrating and difficult?
- ❖ Do others look to you to make the major decisions for a group or organization?
- ❖ Do you tend to have clear vision for a better future that others agree with and rally around?
- ❖ Are you able to bring other leaders with giftings different than yours together to accomplish tasks?

WISDOM

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 12:8

DEFINITION:

- ❖ “The gift of wisdom is the God-given ability to have insight into people and situations that is not obvious to the average person, combined with an understanding of what to do and how to do it. It is the ability to not only see, but also apply the principles of God’s Word to the practical matters of life that brings clarity and understanding.”³⁹
- ❖ “Wisdom is the gift that discerns the work of the Holy Spirit in the body and applies His teachings and actions to the needs of the body”⁴⁰
- ❖ “The key idea in understanding this gift is that it functions like the gift of prophecy but not in a communal setting; it’s one on one. It is God giving a very direct word about an issue that needs to be dealt with, or a word of encouragement, or situational insight in which someone with the gift supernaturally directs another believers how to walk in God’s way and will for that moment. . . . Those with the gift of words of wisdom excel in the role of spiritual direction. But notice it is situational, it’s prompting based, it’s a Power Gift, and when it is given you know God is speaking.”⁴¹
- ❖ “The gift of wisdom is the divine strength or ability to understand and to bring clarity to situations and circumstances often through applying the truths of Scripture in a practical way.”⁴²

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DO YOU HAVE THIS GIFT?

- ❖ Do you have a pattern of making wise decisions for your life and family that helps you give wise counsel to others?
- ❖ Do you seek wise counsel from people wiser than you?
- ❖ When studying God's Word, do you find that you discover the meaning and its implications before others do?
- ❖ Do you seem to understand things about God's Word which other believers with the same background and experience don't seem to know?
- ❖ When studying the Bible, do you find yourself moving toward practical actions to apply what is taught so that you can study for transformation and not just information?
- ❖ Do you get frustrated when people make foolish decisions that damage their quality of life because you know what they should have done instead?
- ❖ Do you find that when people have important decisions to make, they come to you for prayer and biblical counsel?
- ❖ Do you find that, when you counsel people, God the Spirit gives you wisdom to share with them from Scripture, which they accept as God's truth to them through you?

KNOWLEDGE

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 12:8

DEFINITION:

- ❖ "The gift of knowledge is the God-given ability to research, remember, and make effective use of a variety of information on a number of subjects."⁴³
- ❖ "The word of knowledge functions when God give you information about someone you have no direct access to any other way. The right exercise of this gift and the information God gives you always humbles, always helps, and never humiliates. It can bring healing to others, but never hurts them. So words of knowledge are similar to prophecy, but are directed to individuals."⁴⁴
- ❖ "The gift of knowledge manifests itself in teaching and training in discipleship. It is the God-given ability to learn, know, and explain the precious truths of God's Word. A word of knowledge is a Spirit-revealed truth."⁴⁵
- ❖ "The gift of knowledge is the divine strength or ability to bring truth to a situation by supernatural revelation. This is often accompanied by a word from God."⁴⁶

DO YOU HAVE THIS GIFT?

- ❖ Do you love to study?
- ❖ Do you have a good memory that retains and compiles lots of information?
- ❖ Are you able to categorize and synthesize information in ways that most people cannot?

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- ❖ Have others frequently pointed out your ability to know and understand God's Word?
- ❖ Are you a mentally curious person who finds new things to learn a fun challenge?
- ❖ Do people often come to you with difficult problems and questions from the Bible, seeking your insight because they know you will have the answer or will find it?
- ❖ In studying God's Word, have you found that new insights and understanding of difficult subjects come easy to you?
- ❖ Has God spoken to you or moved within you and told you to share that with someone?
- ❖ Has God revealed something about someone else and you have felt like God has told you to share that with them?

SHEPHERDING / CARE

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 4:11

DEFINITION:

- ❖ "In one sense, pastoring is the office reserved for those who meet the Biblical criteria. In another sense, there is a pastoral gift also commonly known as shepherding or Christian counseling that God gives to people in the church beyond those who hold an official leadership position in the church. These people protect, guide, counsel, and disciple other people."⁴⁷
- ❖ "The Spiritual gift of shepherding is the God-given ability to exercise concern and care for people. The key idea of shepherding is people, and their spiritual care, which can take the form of teaching, pastoral care, and presence."⁴⁸
- ❖ "The gift of shepherding is manifested in persons who look out for the spiritual welfare of others. Although pastors, like shepherds, do care for members of the church, this gift is not limited to a pastor or staff member."⁴⁹
- ❖ "The gift of pastor/shepherd is the divine strength or ability to care for the personal needs of others by nurturing and mending life issues."⁵⁰

DO YOU HAVE THIS GIFT?

- ❖ Do you have a deep love for people that compels you to care for them?
- ❖ Do you enjoy meeting with people to listen to their life story and provide them biblical counsel?
- ❖ When you hear that someone is hurting, is your first instinct to try and meet with them to be of help?
- ❖ Are you able to point out sin and folly in someone's life in a loving way that they receive as helpful?
- ❖ Do you enjoy meeting with Christians to help them mature in their faith?
- ❖ Do people pursue you for wise counsel and instruction?

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⁴⁸ Convergence

⁴⁹ LifeWAY Spiritual Gifts List

⁵⁰ TheROCK Spiritual Gift Test

- ❖ Do you find yourself meeting with people regularly to help them take the next steps on their faith walk?
- ❖ Do you find great joy in seeing people heal up, grow, mature, and move forward in life and having a front row seat to witness that work of the Holy Spirit?

ENCOURAGEMENT

SCRIPTURE: Romans 12:8

DEFINITION:

- ❖ The gift of encouragement is the God-given ability of motivating, encouraging, and consoling others so that they mature in their walk with Jesus.
- ❖ The gift of encouragement {also called the gift of exhortation} involves motivating, encouraging, and consoling others so they mature in their walk with Jesus. To encourage someone is to literally pour courage into them to strengthen and sustain them."⁵¹
- ❖ The gift of encouragement is the God-given ability "...to apply biblical truth and to help others live out the faith practically. This is spiritual cheerleading with a specific purpose; calling other believers to begin or continue rightly applying what God has said in His Word. ... Believers with this gift call others' attention to Scripture, urge fellow disciples to keep going in the faith, and come alongside the discouraged and defeated with direction from God's Word that will help them get moving again."⁵²
- ❖ "Possessors of this gift encourage members to be involved in and enthusiastic about the work of the Lord. Members with this gift are good counselors and motivate others to service. Exhortation exhibits itself in preaching, teaching, and ministry."⁵³

DO YOU HAVE THIS GIFT?

- ❖ Do you find yourself attracted to help people who are fearful, struggling, or discouraged?
- ❖ Do you find that you often have more courage than most people in tough situations and people borrow courage from you?
- ❖ Do people seek you out for advice and encouragement?
- ❖ Do you enjoy walking with someone through difficulties?
- ❖ Are you attracted to those who are hurting and needy?
- ❖ Are you patient with people?
- ❖ Would you rather speak personally with someone about their problems rather than send them to someone else for help?
- ❖ Do you find it easy to express joy in the presence of those who are suffering?

⁵¹ Team Jesus

⁵² Convergence

⁵³ LifeWay Spiritual Gift List

POWER GIFTS

These gifts demonstrate the power and reality of God to the church and to the world.

FAITH

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 12:9

DEFINITION:

- ❖ "Faith is the ability to envision what needs to be done and to trust God to accomplish it, even though it seems impossible to most people."⁵⁴
- ❖ "The gift of faith is the supernatural ability to envision and see what God can do and trust that God will accomplish it even if it seems impossible. It can also be defined as the supernatural ability to discern the what and the where and the purpose of God in a situation and have the confidence that God is going to work. This confidence isn't wishful thinking but rather a divine confidence and a deep conviction that comes from God."⁵⁵
- ❖ "Faith trusts God to work beyond the human capabilities of the people. Believers with this gift encourage others to trust in God in the face of apparently insurmountable odds (1 Cor. 12:9)."⁵⁶
- ❖ "The gift of faith is the divine strength or ability to believe in God for unseen supernatural results in every arena of life. Acts 11:22-24; Romans 4:18-21; 1 Corinthians 12:9; Hebrews 11"⁵⁷

DO YOU HAVE THIS GIFT?

- ❖ Do you view obstacles as opportunities and trust God for the impossible?
- ❖ Do you find yourself frequently telling stories about the power of God and what you have seen Him do?
- ❖ Do you get motivated by new ministries and new opportunities?
- ❖ Do you find yourself feeling opposed to anyone who expresses that something cannot be done or accomplished?
- ❖ Do you find other believers coming to you for hope when they face a seemingly overwhelming trial or task?
- ❖ Do you get frustrated when you see people and ministries stuck, not making plans for the future, or not having hope and vision for something better?
- ❖ Do you tend to be less emotionally up and down than many people you know and more even keeled with a strong sense of God's faithfulness?
- ❖ Do you have a big God and high trust in God's good and sovereign providential rule over all things?
- ❖ Do you have an effective prayer ministry with many wonderful answers to prayers that

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⁵⁵ Convergence

⁵⁶ LIFEway Spiritual Gift List

⁵⁷ TheROCK Spiritual Gift Test

were impossible from the human point of view?

TONGUES

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 12:10, 12:28-30, 13:1, 14:1, 14:5-6, 14:18-23, 14:39

DEFINITION:

- ❖ “The word “tongues” is best translated “languages” from the Greek, so speaking in tongues is a supernatural ability to pray in the Spirit in the language of Heaven, or speak to others in their native language, which is unknown to the speaker.”⁵⁸
- ❖ “The gift of tongues is the God-given ability: {1} Speak or write known languages so that the Gospel can be proclaimed and understood by those who hear it spoken. {2} It is also the God-given ability to pray in a Heavenly language as to edify the one speaking. This is what is known as a private prayer language. {The purpose of this private prayer language is to connect at the soul level with God and understand the closeness of him both in your life and in the world. There is much debate over this use of tongues as some people wonder why this is needed. However, in just the same way that private Bible reading, prayer, solitude, and fasting draw one close to God, so does this use of private praying of tongues. {3} It is also the God-given ability to speak in a unknown language to the speaker but known language to someone else. It is other person who knows the language or who can interpret the language to need to interpret what is being said so that those who are gathered can understand what is being said.”⁵⁹
- ❖ “The gift of tongues is the divine ability to speak in known human languages and it is also the divine strength or ability to pray in a heavenly language to encourage your spirit and to commune with God. The gift of tongues is often accompanied by interpretation and should be used appropriately.”⁶⁰

DO YOU HAVE THIS GIFT?

- ❖ Do you have an ability to learn and master languages more easily than most people?
- ❖ Do things like Bible translation and getting Bible teaching out in multiple languages to reach people from as many nations as possible matter a great deal to you?
- ❖ Are you burdened for multicultural ministry, global missions, and reaching the nations for Christ?
- ❖ Do you have a private prayer language of tongues?
- ❖ Are there times in your private prayer that you communicate at a soul level too deep for words that unburdens you and unlocks spiritual growth?
- ❖ Have you ever interpreted the prophetic word given through another person in a language that was foreign to you?

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⁶⁰ TheROCK Spiritual Gift Test

MIRACLES

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 12:9

DEFINITION:

- ❖ “The gift of miracles is the ability to call on God to do supernatural acts that reveal His power by special moments of divine anointing from God the Holy Spirit.”⁶¹
- ❖ “This gift involves the release of God’s power to demonstrate His utter uniqueness. The term may refer to any kind of activity where God’s mighty power is evident. Its uses are two-fold. It can be used to bring people to Jesus for the first time or to build up or set free those that already follow Jesus.”⁶²
- ❖ “The gift of miracles is the divine strength or ability to alter the natural outcomes of life in a supernatural way through prayer, faith, and divine direction. Acts 9:36-42, 19:11-12, 20:7-12; Romans 15:18-19; 1 Corinthians 12:10, 28”⁶³

DO YOU HAVE THIS GIFT?

- ❖ Do you truly believe that God can do the impossible?
- ❖ When you read of the many miracles in the Bible, are you encouraged because you love to see God made known in ways that cannot be ignored?
- ❖ Have you seen someone freed from demonic oppression?
- ❖ Have you seen God perform miracles?
- ❖ When you hear of or see miracles, is your faith in God greatly increased?
- ❖ Does the Kingdom of God mean a great deal to you and serve as a driving motivator for all of your beliefs and behaviors?

HEALING

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 12:9, {Office based healing – James 5:13-15}

DEFINITION:

- ❖ “The gift of healing is the ability to call on God to heal the sick through supernatural means for the purpose of revealing God and His Kingdom where all sickness will be forever healed.”⁶⁴
- ❖ “The gift of healing is the God-given ability to seek the Lord for the healing of an individual and knowing if God has granted that healing or not. Those with this gift know and trust that God can heal the sick and pray in faith for the physical healing of those in need. People with this gift are intermediaries through which God, at times but not all times, uses to bring healing to someone’s life. People with this gift do not see someone healed every time they ask God, since healing is something that God alone decides and does. The gift of healing encompasses many kinds of healing: illness, physical, emotional, and mental.”⁶⁵

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- ❖ “The gift of healing is the divine strength or ability to act as an intermediary in faith, prayer, and by the laying-on of hands for the healing of physical, mental and spiritual sickness. Acts 3:1-10, 9:32-35, 28:7-10; 1 Corinthians 12:9, 28”⁶⁶

DO YOU HAVE THIS GIFT?

- ❖ Do you have a deep compassion for people who are sick? Do you have a deep conviction that God can heal anyone He chooses?
- ❖ Do you enjoy praying for people who are sick, whether that be from a distance or up close through the laying on of hands?
- ❖ Do you have an interest in medicine or counseling or shepherding and finding ways to help people be most physically, emotionally, or spiritually healthy?
- ❖ Have you seen God heal someone?
- ❖ When God heals someone, are you excited because it helps to reveal His power to others?
- ❖ Do you long for the coming of God’s Kingdom when there will be an end to all sickness since sin and its effects will be no more?

PROPHECY

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 12:28, 14:6; Ephesians 4:11; Acts 11:28,29; 21:10,11

DEFINITION:

- ❖ “It is the human report of a divine revelation.”⁶⁷
- ❖ “Like a mail delivery person who does not write or edit the mail, but collects and delivers it, the prophetic calling combined two ministries. First, prophets received specific revelation directly from God. Second, they speak that revealed Word to the people God had called them to with the expectation of an obedient response to God. Prophets communicate their God-given message either by speaking or in writing.”⁶⁸
- ❖ “The gift of prophecy is exercised when someone, usually in a congregation or large gathering, has the capacity to deliver truth of a predictive nature or a situational word from God. The result is to exhort the community, edify or comfort believers, or convince non-believers of God’s truth.”⁶⁹
- ❖ “The gift of prophecy is the divine strength or ability to communicate God’s truth and heart in a way that calls people to a right relationship with God. Acts 2:37-40, 7:51-53, 26:24-29; 1 Corinthians 14:1-4; 1 Thessalonians 1:5”⁷⁰
- ❖ “The gift of prophecy is proclaiming the Word of God boldly. This builds up the body and leads to conviction of sin. Prophecy manifests itself in preaching and teaching (1 Cor. 12:10; Rom. 12:6).”⁷¹

⁶⁶ TheROCK Spiritual Gift Test

⁶⁷ Sam Storms

⁶⁸ Team Jesus

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⁷⁰ TheROCK Spiritual Gift Test

⁷¹ LIFEway Spiritual Gift List

DO YOU HAVE THIS GIFT?

- ❖ When you see sin or error in someone's life or a group of people's life, do you feel compelled to confront them in love and walk with them into repentance?
- ❖ Are you capable of detecting and refuting false teachings?
- ❖ Have you experienced the Spirit's prompting or leading to say something into someone's life even if it is unclear why? But you know you have to say it?
- ❖ Have you ever seen things in people and felt like God is telling you to say something to them?

RESOURCES:

INTRODUCTION TO GIFTS

- ❖ Showing the Spirit: A Theological Exposition of 1 Corinthians 12–14 – D.A. Carson, BOOK
- ❖ God's Empowering Presence: The Holy Spirit in the Letters of Paul – Gordon D. Fee, BOOK
- ❖ Why I Am Still Surprised by the Power of the Spirit – Jack Deere, BOOK
- ❖ Understanding Spiritual Gifts: A Comprehensive Guide – Sam Storms, BOOK
- ❖ Spirit Hermeneutics: Reading Scripture in Light of Pentecost – Craig S. Keener, BOOK
- ❖ The Beginner's Guide to Spiritual Gifts – Sam Storms, BOOK
- ❖ Practicing the Power – Sam Storms, BOOK
- ❖ Spirit and Sacrament – Andrew Wilson, BOOK
- ❖ Spiritual Gifts – John Piper, SERMON
- ❖ Role of the Spirit, Spiritual Gifts as evidence of the Spirit's presence – John Piper, SERMON
- ❖ Roundtable on Spiritual Gifts in the Church – Matt Chandler, VIDEO
- ❖ The Gifts of the Holy Spirit – Matt Chandler, SERMON

PROPHECY

- ❖ The Beginner's Guide to the Gift of Prophecy – Jack Deere, BOOK
- ❖ The Gift of Prophecy in the New Testament and Today – Wayne Grudem, BOOK
- ❖ The Gift of Prophecy – Matt Chandler, VIDEO
- ❖ What is Prophecy in the New Covenant? – John Piper, VIDEO
- ❖ The Gift of Prophecy and the Sufficiency of Scripture – Sam Storms, VIDEO

GIFTS OF HEALINGS

- ❖ A Charismatic Theology of Healing: What? When? Where?, Pt. 1 – Andrew Wilson, VIDEO
- ❖ A Charismatic Theology of Healing: Why? How? Who?, Pt. 2 – Andrew Wilson, VIDEO
- ❖ Healing in James 5 and Its Application in the 21st Century – Andrew Wilson, VIDEO
- ❖ Why Wouldn't, Couldn't, Doesn't God Always Heal? – Sam Storms, VIDEO
- ❖ What is the Gift of Healing? – John Piper, VIDEO
- ❖ What if I'm Not Healed, or Is it Important that We Learn How to Suffer Well? – Matt Chandler, VIDEO

TONGUES, INTERPRETATIONS

- ❖ What is Speaking in Tongues? – John Piper, VIDEO
- ❖ The Language of Heaven: Crucial Questions About Speaking in Tongues – Sam Storms, BOOK
- ❖ The Beauty of Spiritual Language – Sam Storms, VIDEO

DREAMS, INTERPRETATIONS

- ❖ Dictionary of Biblical Imagery – Longman, Ryken, & Wilhoit, ed., BOOK
- ❖ Dream Interpretation – Cordell Ehrich, VIDEO
- ❖ When Muslims Dream of Jesus – Darren Carlson, ARTICLE

SPIRITUAL WARFARE, THE DEMONIC (DISCERNMENT)

- ❖ Spiritual Warfare in the Storyline of Scripture – William F. Cook & Chuck Lawless, BOOK
- ❖ Deliverance – Jon Thompson, BOOK
- ❖ Do You Believe We Should Cast Out Demons Today? – John Piper, VIDEO
- ❖ Have You Exorcized a Demon? – John Piper, VIDEO
- ❖ Bondage Breaker – Neil T. Anderson, BOOK
- ❖ Victory over the Darkness – Neil T. Anderson, BOOK

APOSTLESHIP

- ❖ Is Apostleship a Spiritual Gift? – Sam Storms, ARTICLE
- ❖ Signs of An Apostle – Sam Storms, ARTICLE

C O N C L U S I O N

Isn't it wonderful to know that God has gifted you! You are needed! You are valuable! You have a purpose and can be used by God to do great things for His Glory! Isn't that wonderful! Our encouragement to you is that you find out how God has gifted you and then use that gift inside and outside the church for His Glory!

I want to encourage you to read 1 Corinthians 12 once again. Allow this passage to encourage you and motivate you into service. May you discover your gifts and use your gifts so that the church of Christ can be edified, encouraged and built up.

Have you found your gift? And do you want to use that gift to serve others and the church? We'd love to get you plugged in and serving so that you can see God's mighty hand working through you! Contact Chantel Whitelaw at chantel.whitelaw@emmanuelorillia.org

For His Glory,

The EMMANUEL//Orillia Team