

Spiritual Gifts Explanation Guide



Scoring your gifts:

Wisdom: 1 ___ 16 ___ 31 ___ Total ___

Knowledge: 2 ___ 17 ___ 32 ___ Total ___

Faith: 3 ___ 18 ___ 33 ___ Total ___

Healing: 4 ___ 19 ___ 34 ___ Total ___

Working Miracles:

5 ___ 20 ___ 35 ___ Total ___

Prophecy/Proclamation:

6 ___ 21 ___ 36 ___ Total ___

Discernment of spirits:

7 ___ 22 ___ 37 ___ Total ___

Tongues:

8 ___ 23 ___ 38 ___ Total ___

Interpretation of

Tongues: 9 ___ 24 ___ 39 ___ Total ___

Teaching: 10 ___ 25 ___ 40 ___ Total ___

Serving/Ministry:

11 ___ 26 ___ 41 ___ Total ___

Exhortation/Encouragement:

12 ___ 27 ___ 42 ___ Total ___

Generosity: 13 ___ 28 ___ 43 ___ Total ___

Compassion/Mercy:

14 ___ 29 ___ 44 ___ Total ___

Diligence: 15 ___ 30 ___ 45 ___ Total ___

Explanation and examples:

Wisdom (1 Cor. 12:8)

"... but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God." (1 Cor. 1:24)

"And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual." (1 Cor. 2:13)

"... they stood up and argued with Stephen, but they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke." (Acts 6:9b-10)

Definition (sophia): Those with the gift of wisdom are able to understand, interpret, and helpfully articulate how God is working in

the world through Jesus Christ in the powerful presence of the Holy Spirit. They embrace God's wisdom in their daily lives when it comes to making decisions that leads to sharing the love of God with others.

Knowledge (1 Cor. 12:8)

"For it the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." (2 Cor. 4:6)

"I myself feel confident about you, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with knowledge, and able to instruct one another." (Romans 15:14).

"More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ my Lord." (Phi. 3:8)

Definition (gnosis): Those with the gift of knowledge have been gripped by God's grace in such a way (both intellectually, emotionally and spiritually) that leads them to share and instruct others about the good news of God through Jesus Christ for the sake of the whole world.

Faith (1 Cor. 12:9)

"And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you." (Acts 3:16)

"For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has

become known, so that we have no need to speak about it." (1 Thess. 1:8)

Definition (pistis): Those with the gift of faith strongly cling to the promises of God made through Jesus Christ for the sake of the world. This unwavering gift causes a person to persistently pursue the promises of God in their daily life for others.

Healing (1 Cor. 12:9)

"There he found a man who had been bedridden for eight years ... Peter said to him, 'Jesus Christ heals you; get up and make your bed!" (Acts 9:33-34)

"It so happened that the father of Publius lay sick in bed with a fever and dysentery. Paul visited him and cured him by praying and putting his hands on him." (Acts 28:8)

Definition (iamata): Those with this gift understand that it is God working through them to bring about healing. God's will for wholeness and well-being works through them to bring glory to God.

Working of miracles (1 Cor. 12:10)

"They cast out demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them. King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known." (Mark 6:13-14)

"Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people." (Acts 6:8)

"Even Simon himself believed. After being baptized, he stayed constantly with Phillip and was amazed when he saw the signs and great miracles that took place." (Acts 8:13)

Definition (ener-ge-mata duna-meon): This phrase is used only three times in the New Testament once in 1 Cor. 12:10 and in Galatians 3:5, and Colossians 1:11. However, the word dunameon, translated as heal, cure, or miracle, is used very frequently in the New Testament.

God uses people with this gift, working in and through created means, to bring glory to God. This may include: curing the sick by the laying on of hands, prayerful healing, exorcisms, etc. Miracles are never an end in themselves, but are used so that people (many times the witnesses of the miracle) may come to believe in the power and presence of God through Jesus Christ.

Prophecy/Proclamation (Romans 12:6, 1 Cor. 12:10,28)

“We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith.” (Romans 12:6)

“Tongues, then, are a sign not for believers but for unbelievers, while prophecy is not for unbelievers but for believers.” (1 Corinthians 14.22)

“My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power.” (1 Corinthians 2.4)

Definition (prophetia): God uses people with this gift to proclaim the good news of God through Jesus Christ. The word “prophetia” is sometimes translated as prophecy, however, it is always connected in the New Testament with what God “is” doing, and “will” be doing, through Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Discernment of spirits (1 Cor. 12:10)

“... to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.” (1 Corinthians 12.10)

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; for many false prophets have gone out into the world.” (1 John 4:1)

“But solid food is for the mature, for those whose faculties have been trained by practice to distinguish good from evil.” (Hebrews 5:14)

Definition (dia-kristis pneum-aton): This phrase appears only one time in the New Testament, in 1 Cor. 12:10. The Greek word often translated for “discernment” appears in various places in the New Testament. This gift involves the ability to distinguish what is good and beneficial for all, from that which is evil. It is strongly tied in the Johannine letters with the confession of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit, as opposed to the work of spirits that are not from God.

Tongues (1 Cor. 12:10)

“When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.” (Act 19.6)

“Tongues, then, are a sign not for believers but for unbelievers, while prophecy is not for unbelievers but for believers.” (1 Corinthians 14.22)

“If, therefore, the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your mind?” (1 Corinthians 14.23)

Definition (gen-ey gloss-own; “kinds of tongues”): People with this gift of the Spirit are able to speak in a language that they are unfamiliar with for the purpose of proclaiming/prophesizing.

Interpretation of tongues (1 Cor. 12:10)

“Now I would like all of you to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. One who prophesies is greater than one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up.” (1 Corinthians 14.5)

*Deifintion (er-mey-ney-ah gloss-own) “interpretation of tongues”:
People who are given this gift are able to interpret for someone listening to a tongue proclaiming/prophesizing God’s word.*

Teaching (Romans 12:7)

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” (Acts 2.42)

“... ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching.” (Romans 12.7)

“Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; continue in these things, for in doing this you will save both yourself and your hearers.” (1 Timothy 4.16)

“... proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching.” (2 Timothy 4.2)

Definition (did-osk-own): People with this gift can clearly teach others about God and the faith, in very understandable ways that promote ongoing interest.

Serving/Ministry (Romans 12:7)

“... ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching.” (Romans 12:7)

“I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service.” (1 Timothy 1:12)

“Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. ²And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. ³Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, ⁴while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word.” (Acts 6:1-5)

Definition (diakonia): People with this gift understand and live out the ability to carefully minister to others, with a reverent appreciation of meeting the image of God in the other.

Exhortation/Encouragement (Romans 12:8)

“So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.” (Luke 3.18)

“... the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.” (Romans 12:8)

“After the reading of the law and the prophets, the officials of the synagogue sent them a message, saying, “Brothers, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, give it.” (Acts 13.15)

Definition (para-kal-own): People with this gift are able to genuinely offer uplifting words and support for people, grounded in the promises of God revealed in Christ Jesus for their sake, and the rest of the world.

Generosity (Romans 12:8)

“... the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.” (Romans 12:8)

“You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us;” (2 Corinthians 9.11)

“Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others.” (2 Corinthians 9.13)

Definition (ap-lo-tei-ti): This gift pertains to the abundant ability for generously sharing with others (time, financial resources, material possessions, etc.) without any sense of reward or transactional understanding.

Compassion/Mercy (Romans 12:8)

“... the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.” (Romans 12:8)

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“But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life.” (1 Timothy 1.16)

“Therefore, since it is by God’s mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart.” (2 Corinthians 4.1)

Definition (ele-in): The gift of compassion/mercy is the Christ-like ability to offer, and/or receive, the sheer and unmerited favor and kindness of God. Often times mercy is given/shared for those who might deserve or merit otherwise.

Diligence (Romans 12:8)

“... the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.” (Romans 12:8)

“Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.” (Romans 12:11)

“Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking. ⁸I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others.” (2 Cor. 8:7-8)

“And we want each one of you to show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope to the very end.” (Hebrews 6:11)

Definition (spou-day): This gift relates to the persistent ability to bring about the ongoing participation of others in following Christ as we engage in God’s mission for the sake of the world.