



THE BIG SEVEN

ROMANS 12:6-8

DISCOVERING & DEVELOPING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT

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⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; ⁷ or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; ⁸ he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

- Romans 12: 6-8 (NKJV)

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⁴ For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, ⁵ so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

- Romans 12: 4-5 (NKJV)

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The Seven Motivational Gifts

Prophet

One who clearly perceives the will of God. Proclaims truth & exposes sin.

Ministry / Servant

One who loves to serve others; a doer; meets needs; frees others.

Teacher

One who loves to research and communicate truth. Clarifies truth and validates information.

Exhortation

One who loves to encourage others to live a victorious life. Stimulates faith and promotes growth.

Giving

One who loves to give time, talent, energy, and means to benefit others and advance the gospel. Maximizes results.

Leader

Administrator; one who loves to organize, lead, or direct. Plans ahead and completes tasks.

Mercy

Compassion person; one who shows compassion, love, and care to those in need. Removes distress and shares burdens.

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Spiritual Gifts Assessment



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Exhortation

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Two Main Points

- I. **Characteristics** of the Gift of Encouragement
- II. **Misuses of the** Gift of Encouragement

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Characteristics of the Gift of Exhortation

1. A motivation to encourage people to their full spiritual maturity in Christ
2. An ability to discern where a person is in spiritual growth and to speak on that level

“And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ”.

- 1 Corinthians 3: 1

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Characteristics of the Gift of Exhortation

3. A desire to give precise steps of action when encouraging people toward spiritual maturity

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Characteristics of the Gift of Exhortation

¹⁶ Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? ¹⁷ If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are. ¹⁸ Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. ¹⁹ For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their own craftiness"; ²⁰ and again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile." ²¹ Therefore let no one boast in men. For all things are yours: ²² whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or things present or things to come—all are yours. ²³ And you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

- 1 Corinthians 3: 16-23

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Characteristics of the Gift of Exhortation

4. A drive to explain truth with logical reasoning in order to gain acceptance for it
5. An ability to visualize spiritual achievement for people and use this to motivate them

..." Imitate me, (follow me) as I imitate (follow) Christ"

- **1 Corinthians 11: 1**

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Characteristics of the Gift of Exhortation

6. A desire for face-to-face discussion in order to determine and insure a positive response
7. An ability to identify with people with different types and backgrounds in order to gain a wider hearing

“...Became all things to all men that he might by all means save a few”

- **1 Corinthians 9: 22c**

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Characteristics of the Gift of Exhortation

8. A motivation to bring harmony between diverse groups of Christians, and an awareness that harmony is basic to spiritual maturity
9. An ability to welcome personal trials as a chief motivator of spiritual growth

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Misuses of the Gift of Encouragement

1. Raising the expectations of others prematurely
2. Taking “family time” to counsel others
3. Treating people as “projects” rather than as “persons”
4. Sharing “private” illustrations without permission
5. Starting new projects without finishing existing ones
6. Encouraging people to depend on you, rather than on God and their authorities
7. Trusting “visual” results rather than a true change of heart
8. Neglecting proper emphasis on basic bible doctrine
9. Giving counsel before discerning the type of person or problem

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Barnabas

“Son of Encouragement”

“Son of Exhortation”

“... A good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith.” Through his ministry, “a great number of people were brought to the Lord”

- Acts 11: 24

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