

# Spiritual Gifts: Talents, Fruits and Services

Paul writes about spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians 12-14. He only briefly defines individual gifts because many gifts overlap others and this is by no means a complete enumerating of gifts from the Holy Spirit for the Body of Christ, the Church. Paul writes to promote congregational unity, purpose and direction.

A good way to understand all of these various gifts from God is to look at them from the perspective of how they are given to us and how they are used.

**Spiritual Gifts: TALENTS** – Spiritual Gifts of Talents are God created attributes unique to each individual. They can be anything from being tall, having physical strength, graceful movement, or being male or female. They are first article talents created by God that are as unique and special as every individual. Individual talents are gifts to the Body of Christ used in our various vocations throughout our life.

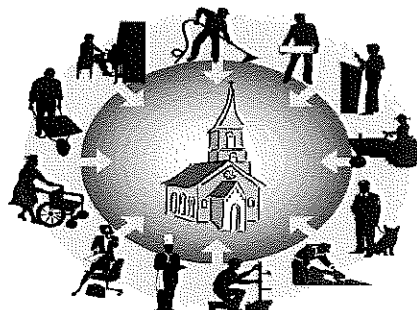


**Spiritual Gifts: FRUITS** – Spiritual Gifts of Fruits are given to all of God's redeemed children in Christ. Just to name a few: faith, hope, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, salvation, forgiveness, and the like. They are second article fruits abundantly given in the Gospel grace of Jesus Christ. All Christians have these gifts, these fruit, and will display them to various degrees. Some may be less evident and some may be over abundant.



As a Christian is connected to the vine of Christ in Word and Sacrament they will always bear fruit, and it is God's desire that we be very fruitful!

**Spiritual Gifts: SERVICES** – Spiritual Gift of Services are active ways Christians may use their talents and fruits to serve the Body of Christ. They are third article services in which the Spirit encourages Christians to work and grow in God's Kingdom. Think of them as ways in which we use our talents and fruits to help our neighbor and especially the Body of Christ, the Church. Since they are concrete actions and observable events within the members of the Body of Christ we can more easily recognize and identify them. Thus we can identify these Spiritual Gifts of Service in people and also better connect them to serving the Body of Christ at large and in our congregation.



## Some Spiritual Gifts of Service

- ❖ Proclamation (*Prophecy*)
- ❖ Teaching
- ❖ Exhortation (*Motivational*)
- ❖ Wisdom (*Godly*)
- ❖ Knowledge (*Theological, Doctrinal*)
- ❖ Serving (*Helping*)
- ❖ Leadership
- ❖ Administration
- ❖ Generosity (*Stewardship*)
- ❖ Compassion (*Mercy*)
- ❖ Discernment
- ❖ Evangelism (*Confessing*)
- ❖ Hospitality
- ❖ Trust (*Faithfulness*)
- ❖ Miraculous Gifts
- ❖ Relationships (*Networking*)
- ❖ Listening
- ❖ Music
- ❖ Intercession (*Prayer*)
- ❖ Artistry (*Skilled Crafts*)
- ❖ Encouragement (*Advocacy*)
- ❖ Communicating (*Through Media*)
- ❖ Shepherding (*Mentoring*)

# Spiritual Gifts of Services

**Proclamation (Prophecy):** The God-given ability to reveal God's truth and proclaim it in a timely and relevant manner for understanding, correction, repentance or edification.

**Teaching:** The God-given ability to understand, explain, and apply the Word of God, in such a way to be clearly understood by others.

**Exhortation (Motivational):** The God-given ability to motivate and stimulate others so that their gifts might also build up the Body of Christ.

**Wisdom (Godly):** The God-given ability to apply spiritual truth effectively to meet a need in a specific situation.

**Knowledge (Theological, Doctrinal):** The God-given ability to learn, analyze, and uncover new insights from the Bible that are pertinent to the growth and well being of the church.

**Serving (Helping):** The God-given ability to accomplish practical and necessary behind the scenes tasks which free up, support, and meet the needs of others.

**Leadership:** The God-given ability to cast vision, motivate, and direct people to harmoniously accomplish the purpose of God.

**Administration:** The God-given ability to understand what makes an organization function and the special ability to plan and execute procedures that accomplish goals.

**Generosity (Stewardship):** The God-given ability to contribute time, talent and treasure to the work of the Lord with cheerfulness and liberality.

**Compassion (Mercy):** The God-given ability to feel deeply for those in physical, spiritual or emotional need and then act to meet that need.

**Discernment:** The God-given ability to distinguish between truth and error; good and evil; right and wrong.

**Evangelism (Confessing):** The God-given ability to effectively communicate the Gospel to unbelievers so they may respond in faith and move toward discipleship.

**Hospitality:** The God-given ability to care for people by providing fellowship, food and lodging.

**Trust (Faithfulness):** The God-given ability to act on God's promises with confidence and unwavering belief in God's ability to fulfill His purposes.

**Miraculous Gifts:** The God-given ability to be an instrument of God's supernatural power in the lives of people today.

**Relationships (Networking):** The God-given ability to make and keep relationships in the Body of Christ.

**Listening:** The God-given ability to lovingly listen to the needs and desires of others.

**Music:** The God-given ability to be involved with music for the enrichment of worship and personal life.

**Intercession (Prayer):** The God-given ability to consistently pray on behalf of and for others, seeing frequent specific results.

**Artistry (Skilled Crafts):** The God-given ability to use your talents and skills to create something useful and beautiful for the Body of Christ.

**Encouragement (Advocacy):** The God-given ability to present words of comfort, consolation and encouragement to strengthen or urge to action those who are discouraged and wavering in their faith.

**Communicating (Through Media):** The God-given ability to communicate through media and technology.

**Shepherding (Mentoring):** The God-given ability to assume long term personal responsibility for the spiritual welfare of a group of believers by nurturing and guiding them toward on-going spiritual maturity in Word and Sacrament.

- 0 – Not true of me
- 1 – Seldom true of me
- 2 – Sometimes true of me
- 3 – Frequently true of me
- 4 – Very true of me
- 5 – Almost always true of me

# Spiritual Gifts of Service Inventory

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Comforts others with the Word of God.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Able to communicate what one knows in a way other people can understand.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Encourages people who are discouraged.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Provides God-given solutions in the midst of conflict and confusion.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Recognizes God's plans and purposes in daily life.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Is happy doing little, but significant, jobs around the church.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Can direct and motivate those around in order to accomplish a goal.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Likes to organize people, tasks or events.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Recognizes God's gifts and can turn them around and give to others.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Feels deeply for those who are experiencing pain, distress or need.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Seems to have an easy time knowing if a person is honest or dishonest.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Inspires and challenges others to develop a relationship with Jesus Christ.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Welcomes others openly with love and acceptance.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. Acts in complete confidence of God's ability to overcome obstacles.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. Has done something someone would consider "miraculous."
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. Interacts comfortably with people older and younger than one's self.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. Conversations with others seem detailed and important.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. Enjoys singing or participating in music.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. Has a daily awareness of the spiritual battles being waged and talks to God about these things.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. Enjoys building, creating or repairing things for members of the congregation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 21. Has an ability to reach out and help others in hard times.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 22. Loves to play with words and finds humor in language.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 23. Provides guidance and oversight to a family or group of God's people.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 24. Relates God's Word to the issues of the day.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 25. Enjoys Bible study and personal reflection.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 26. Motivates others to a higher spiritual commitment.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 27. Has special insight in helping people make choices in difficult situations.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 28. Can accept and apply difficult portions of Scripture.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 29. Actively looks to assist people in doing a job.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 30. Models the Christian life of service.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 31. Is good with details.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 32. Gladly supports critical situations with financial aid.

0 - Not true of me  
1 - Seldom true of me  
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3 - Frequently true of me  
4 - Very true of me  
5 - Almost always true of me

- \_\_\_ 33. Is one of the first to visit people injured or ill.
- \_\_\_ 34. Quickly and correctly evaluates a situation as being right or wrong.
- \_\_\_ 35. Talks easily to strangers about Christ.
- \_\_\_ 36. Regularly invites people home for dinner or socializing.
- \_\_\_ 37. Stands firm even when all others desert God's cause.
- \_\_\_ 38. Has been present when God has done something "impossible".
- \_\_\_ 39. Knows someone in just about every place or in every line of work.
- \_\_\_ 40. Is able to sit quietly and hear what is important to another person.
- \_\_\_ 41. Enjoys listening to music.
- \_\_\_ 42. Gives confidence and comfort to those for whom they pray.
- \_\_\_ 43. Express themselves through visual images, arts and crafts.
- \_\_\_ 44. Is a good "cheerleader" for others.
- \_\_\_ 45. Can relate the Word to others in creative and inspiring ways.
- \_\_\_ 46. Has a heart for the struggles and celebrations of all people.
- \_\_\_ 47. Speaks warnings from God's Word when necessary to whom ever needs it.
- \_\_\_ 48. Gets excited about helping people discover important Scriptural truths.
- \_\_\_ 49. Is good at bringing in-actives back into the church.
- \_\_\_ 50. Integrates personal experience and previous learning to find Godly solutions to current situations.

- \_\_\_ 51. Researches the scriptures for insight, understanding and truth.
- \_\_\_ 52. Willing to help someone in the church who's facing a crisis.
- \_\_\_ 53. Great at getting a diverse group to reach consensus.
- \_\_\_ 54. Develops practical plans to move forward toward a goal.
- \_\_\_ 55. Is generous toward people and causes of need.
- \_\_\_ 56. Demonstrates a belief that God leads through impossible situations.
- \_\_\_ 57. Listens intently to people to understand their reasons for what they do.
- \_\_\_ 58. Lives the Christian lifestyle fearlessly outside of church.
- \_\_\_ 59. Looks to the needs of others and their comfort.
- \_\_\_ 60. Sees the Spirit at work in everyday life.
- \_\_\_ 61. Frequently witnesses how God works supernaturally.
- \_\_\_ 62. Excel in matching present needs with the talents of others.
- \_\_\_ 63. People enjoy talking to you and frequently.
- \_\_\_ 64. Likes various types and styles of music performance.
- \_\_\_ 65. Feels compelled to earnestly pray on behalf of someone or some cause.
- \_\_\_ 66. Is deeply moved by others' art and skill in making things beautiful.
- \_\_\_ 67. Motivates others to grow.
- \_\_\_ 68. Has a comfort with technology and its increasing influence in our daily lives.
- \_\_\_ 69. Establishes trust and confidence through long-term relationships.