Ministry Tools Resource Center

Spiritual Gifts Bible Teaching for Christians

Define, Discover & Effectively Use Your Gifts in Serving & Recruiting

HOME

TRAINING

RESOURCES

Spiritual Gifts List & Definitions

What are the different spiritual gifts?

Training Category: Spiritual Gifts



There are different kinds of gifts but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. (1 Cor. 12:4-5)

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. (1 Pet. 4:10)

Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. (Romans 12:4-6a)

Although opinions differ on the actual number of spiritual gifts, God's Word clearly indicates a variety of gifts. You will find twenty different Greek words used for the gifts listed in the key passages on spiritual gifting. Herein you will find definitions for those possibilities.

Also Read:

- . How to Arrive at Definitions
- What's in a Definition

You will also find an additional listing of five possible gifts not found in the key spiritual gifting passages. In the scripture references listed by those gifts the context of the verses includes the same original language for spiritual gifts used in the key passages. This spiritual gifts list is limited to the possibilities listed in the key gifts passages and those that are suggested by context.

List of Spiritual Gift Possibilities in Key Bible Passages

Click on the name of a gift in these lists for its definition or simply keep scrolling down. The gifts in italics are repeated in one of the other passages.

Romans 12

exhortation giving leadership mercy prophecy service teaching

1 Corinthians 12

administration apostle discernment

faith healings helps

knowledge miracles prophecy teaching

tonques tongues interpretation

wisdom

Ephesians 4

apostle evangelism pastor prophecy

teaching

Misc. Passages

celibacy hospitality martyrdom missionary voluntary poverty

Identify Your Spiritual Gifts: Online Spiritual Gifts Test

More on Spiritual Gifts

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Everybody Has A Part Getting a Grip on **Spiritual Gifts Book**

In addition to learning more about spiritual gifts, an Appendix in the Everybody Has a Part -- Getting a Grip on Spiritual Gifts book provides a list of the spiritual gifts with these definitions as well as characteristics seen in people with the gift.











Everybody Has a Part Spiritual Gifts Tests

In addition to three different spiritual gifts tests, the Everybody Has a Part Spiritual Gifts Test Resource includes a 28 page document with the spiritual gifts definitions and possible uses.

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6/17/2018, 8:18 AM 1 of 7

Definitions of Spiritual Gifts Specifically Listed in the Bible:

ADMINISTRATION: 1 Cor. 12:28 - to steer the body toward the accomplishment of God-given goals and directives by planning, organizing, and supervising others (Greek Word: kubernesis - to steer, guide, helmsmen)

Books & Internet Resources:

- Christian Education
- Leadership
- Staffing
- Staff Support

Related Online Training Helps on MinTools.com:

- Examples of Gift of Administration in Use
- Leading Types of Spiritual Gifts
- Christian Education Ministry
- Leadership Ministry
- Staffing Ministry

APOSTLE: Eph. 4:11; 1 Cor. 12:28 - to be sent forth to new frontiers with the gospel, providing leadership over church bodies and maintaining authority over spiritual matters pertaining to the church (Greek Word: apostolos - 'apo'=from 'stello'=send; one sent forth)

Books & Internet Resources:

- Cross-Cultural
- Missions
- Other Outreach
- Visionary Leadership

Related Online Training Helps on MinTools.com:

- Outreach Expresses Love
- Outreach Ministry
- · Outreach Types of Spiritual Gifts

CELIBACY: 1 Cor. 7:7,8 - to voluntarily remain single without regret and with the ability to maintain controlled sexual impulses so as to serve the Lord without distraction

Books & Internet Resources:

Singles

Back to gifts list

DISCERNMENT: 1 Cor. 12:10 - to clearly distinguish truth from error by judging whether the behavior or teaching is from God, Satan, human error, or human power

Books & Internet Resources:

- Apologetics
- Spiritual Warfare

Related Online Training Helps on MinTools.com:

- Examples of Gift of Discernment in Use
- Insightful Types of Spiritual Gifts
- Ministry Needs Assessment
- Outreach Ministry: Apologetics

Back to gifts list

EVANGELISM: Eph. 4:11 - to be a messenger of the good news of the Gospel (Greek Word: euaggelistes - preacher of gospel; eu=well, angelos=message - messenger of good)

Books & Internet Resources:

Related Online Training Helps on MinTools.com:

- Cross-Cultural
- Missions
- Other Outreach
- Witnessing

- Examples of Gift of Evangelism in Use
- Outreach Expresses Love
- Outreach Ministry
- Outreach Types of Spiritual Gifts

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- Ministry Empowerment: Divine Power
- Ministry Effectiveness



Check Out All Spiritual Gifting Resources

• Sharing God's Message of Salvation?

Back to gifts list

EXHORTATION: Rom. 12:8 - to come along side of someone with words of encouragement, comfort, consolation, and counsel to help them be all God wants them to be (Greek Word: paraklesis - calling to one's side)

Books & Internet Resources:

- Counseling
- Shepherding
- Speaking
- Staffing
- Staff Support
- Teaching
- Worship

Related Online Training Helps on MinTools.com:

- Examples of Gift of Exhortation in Use
- Exhortation Versus Criticism
- Speaking Types of Spiritual Gifts
- Counseling Ministry
- Discipleship Ministry
- Equipping Ministry
- Ministry Training
- Small Groups
- Support Groups
- Teaching Ministry

Back to gifts list

FAITH: 1 Cor. 12:8-10 - to be firmly persuaded of God's power and promises to accomplish His will and purpose and to display such a confidence in Him and His Word that circumstances and obstacles do not shake that conviction

Books & Internet Resources:

- Faith (look under traits)
- Prayer
- Visionary Leadership

Related Online Training Helps on MinTools.com:

- Examples of Gift of Faith in Use
- Intercessory Types of Spiritual Gifts
- Prayer Ministry
- Love for God Expressed Through Prayer
- Prayer Bits Devotional Guide

GIVING: Rom. 12:8 - to share what material resources you have with liberality and cheerfulness without thought of return

Books & Internet Resources:

Related Online Training Helps on MinTools.com:

- Benevolence
- Biblical Stewardship

- Examples of Gift of Giving in Use
- Serving Types of Spiritual Gifts
- Benevolence Ministry
- Practical Assistance

Back to gifts list

HEALINGS: 1 Cor. 12:9,28,30 - to be used as a means through which God makes people whole either physically, emotionally, mentally, or spiritually

Books & Internet Resources:

Related Online Training Helps on MinTools.com:

- Counseling
- Letting Go of the Past
- Prayer

- Intercessory Types of Spiritual Gifts
- Counseling Ministry
- Prayer Ministry
- Shepherding Ministry

HELPS: 1 Cor. 12:28 - to render support or assistance to others in the body so as to free them up for ministry

Books & Internet Resources:

Related Online Training Helps on MinTools.com:

- Clerical
- Communications
- Service-Oriented
- Staff Support

Back to gifts list

- Examples of Gift of Helps in Use
- Serving Types of Spiritual Gifts

HOSPITALITY: 1 Pet. 4:9,10 - to warmly welcome people, even strangers, into one's home or church as a means of serving those in need of food or lodging (Greek Word: philoxenos - love of strangers; 'philos'=love; 'xenos'=stranger)

Books & Internet Resources:

Related Online Training Helps on MinTools.com:

Hospitality

- Examples of Gift of Hospitality in Use
- · Serving Types of Spiritual Gifts
- Visitation Ministry

KNOWLEDGE: 1 Cor. 12:8 - to seek to learn as much about the Bible as possible through the gathering of much information and the analyzing of that data

Books & Internet Resources:

Related Online Training Helps on MinTools.com:

- Christian Education
- Preaching & Speaking
- Teaching

- Examples of Gift of Knowledge in Use
- . Insightful Types of Spiritual Gifts
- Christian Education Ministry
- Teaching Ministry

Back to gifts list

LEADERSHIP: Rom. 12:8 - to stand before the people in such a way as to attend to the direction of the body with such care and diligence so as to motivate others to get involved in the accomplishment of these goals

Books & Internet Resources:

Related Online Training Helps on MinTools.com:

• Leadership Resources

- Examples of Gift of Leadership in Use
- · Leading Types of Spiritual Gifts
- Church Purpose
- Leadership Ministry

MARTYRDOM: 1 Cor. 13:3 - to give over one's life to suffer or to be put to death for the cause of Christ

Books & Internet Resources:

Persecuted Believers

Back to gifts list

MERCY: Rom. 12:8 - to be sensitive toward those who are suffering, whether physically, mentally, or emotionally, so as to

6/17/2018, 8:18 AM 4 of 7

feel genuine sympathy with their misery, speaking words of compassion but moreso caring for them with deeds of love to help alleviate their distress

Books & Internet Resources:

- Benevolence / Caring
- People Helping Ministry
- Visitation Ministry

Related Online Training Helps on MinTools.com:

- Examples of Gift of Mercy in Use
- Serving Types of Spiritual Gifts
- Benevolence
- People Helping Ministry

Back to gifts list

MIRACLES: 1 Cor. 12:10,28 - to be enabled by God to perform mighty deeds which witnesses acknowledge to be of supernatural origin and means

Books & Internet Resources:

Related Online Training Helps on MinTools.com:

Prayer

- Intercessory Types of Spiritual Gifts
- Prayer Ministry

MISSIONARY: Eph. 3:6-8 - to be able to minister in another culture

Books & Internet Resources:

Related Online Training Helps on MinTools.com:

- Cross-Cultural Outreach
- Missions
- Outreach

- Outreach Expresses Love
- Outreach Ministry
- Outreach Types of Spiritual Gifts

Back to gifts list

PASTOR: Eph. 4:11 - to be responsible for spiritually caring for, protecting, guiding, and feeding a group of believers entrusted to one's care

Books & Internet Resources:

Related Online Training Helps on MinTools.com:

Shepherding

- Examples of Gift of Pastor in Use
- Leading Types of Spiritual Gifts
- Shepherding Ministry

Back to gifts list

PROPHECY: Rom. 12:6; 1 Cor. 12:10; Eph. 4:11 - to speak forth the message of God to His people (Greek Word: prophetes - the forth-telling of the will of God; 'pro'=forth; 'phemi'=to speak)

Books & Internet Resources:

Related Online Training Helps on MinTools.com:

Speaking

- Examples of Gift of Prophecy in Use
- Speaking Types of Spiritual Gifts

Back to gifts list

SERVICE: Rom. 12:7 - to identify undone tasks in God's work, however menial, and use available resources to get the job done (Greek Word: diakonia - deacon, attendant 'diako'=to run errands)

Books & Internet Resources:

- Clerical
- Communications
- Service-Oriented

Related Online Training Helps on MinTools.com:

- Examples of Gift of Service in Use
- Serving Types of Spiritual Gifts
- Practical Assistance

Back to gifts list

TEACHING: Rom. 12:7; 1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11 - to instruct others in the Bible in a logical, systematic way so as to communicate pertinent information for true understanding and growth

Books & Internet Resources:

- Christian Education
- Teaching

Related Online Training Helps on MinTools.com:

- Examples of Gift of Teaching in Use
- Speaking Types of Spiritual Gifts
- Christian Education
- Christian Nurture
- Equipping Ministry
- Ministry Training
- Sunday School Teachers
- Teaching Ministry
- Teacher Training Materials

Back to gifts list

TONGUES: 1 Cor. 12:10; 14:27-28 - to speak in a language not previously learned so unbelievers can hear God's message in their own language or the body be edified

INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES: 1 Cor. 12:10; 14:27, 28 - to translate the message of someone who has spoken in tongues

Related Online Training Helps on MinTools.com:

• Outreach Types of Spiritual Gifts

VOLUNTARY POVERTY: 1 Cor. 13:3 - to purposely live an impoverished lifestyle to serve and aid others with your material resources

Books & Internet Resources:

- Benevolence
- Biblical Stewardship
- People Helping Ministry

Related Online Training Helps on MinTools.com:

- Benevolence Ministry
- People Helping Ministry

Back to gifts list

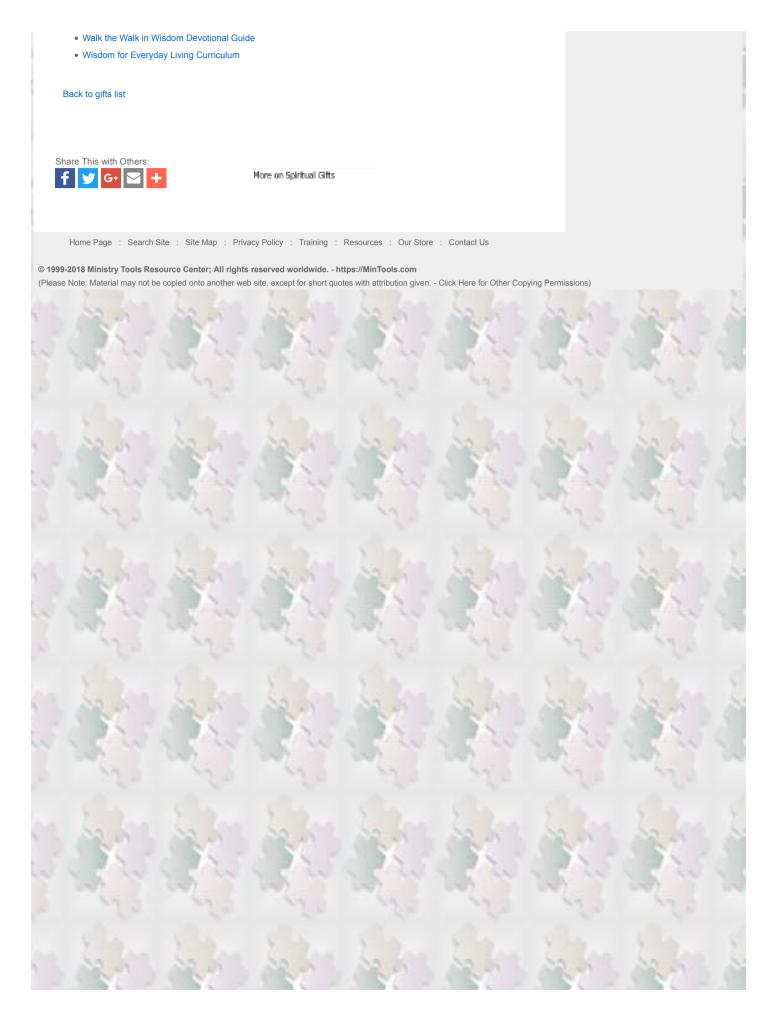
WISDOM: 1 Cor. 12:8 - to apply knowledge to life in such a way as to make spiritual truths quite relevant and practical in proper decision-making and daily life situations

Books & Internet Resources:

Related Online Training Helps on MinTools.com:

Counseling

- Examples of Gift of Wisdom in Use
- Insightful Types of Spiritual Gifts
- Counseling Ministry
- Crisis Intervention



7 of 7