

A Summary of Gifts

Just as the fruit of the Spirit (listed in the fifth chapter of Galatians) should be found in every Christian's life, so we are all counseled to practice the gifts of the Spirit. "Through love serve one another" (Service -- Gal. 5:13). "Teach and help one another" (Teaching -- Col. 3:16). "But exhort one another daily" (Encouragement -- Heb 3:13). "Give and it will be given to you" (Giving -- Luke 6:38). "Be merciful in action, kindly in heart, humble in mind!" (Mercy--Col' 3:12).

Discernment

- I'm able to assist others in determining' spiritual problems
- If I see a problem, I tend to render 'u rather than helping others to change
- I could effectively choose or nominate church members for positions where they would serve well
- I can correctly distinguish a spirit of truth from a spirit of error before that difference is apparent to others

Encouragement

- It is easy for me to genuinely comfort someone who is hurting
- I can make effective appeals by publicly urging certain courses of action
- I am quick to encourage others
- I help strengthen positive behavior rather than criticizing negative behavior

Evangelism

- I'm at ease asking people to make a decision for Christ
- People often ask me how to become a Christian
- Through the Holy Spirit I lead people to a commitment to Jesus
- I am more interested in the end results of soul winning than in how people are led to decision

Faith

- I rely upon God for all my needs
- I am often impatient with methodical, cautious thinking
- I am convinced that seemingly impossible tasks can be accomplished
- I typically see hope in apparently hopeless situations

Giving

- My gifts to others are often answers to specific prayers
- I have the ability to make wise investments with the ultimate aim of sharing my gains.
- I am sensitive to the material needs of others and desire to meet those needs without publicity
- I am able to give without expecting something in return and without insisting on determining how the gift is used

Hospitality

- It is more natural for me to meet people's immediate needs than to aid them in planning to meet long-term needs
- I enjoy meeting strangers and having them in my home
- People look forward to being part of large gatherings in my home
- If someone were in need of lodging, I would offer my home to meet the need.

Knowledge

- I'm able to mentally grasp how separate pieces of biblical information fit into the great themes of the scripture
- I have a tendency to measure spiritual maturity on the basis of biblical knowledge
- I can probe to deep levels in Bible topics
- I enjoy answering and discussing Bible questions

Leadership

- People look to me when opinions are being sought
- I tend to assume responsibility if no structured leadership exists
- I can lead out in discussions, harmonize various points of view, draw conclusions, and delegate authority
- When I am in charge, there is a good spirit of unity and enthusiasm

Mercy

- People share their inward struggles with me because they see me as sympathetic and understanding
- I often lack firmness and decisiveness because I am sensitive about offending others
- I am moved with compassion toward society's outcasts (such as drunks, unwed mothers, mentally retarded)
- I condemn others only if they are insensitive to personal needs

Teaching

- I care a great deal about the accuracy of information
- I'm able to communicate well on the level of my listeners
- Bible teachings come quickly to mind whenever I deal with a problem
- I'm able to foster much participation and interest in presenting a spiritual subject

Wisdom

- I know when to take an uncompromising stand and when to change a position
- I can predict with excellent accuracy the long term results of decisions
- I can apply what I learn to practical life situations
- I view all of life from a scriptural perspective.

Now Find Your Niche

Here are some ideas about where you can help out in your local church program. There are many other possibilities, of course, but these might help you to visualize how your gift can be used in a specific church office or function.

Keep in mind that one position may require more than one gift. For example, an effective administrator requires the gifts of leadership and organization, a pastor should possess the gifts of shepherding and preaching. The possible gifts combinations are nearly beyond computing.

Discernment

- Elder
- Nominating Committee
- Pastors' lay advisory committee
- School board
- Membership Committee

Encouragement

- Hospital Visitation
- Church nurture Visitation
- Prison ministry
- Telephone counseling
- Investment leader
- Specific area counseling (marriage, teens, etc.)
- Ingathering leader
- Youth Ministries

Evangelism

- Personal Ministries Leader
- Give Bible studies
- Lead out in Bible-oriented seminars
- Church planting in new areas
- Prison ministry
- Branch Sabbath School (adult)
- Visitor visiting
- Follow up media interests

Faith

- Building committee
- Project development
- Nominating Committee
- School board
- Evangelism Committee

Giving

- Finance committee

- Student aid committee
- Investment leader
- Community services board
- Ingathering leader
- Poor fund committee
- Student missionary committee

Hospitality

- Hospitality dinner co-coordinator/team leader
- Social committee
- Deacon/deaconess
- Singles' ministry

Knowledge

- Give Bible studies
- Help with seminars
- Write on Bible topics

Leadership

- General Sabbath School superintendent
- Chairman of various boards and committees
- Lay pastor
- Elder
- Head deacon/deaconess
- Treasurer
- Youth ministries leader

Mercy

- Emergency preparedness committee
- Community services (Dorcas)
- Poor fund committee
- Student aid committee
- Counseling
- Meals On Wheels

Missionary

- Student missionary committee
- Visitation committee
- Refugee aid
- Inner-city work
- Cross-culture evangelism

Organization

- Church clerk
- Treasurer

- Nominating committee
- Social committee
- Telephone committee
- Church secretary
- Sabbath School superintendent
- Publications/public relations

Prayer

- Hospital visitation
- Church nurture visitation
- New project development
- Elder
- Prayer band leader
- Follow up media interests

Preaching

- Lay preacher/evangelist
- Elder
- Prison ministry
- Lead out in seminars

Service

- Deacon/deaconess
- Music committee or participant
- Telephone committee
- Church librarian or tape librarian
- Audio visual committee
- Custodian/janitor
- Publications/public relations
- Meals On Wheels
- Community service
- Ingatherer

Pastoring/Shepherding

- Church nurture visitation
- Singles ministry
- Study-group leader
- Hospital visitation
- Counseling
- Social committee

Teaching

- Sabbath School leader/teacher (in any division/level)
- Youth activities leader
- Vacation Bible School leader/teacher
- Branch Sabbath School leader

- Bible study leader

Wisdom

- Church board chairman
- Membership committee
- Elder
- Counseling
- School board member