

What are the different 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.

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](#)
[tongues](#)
[tongues interpretation](#)
[wisdom](#)

Ephesians 4

[apostle](#)
[evangelism](#)
[pastor](#)
[prophecy](#)
[teaching](#)

Misc. Passages

[celibacy](#) 1 Corinthians 7:7-8
[hospitality](#) 1 Peter 4: 9-10
[martyrdom](#) 1 Corinthians 13:3
[missionary](#) Ephesians 3: 6-8
[voluntary poverty](#) 1 Corinthians 13:3

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)

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](#)

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

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

- [Apologetics](#)
- [Spiritual Warfare](#)

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)

- Cross-Cultural
- Missions
- Other Outreach
- Witnessing

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)

- Counselling
- Shepherding
- Speaking
- Teaching
- Worship

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. Also, and including the faith to believe in God's will and purpose in situations that may seem hopeless to others.

GIVING: Rom. 12:8 - to share what material resources you have with liberality and cheerfulness without thought of return (This goes beyond the Biblical expectation that all Christians give)

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. This can involve prayers and laying on of hands for the sick. It can also be the heart gifting of someone in a healing profession (e.g. carers/medical professionals/therapists etc)

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

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)

KNOWLEDGE: 1 Cor. 12:8 – To be gifted by the Spirit with specific knowledge of a situation unknowable through natural human means. E.g. Jesus in John 4 with the Samaritan woman at the well

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

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

MERCY: Rom. 12:8 - to be sensitive toward those who are suffering, whether physically, mentally, or emotionally, so as to 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](#)
- [Helping people in crisis](#)
- [Visiting and pastoral support](#)

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

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

Books & Internet Resources:

- [Cross-Cultural Outreach](#)
- [Missions](#)
- [Outreach](#)

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:

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)

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](#)
- [Practical Assistance](#)

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

- [Teaching](#)
- [Small group leading](#)
- [Equipping Ministry](#)
- [Ministry Training](#)
- [Children/Youth Teachers](#)

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](#):

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

Books & Internet Resources:

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

- [Counselling](#)
- [Counselling Ministry](#)
- [Crisis Intervention](#)

Adapted by J Bramwell from <https://mintools.com/gifts-list.htm> retrieved 13/02/23

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