

Definition: Spiritual gifts are special abilities that God gives to every Christian to be used cooperatively for the strengthening of the Body of Christ so that it might better fulfill God's purposes.

Small Group Ministry

The gift of small group ministry is the ability to facilitate a group discussion process, ensure everyone is heard, contributing, and cared for. It also incorporates the gifts of pastoral care, theological reflection and prayer. In addition to this gift, small group leaders must have the gift of faith.

Faith

Faith is not something we learn in our heads, but is indeed a gift. It is not to be automatically assumed that all people in the church necessarily have this gift. For some, it is stronger than others. Faith can grow, and the gift of faith can come at any time. For some it is sudden, for others it develops over time.

Enthusiasm

The gift of enthusiasm is the ability to inspire and enthuse others into participating in projects, programs or ministry ideas. It is helpful in youth, children and worship ministry, and also in other forms of leadership. It requires charisma, an upbeat personality and is related to marketing or "PR". *Not* having this gift does not mean that you are not an enthusiastic person!

Discernment

The gift of discernment is the ability to recognize what is genuine from what is pretence; what is of God from what is not of God. People with this gift "just know" the right decision – the wisest way to go. This gift is important in certain leadership positions in the church, and very few people have it. Those who do are often misunderstood by those who do not! It should be noted that some women may have the gift of discernment and it will not show up on this inventory because women especially have been taught in our culture to discount their "gut instinct" as unreliable; their apprehensions as exaggerated. Further exploration may be needed to discern this gift in women. One clue is to look at "vision". Anyone with vision almost always has discernment (but not necessarily the other way around).

Encouragement

The gift of encouragement is the ability to inspire, admonish, hearten and support others so that they are strengthened in resolve, faith and spirit. It is the ability to always see the good in others and in situations.

Evangelism

The gift of evangelism is the ability to introduce Jesus to others in a way that enables them to respond in faith to become Christ's disciples.

Theological Reflection

The gift of theological reflection is the ability to address the question, "where is God in all this?" and to call people back to the Gospel in their discussions. People with this gift are able to relate real life matters to symbols and stories of the faith.

Giving

The gift of giving is the ability to give of material wealth freely and with joy to further God's mission in the world and build the kingdom.

Wisdom

Although few have the gift of discernment, many have the gift of wisdom. This is also a gift that grows and develops over time, but it should not be assumed that older means wiser. Many young people are blessed with the gift of wisdom, and those who have lived a long time may be devoid of it. For those who do not have a gift of discernment, the truly wise ensure they have all the information and understand the situation fully before making a decision.

Hospitality

The gift of hospitality is the ability to enjoy meeting new people and providing a warm welcome, food, friendship, a "home" or transportation. It is an important gift in greeting ministries.

Social Justice

A keen interest in and passion for seeking justice (fairness and equity) in our world. Able to make others aware of peace and justice issues and passionately advocate for the poor and/or marginalized.

Youth Ministry

The gift of youth ministry means having a love for and being able to relate to young people, encourage and empower them to stay in relationship with God and deepen their faith.

Leadership

What is vital to true leadership is the capacity of the leader to define self (what do I believe, what are my core values, what will I do or not do in any given situation) while trying to maintain a nonanxious presence within the system...it means to take maximum responsibility for one's own destiny and emotional being...the capacity to remain "I" *while staying connected*. Traditionally "strong" leadership has been associated with control, manipulation, the wielding (even abuse) of power, or perhaps charisma. It was often thought that leaders needed to be extroverted, enthusiastic people who could organize an idea around a goal and get people to "follow". Although people are drawn to these types of leaders, they are often anxious people who refuse to connect with others on any meaningful level. They may even waffle in their belief system or values, or else rigidly uphold certain values without being open enough to explore them, and possibly change. The church does not need "strong leadership". The church needs good leadership, and it is a rare, rare gift. It is, however, a gift that can grow for those who are attentive enough to their spiritual journey to also grow.

Children's Ministry

Those with gifts for children's ministry love children and understand the importance of children in the kingdom of God and therefore in the life of our congregation. They have a solid faith and desire to nurture children in this faith.

Pastoral Care

The gift of pastoral care is the ability to express human compassion and love for all people. Listening, empathizing, understanding, caring. Those with the gift of pastoral care will be gifted in small group ministry as well, and need to have the gifts of leadership so that they can define “boundaries”.

Mission & Outreach (Charity)

The gift of mission & outreach is the ability to instinctively and compassionately respond to the suffering of others with practical deeds that embody Christ’s love.

Organization

The gift of organization is the ability to see the specific actions needed to achieve goals, and to organize information, resources and people to work effectively to accomplish those goals. What other inventories see as “leadership” gifts are defined here as “organization” gifts. Good organizers are important in a church, but are not necessarily those who should be in leadership.

Prayer

The gift of prayer is the ability to pray daily, and to frequently receive clear responses from God to prayer requests

Liturgy & Drama

The gift of liturgy and drama is the ability to use artistic skills, reading, and theatre experience to create a flow and creativity in worship for the glory of God.

Teaching

The gift of teaching is the ability to communicate factual, psychological, moral, or spiritual truths, ideas or theories that enables others to learn and contributes to the spiritual health of individuals and the church. This inventory will more readily identify those with the gift of teaching adults, rather than children.

Vision

The gift of vision is the ability to receive and communicate a compelling image of a process, outcome, or state of being that God desires for individuals, the church or society.

Helping Hands

You have some special gift to share: baking, cooking, artwork, music, landscaping, carpentry, fixing things, decorating, or helping with any of these things. When you discern your gifts in your small group, be sure to say what it is!