

Intercession

Consistently pray on behalf of and for others, seeing frequent and specific results. Intercessors exercise authority and power for the protection of others and the equipping of them to serve, having daily awareness of the spiritual battles being waged.

Colossians 1:9-12
Colossians 4:12-13
James 5:14-16

Interpretation of tongues. (See Tongues.)

This gift has two very different understandings: (1) The ability to interpret foreign languages without the necessity of formal study to communicate with those who have not heard the Christian message or (2) the ability to interpret the gift of tongues as a secret prayer language that communicates with God at a deep spiritual level. Both understandings are communal in nature: the first extends the good news into the world; the second strengthens the faith within the fellowship.

Acts 2:1-13
I Corinthians 12:10
I Corinthians 14:1-14

Knowledge.

This is the gift of knowing the truth through faithful study of the Scripture and the human situation. Knowledge provides the information necessary for the transformation of the world and formation of the body of Christ. Those possessing this gift challenge the fellowship to improve itself through study, reading of the Scripture, discussions, and prayer.

Acts 5:1-11
I Corinthians 12:8
Colossians 2:2-3

Leadership.

This is the gift of orchestrating the gifts and resources of others to achieve the mission and ministry of the church. Leaders move the community of faith toward a God-given vision of service, and they enable others to use their gifts to the very best of their abilities. Leaders are capable of creating synergy, whereby the community of faith accomplishes much more than its individual members could achieve on their own.

Romans 12:8
I Timothy 3:1-13
I Timothy 5:17
Hebrews 13:17

Miracle working.

This gift enables the church to operate at a spiritual level that recognizes the miraculous work of God in the world. Miracle workers invoke God's power to accomplish that which appears impossible by worldly standards. Miracle workers remind the fellowship of the extraordinary nature of the ordinary world, thereby increasing faithfulness and trust in God. Miracle workers pray for God to work in the lives of others, and they feel no sense of surprise when their prayers are answered.

Acts 9:36-42
Acts 19:11-12
Acts 20:7-12
Romans 15:18-19
I Corinthians 12:10, 28

Music

Make a significant contribution to a worship experience through singing or playing a musical instrument.

Deuteronomy 31:22
I Samuel 16:16
I Chronicles 16:41-42
II Chronicles 5:12-13
II Chronicles 34:12
Psalm 150

Prophecy.

This is the gift of speaking the Word of God clearly and faithfully. Prophets allow God to speak through them to communicate the message that people most need to hear. While often unpopular, prophets are able to say what needs to be said because of the spiritual empowerment they receive. Prophets do not foretell the future, but proclaim God's future by revealing God's perspective on our current reality

Acts 2:37-40
Acts 7:51-53
Acts 26:24-29
I Corinthians 14:1-4
I Thessalonians 1:5

Service.

This is the gift of serving the spiritual and material needs of other people within and beyond the local church. Servants understand their place in the body of Christ as giving comfort and aid to all who are in need. Servants look to the needs of others rather than focus on their own needs. To serve is to put faith into action; it is to treat others as if they were indeed Jesus Christ himself. The gift of service extends our Christian love into the world.

Acts 6:1-7
Romans 12:7
Galatians 6:10
II Timothy 1:16-18
Titus 3:14

Shepherding.

This is the gift of guidance. Shepherds nurture other Christians in the faith and provide a mentoring relationship to those who are new to the faith. Displaying an unusual spiritual maturity, shepherds share from their experience and learning to facilitate the spiritual growth and development of others. Shepherds take individuals under their care and walk with them on their spiritual journeys. Many shepherds provide spiritual direction and guidance to a wide variety of believers.

John 10:1-18
Ephesians 4:11-14
I Timothy 3:1-7
I Peter 5:1-3

Teaching.

This is the gift of bringing scriptural and spiritual truths to others. More than just teaching church school, teachers witness to the truth of Jesus Christ in a variety of ways, and they help others to understand the complex realities of the Christian faith. Teachers are revealers. They shine the light of understanding into the darkness of doubt and ignorance. They open people to new truths, and they challenge people to be more than they have been in the past.

Acts 18:24-28
Acts 20:20-21
I Corinthians 12:28
Ephesians 4:11-14

Tongues. (See Interpretation of tongues.)

This gift has two popular interpretations: (1) The ability to communicate the gospel to other people in a foreign language without the benefit of having studied said language (see Acts 2:4) or (2) the ability to speak to God in a secret, unknown prayer language that can only be understood by a person possessing the gift of interpretation. The gift of speaking in the language of another culture makes the gift of tongues valuable for spreading the gospel throughout the world; while the gift of speaking a secret prayer language offers the opportunity to build faithfulness within a community of faith.

Acts 2:1-13
I Corinthians 12:10
I Corinthians 14:1-14

Wisdom.

This is the gift of translating life experience into spiritual truth and of seeing the application of scriptural truth to daily living. The wise in our fellowships offer balance and understanding that transcend reason. Wisdom applies a God-given common sense to our understanding of God's plan for the church. Wisdom helps the community of faith remain focused on the important work of the church, and it enables younger, less mature Christians to benefit from those who have been blessed by God to share deep truths.

Acts 6:3, 10
I Corinthians 2:6-13
I Corinthians 12:8

Administration.

The gift of organizing human and material resources for the work of Christ, including the ability to plan and work with people to delegate responsibilities, track progress, and evaluate the effectiveness of procedures. Administrators attend to details, communicate effectively, and take as much pleasure in working behind the scenes as they do in standing in the spotlight.

Luke 14:28-30
Acts 6:1-7
1 Corinthians 12:28

Apostleship / Missionary

The gift of spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ to other cultures and foreign lands. This is the missionary zeal that moves us from the familiar into uncharted territory to share the good news. Apostles embrace opportunities to learn foreign languages, visit other cultures, and go where people are who have not heard the Christian message. The United States of America is fast becoming a mission field of many languages and cultures. It is no longer necessary to cross an ocean to enter the mission field. Even across generations, we may find that we need to "speak other languages" just to communicate. Our mission field might be no farther than our own backyard.

Acts 15:22-35
1 Corinthians 12:28
11 Corinthians 12:12
Galatians 2:7-10
Ephesians 4:11-14

Compassion / Mercy.

This gift is exceptional empathy with those in need that moves us to action. More than just concern, compassion demands that we share the suffering of others in order to connect the gospel truth with other realities of life. Compassion moves us beyond our comfort zones to offer practical, tangible aid to all God's children, regardless of the worthiness of the recipients or the response we receive for our service.

Matthew 9:35, 36
Mark 9:41
Romans 12:8
1 Thessalonians 5:14

Craftsmanship.

The ability to use your hands and mind to benefit other believers through artistic, creative or a wide variety of construction arenas. Creatively design and/or construct items to be used for ministry.

Exodus 30:22-25
Exodus 31:3-11
11 Chronicles 34:9-13
Acts 18:2-3

Creative Communication

Communicate God's truth and captivate people and cause them to consider Christ's message through a variety of art forms. Demonstrate fresh ways to express the Lord's ministry and message through artistic skills such as drama, writing, art, music, etc.

Psalms 150:3-5
Samual 6:14-15
Mark 4:2,33

Discernment.

This is the ability to separate truth from erroneous teachings and to rely on spiritual intuition to know what God is calling us to do. Discernment allows us to focus on what is truly important and to ignore that which deflects us from faithful obedience to God. Discernment aids us in knowing whom to listen to and whom to avoid.

Matthew 16:21-23
Acts 5:1-11
Acts 16:16-18
1 Corinthians 12:10
1 John 4:1-6

Evangelism.

This is the ability to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with those who have not heard it before or with those who have not yet made a decision for Christ. This gift is manifested in both one-on-one situations and in groups settings, large and small. It is an intimate relationship with another person or persons that requires the sharing of personal faith and a call for a response of faith to God.

Acts 8:5-6
Acts 8:26-40
Acts 14:21
Acts 21:8
Ephesians 4:11-14

Exhortation / Encouragement.

This is the gift of exceptional encouragement. Exhorters see the silver lining in every cloud, offer a deep and inspiring hope to the fellowship, and look for and commend the best in everyone. Exhorters empower the community of faith to feel good about itself and to feel hopeful for the future. Exhorters are not concerned by appearances; they hold fast to what they know to be true and right and good.

Acts 14:22
Romans 12:8
1 Timothy 4:13
Hebrews 10:24-25

Faith.

More than just belief, faith is a gift that empowers an individual or a group to hold fast to its identity in Christ in the face of any challenge. The gift of faith enables believers to rise above pressures and problems that might otherwise cripple them. Faith is characterized by an unshakable trust in God to deliver on God's promises, no matter what. The gift of faith inspires those who might be tempted to give up to hold on.

Acts 11:22-24
Romans 4:18-21
1 Corinthians 12:9
Hebrews 11

Giving.

Beyond the regular response of gratitude to God that all believers make, giving as a gift is the ability to use the resource of money to support the work of the body of Christ. Giving is the ability to manage money to the honor and glory of God. Givers can discern the best ways to put money to work, can understand the validity and practicality of appeals for funds, and can guide church leaders in the most faithful methods for managing the congregation's finances.

Mark 12:41-44
Romans 12:8
11 Corinthians 8:1-7
11 Corinthians 9:2-7

Healing.

This is the gift of channeling God's healing powers into the lives of God's people. Physical, emotional, spiritual, and psychological healing are all ways that healers manifest this gift. Healers are prayerful, and they help people understand that healing is in the hands of God, that healing is often more than just erasing negative symptoms. Some of the most powerful healers display some of the most heartbreaking afflictions.

Acts 3:1-10
Acts 9:32-35
Acts 28:7-10
1 Corinthians 12:9, 28

Helping.

This is the gift of making sure that everything is ready for the work of Christ to occur. Helpers assist others to accomplish the mission and ministry of the church. These "unsung heroes" work behind the scenes and attend to details that others would rather not be bothered with. Helpers function faithfully, regardless of the credit or attention they receive. Helpers provide the framework upon which the ministry of the church is built.

Mark 15:40-41
Acts 9:36
Romans 16:1-2
Corinthians 12:28

Hospitality

The distinctive ability to make people feel "at home," welcome, cared for, and part of the group by providing fellowship, food, and shelter. They provide an environment where people feel valued, cared for and at ease in unfamiliar surroundings.

Acts 16:14-15
Romans 12:13
Romans 16:23
Hebrews 13:1-2
Peter 4:9