

Spiritual Gifts 2026

A spiritual gift is a grace-enabled way in which the Holy Spirit works through a believer to benefit others, build up Christ's body, advance God's purposes, & ultimately glorify God

The Body needs both "Front Stage" (visible) & "Back Stage" (less visible) gifts ...
eg preaching, teaching, evangelism, leadership... AND ... administration, helps, giving, prayer

Key Scriptures on Gifts: Rom 12, 1Cor 12-14, Eph 4, 1 Pet 4

The Deepest Biblical Principle: Gifts Are Stewardships

1 Peter 4:10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

A gift therefore isn't primarily:

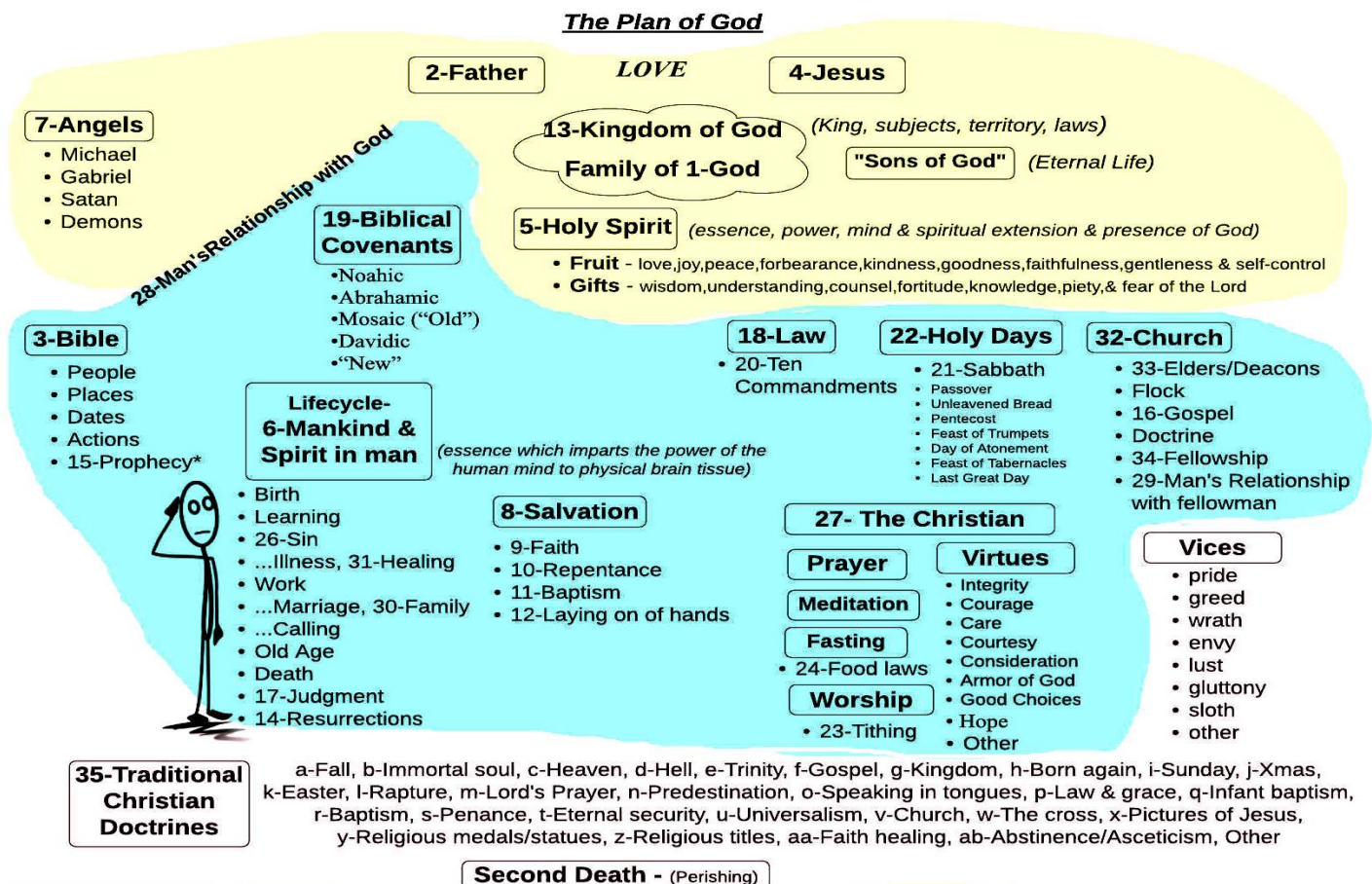
- a possession - a title - an identity - a badge - a platform - a status symbol.

It is something **entrusted to you for somebody else's benefit.**

That changes the question **from:** "What gift do I have?"

to: "What has God entrusted to me that He expects me to use for others?"

Today we will comprehensively explore the Spiritual Gifts **God gives to benefit His church**



Time: (Past - History - Creation, 25-Hebrew Calendar ... Present -(World events) ... (Future - 15-Prophecy*) ... Eternity ...)

This is a Follow-up to Pastor Adrian's Sermon ... Our Time to Shine

Pastor Adrian Davis - Our Time to Shine - Part 2.mp4

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TWO MODELS OF CHURCH

Household or Marketplace

THE CONSUMER MODEL
The church as a marketplace
"What does this church offer me?"

THE HOUSEHOLD MODEL
The church as a family
"What is my work in this body?"

ROLE	POSTURE	MEASURE	WHEN HARD	FRUIT
Customer	Receive and evaluate	Personal satisfaction	Shop elsewhere	Spiritual atrophy
Member by adoption	Receive and also give	Edification of the whole	Forbear in love	Maturity and gifts in motion

"...the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." 1 Timothy 3:15

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Pastor Adrian Davis - Our Time to Shine - Part 2.mp4

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AUTHORITY IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

Two dimensions: vertical structure, horizontal gifts

THE VERTICAL
One divine structure
Only 3 levels – 2 ordained offices

DIVINELY APPOINTED OFFICES

CHRIST
Head of the body

ELDERS

DEACONS

THE HORIZONTAL
Many distinct gifts
The Spirit distributes gifts severally as he wills.

BRETHREN
Each member, each gift

HORIZONTAL - SPIRIT-GIVEN GIFTS

Teaching Hospitality Service Mercy Exhortation

"He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets... for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."

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The Biblical Framework for Spiritual Gifts

<u>Biblical principle</u>	<u>NKJV Scripture</u>	<u>What it means</u>
Every believer has something to contribute	1 Peter 4:10	Gifts are distributed among believers
Gifts differ	Romans 12:6	We should not expect everyone to function alike
Gifts come from God	1 Cor 12:11	The Spirit distributes gifts “as He wills”
Gifts are for the common good	1 Cor 12:7	The purpose is service, not self-glorification
Gifts belong within one body	1 Cor 12:12–27	Different gifts complement each other
Gifts should be exercised in love	1 Cor 13:1–13	Giftedness without love becomes spiritually empty
Gifts should build up others	1 Cor 14:12, 26	Edification is a major test
Gifts should be developed	1 Tim 4:14; 2 Tim 1:6	Gifts can be neglected or stirred up
Gifts should be exercised responsibly	1 Cor 14:40	“Let all things be done decently and in order.”
Gifts ultimately glorify God	1 Peter 4:11	“That in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ”

Jim woke up with THIS question in mind!?:

How do we spot, experience & encourage each gift of the Spirit?



1-Prophecy - Romans 12:6; 1 Corinthians 12:10; 14:1–5, 24–25, 29–33

Spot it

A person may have a prophetic gift when he or she repeatedly demonstrates an ability to:

- communicate God's truth with unusual clarity
- apply Scripture directly to a situation;
- expose spiritual realities people are avoiding
- call people toward repentance, faith, obedience, & faithfulness
- speak words that bring conviction or encouragement

1 Cor 14:3 He who prophesies speaks **edification & exhortation & comfort** to men.

Experience it

The congregation may experience:

- conviction
- clarity
- encouragement
- spiritual awakening
- exposure of hidden attitudes
- renewed understanding of God's truth

1 Cor 14:24–25 describes an unbeliever having the secrets of his heart revealed and responding, “God is truly among you.”

Encourage it

- Encourage Scripture-grounded proclamation
- Teach biblical discernment
- Give opportunity to speak appropriately
- Test prophetic claims rather than blindly accepting them
- Keep prophecy subordinate to Scripture

1 Cor 14:29: “Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge.”

2- **Ministry / Serving** - Romans 12:7

Spot it

Look for people who naturally notice: - practical needs - things that need to be done
- people who need assistance - details others overlook - opportunities to make ministry function better.

They often ask: **“What needs to be done?”** rather than: **“Who is going to do it?”**

Experience it

The gift is often experienced through: - practical relief - reliability - reduced burdens
- smoother ministry - tangible expressions of Christian love.

Encourage it

- Don't treat practical service as a lesser ministry

Mark 9:35 If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.

Church application: identify & value people who quietly make ministry happen

3- **Teaching** - Romans 12:7; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 4:11

Spot it

A teacher tends to: - understand biblical material - organize information - explain difficult concepts - make connections between Scriptures - answer questions - correct misunderstandings
- help others understand **why** something is true.

Nehemiah 8:8 So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; & they gave the sense, & helped them to understand the reading



Experience it

People begin saying: - “I understand that now.” - “I've never seen that connection before.” - “That Scripture makes sense.” - “Now I know how to apply it.

Encourage it

- Provide teaching opportunities - Give access to serious Bible study - Train teachers in hermeneutics - Encourage accuracy rather than merely entertaining presentation - Require teachers to model what they teach

James 3:1 provides an important caution: teachers have greater accountability.

4- **Exhortation / Encouragement** - Romans 12:8

This gift is much broader than simply “being encouraging.”

Spot it

These people often know how to: - motivate someone toward obedience - strengthen discouraged believers - challenge someone who is drifting - translate truth into action
- encourage perseverance.

Experience it

After talking with such a person, someone may think: - **“I can do this.”** - **“I need to get back on track.”** - **“God has not abandoned me.”**

Acts 11:23 “When he (*Barnabas*) came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, & encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord.”

Encourage it

Give these people opportunities in: - discipleship - mentoring - counselling - visitation
- small groups - leadership development - member care

5- **Giving** - Romans 12:8 He who gives, with liberality.

Spot it

The gift of giving is more than simply being wealthy.

A gifted giver often: - sees financial needs - responds generously - thinks strategically about resources - gives without needing recognition - enjoys enabling ministry - sees money as a tool for God's purposes.

Experience it

The recipient experiences: - provision - opportunity - relief - ministry being enabled

The giver experiences the joy of participating in something larger than himself.

2 Corinthians 9:7 God loves a cheerful giver.

Encourage it

- Teach biblical stewardship - Give opportunities for strategic generosity - Protect donors from manipulation - Maintain financial transparency - Celebrate the ministry accomplished rather than the donor



6 - **Leading** - Romans 12:8 He who leads, with diligence

Spot it

A person with leadership gifting often naturally: - sees where something needs to go

- organizes people around a goal - accepts responsibility - establishes priorities - makes decisions - mobilizes others - perseveres when things become difficult

Experience it

People begin moving together rather than individually - Good leadership creates:

direction → alignment → action → perseverance

Encourage it

Give emerging leaders: responsibility - mentoring - measurable assignments

- authority appropriate to their responsibility - opportunities to make decisions - accountability

Matt 20:26 Whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant.

7 - **Mercy** - Romans 12:8 He who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

Spot it

Mercy-gifted people frequently: - notice suffering others overlook - feel compassion deeply - move toward hurting people rather than away - patiently listen - remain present during prolonged difficulty

Experience it

The hurting person experiences: - acceptance - compassion - patience - presence - emotional and spiritual support.

Encourage it

Give opportunities for: - hospital visitation - grief ministry - elderly care - counselling support - benevolence - crisis ministry - caring for marginalized people

The qualifier “**with cheerfulness**” is important. Mercy should not communicate resentment or reluctant obligation.

8 - **Word of Wisdom** - 1Cor 12:8 For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit

Spot it

This person may be especially effective at answering: **“What should we do?”**

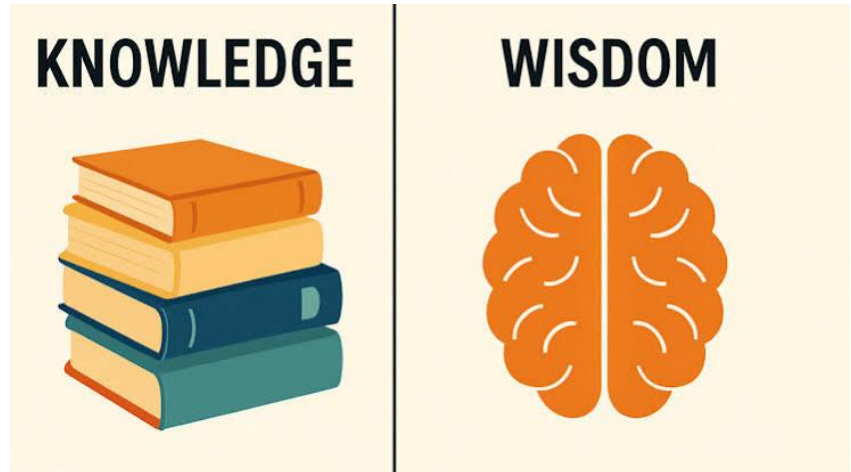
They can take biblical principles and apply them wisely to complicated circumstances

Experience it

People gain: - perspective - wise direction - balanced judgment - clarity about competing considerations

Encourage it

Invite wise people into: - difficult decisions - leadership discussions - pastoral situations - conflict resolution - strategic planning



9 - **Word of Knowledge** 1Cor 12:8

to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit

Spot it

A person may demonstrate

unusual ability to: - understand information relevant to ministry - recognize important facts - connect biblical knowledge with circumstances - grasp information that helps solve a problem

Experience it

The result is often: **“Now we understand what is actually happening.”**

Encourage it

Encourage: - serious Bible study - research - asking good questions - careful investigation - combining knowledge with wisdom

1Cor 13:2 *Knowledge without love is specifically warned against*

10 - **Faith** - 1Cor 12:9 To another faith by the same Spirit...

This is not merely saving faith. All Christians are called to faith. This gift appears to involve unusual confidence in God concerning particular circumstances.

Spot it

These believers often: - trust God when circumstances look impossible - inspire others to believe God's promises - attempt things others consider impossible - remain confident during uncertainty

Experience it

Their faith can become contagious. The church begins thinking:

“Perhaps we really should trust God and move forward.”

Encourage it

Don't automatically label faith-filled people as reckless. Test their confidence against: - Scripture - wisdom - counsel - circumstances - God's character

Hebrews 11:1–6 (*Faith Chapter*) gives the larger biblical framework.

11- Gifts of Healings -1Cor 12:9, 28

Spot it

The biblical gift concerns God granting healing through His people.

However, Scripture does **not** teach that every Christian who prays faithfully will necessarily receive physical healing.

Paul experienced unanswered prayer regarding his “thorn in the flesh”. **2 Cor 12:7–9**

Experience it

Healing may produce: - restored health - renewed hope - strengthened faith
- thanksgiving - testimony to God's mercy

Encourage it

The church should: - pray for the sick - anoint and pray where appropriate - avoid sensationalism - never blame sick people for inadequate faith - leave the ultimate outcome with God

Jas 5:14-15 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, & let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord & the prayer of faith will save the sick, & the Lord will raise him up & if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven



12 - Working of Miracles - 1 Cor 12:10, 28–29

Spot it

This involves extraordinary manifestations of God's power beyond ordinary human ability

Experience it

The result should not merely be amazement. Biblically, miracles can:

- authenticate God's messenger - reveal God's power - deliver people - advance God's purposes

Encourage it

The church should neither: **deny God's supernatural power**
nor **chase supernatural experiences for their own sake.**

The ultimate question is: **Does this point people toward God and His truth?**

13 - Discernment of Spirits - 1 Cor 12:10 - ...to another discerning of spirits...

Spot it

A discerning person may be unusually sensitive to: - false teaching - spiritual deception
- manipulative behaviour - counterfeit spirituality - unhealthy motivations - genuine versus false spiritual manifestations.

Experience it

Discernment can protect the church from: - deception - false prophets - destructive teaching - manipulation - spiritual confusion

Encourage it

Teach people to test rather than merely suspect.

1 John 4:1 “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits...”

A discerning person needs wisdom so that discernment does not become chronic suspicion.

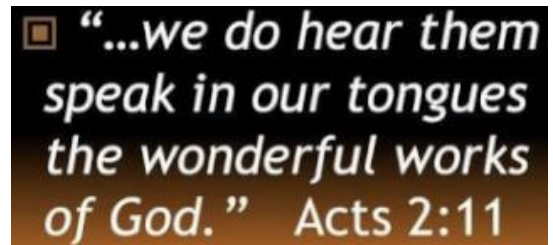
14 - **Tongues** - 1 Cor 12:10; 14:1–28

Spot it

NT describes speaking in tongues (*known foreign languages*) as a genuine spiritual gift
But Paul places significant restrictions on its congregational use.

1 Corinthians 14:27–28 says that when tongues are used publicly:

- there should be only two or three;
- they should speak one at a time;
- interpretation should follow;
- without an interpreter, the speaker should keep silent in the church.



“...we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.” Acts 2:11

Experience it

Where legitimately exercised, tongues may function as:

- prayer - praise - communication empowered by the Spirit

Encourage it

Do not: - ridicule the gift - force everyone to manifest it

- equate tongues automatically with spiritual superiority

Paul's conclusion is:

Do not forbid to speak with tongues. **1Cor 14:39** while simultaneously requiring order

15 - **Interpretation of Tongues** - 1Cor 12:10; 14:5, 13, 26–28

Spot it

A person is able to communicate the meaning of a tongue (foreign language) in a way that makes it intelligible to others.

Experience it

The congregation can understand what otherwise would remain unintelligible.

Therefore: “Let all things be done for edification.” — **1 Cor 14:26**

Encourage it

Although this spiritual gift is not seen commonly since the NT period, we do not limit the Holy Spirit should it become manifested again: - encourage interpretation
- maintain order - emphasize edification - never manufacture interpretations

16- **Apostolic Ministry**- 1Cor 12:28; & God has appointed these in the church: first apostles

Spot it

The New Testament's apostolic ministry has a unique foundational dimension.

Eph 2:20 speaks of the household of God being: - built on the foundation of the apostles

Therefore we should distinguish the foundational apostles of the New Testament from contemporary claims to apostolic authority.

Experience it

Apostolic ministry in the New Testament involved: - establishing churches
- proclaiming Christ - establishing doctrine - providing spiritual oversight
- advancing the gospel into new territory

Encourage the continuing principle

Even if one does not use the title “apostle” today, the Church of God can encourage the apostolic **function of pioneering mission**: - church planting - missionary expansion
- entering unreached communities - establishing new ministries

Scriptures About the Lord is My Helper

Genesis 49:25	Psalms 63:7
Exodus 15:1-2	Psalms 70:5
Deuteronomy 33:26	Psalms 72:12
Deuteronomy 33:29	Psalms 86:17
2 Samuel 22:2-4	Psalms 91:2
Psalms 22:19	Psalms 94:22
Psalms 27:9	Psalms 115:9-11
Psalms 28:7	Psalms 118:7
Psalms 33:20	Psalms 121:1-2
Psalms 37:40	Psalms 124:8
Psalms 40:17	Isaiah 41:10
Psalms 42:5	Isaiah 41:13
Psalms 42:11	Isaiah 50:7
Psalms 43:5	Isaiah 50:9
Psalms 46:1	John 14:26
Psalms 54:4	John 16:7
Psalms 62:2	Hebrews 4:16
Psalms 62:6-7	Hebrews 13:6

17- **Helps** - 1Cor 12:28 ...helps...

Spot it

These people are exceptionally useful in enabling others to succeed. They may:

- assist leaders - support ministries - solve practical problems - carry burdens
- make other people's ministries possible.

Experience it

The primary person ministering may receive the visible recognition, while the person with "helps gifting" makes it possible.

Encourage it

Ask: **"Who could I help become more effective?"**

This is one of the most important gifts for a healthy church.

18- **Administrations** - 1 Cor 12:28

Spot it

Administration is the ability to: - organize - coordinate - structure - schedule
- manage resources - establish systems - keep complex ministry functioning

Experience it

A church moves from: **good intentions** → **organized execution**.

Encourage it

Give administrators real responsibility over: - ministry systems - calendars - volunteers
- finances - communications - logistics - projects

Administration is not merely "office work." It can be a genuine spiritual ministry.

19- **Evangelism** - Eph 4:11 - "And He Himself gave some to be... evangelists..."

Spot it

Evangelistically gifted people often: - naturally initiate gospel conversations
- recognize openings to discuss Christ - communicate the gospel clearly
- feel urgency for unbelievers - enjoy introducing people to Jesus
- motivate other Christians to evangelize

Philip is an important biblical example (Acts 8:5-8, 26-40)

Experience it

People move from: **curiosity** → **hearing** → **understanding** → **faith** → **discipleship**

Encourage it

- Let evangelists train others.
- Give them opportunities outside the church.
- Encourage testimony.
- Develop outreach teams.
- Celebrate conversions without turning evangelism into a numbers competition.



20 - **Pastor / Shepherd** - Eph 4:11 ...and some pastors and teachers...

The shepherding function involves caring for people over time.

Spot it

A shepherd tends to: - know people - remember their circumstances - protect them
- guide them - nurture spiritual growth - pursue wandering people - patiently remain with difficult people -

Jesus provides the supreme model **John 10:11–14** The Good Shepherd

Experience it

People experience: - belonging - protection - guidance - correction
- spiritual nourishment - persistent care.

Encourage it

Give shepherds opportunities for: - mentoring - small groups - visitation - discipleship
- counselling - spiritual care

But don't expect every pastor to personally perform every ministry function.

21. The Gift of **Hospitality**- 1 Peter 4:9–10 - Be hospitable to one another without grumbling

Hospitality is often treated as merely being friendly, but Scripture places it within the context of Christian ministry.

Spot it

Hospitality-gifted people naturally: - welcome strangers - make people feel included
- open their homes - connect newcomers with others - notice who is standing alone
- create relational environments

Experience it

A stranger becomes: **welcomed** → **connected** → **known** → **included**

Encourage it

Give hospitality-minded people opportunities to: - welcome visitors - host Bible studies
- organize meals - integrate newcomers - care for traveling workers
- build intergenerational relationships

The Most Important Question for Every Gift

Instead of asking: “What gift do I have?” - the more biblical question is:

“How can God use what He has given me to build up somebody else?”

So the progression is:

Gift → Service → Edification → Maturity → Unity → Christlikeness → God's glory

A particularly useful way to organize the gifts into 6 ministry functions:

1. **REVEAL** - Prophecy • Word of knowledge • Word of wisdom • Discernment
2. **TEACH** - Teaching • Shepherding • Exhortation
3. **REACH** - Evangelism • Apostolic/pioneering ministry • Faith
4. **SERVE** - Helps • Service • Mercy • Hospitality • Giving
5. **LEAD** -Leadership • Administration
6. **SUPERNATURAL** - Healings • Miracles • Tongues • Interpretation

But **Love** surrounds all six (1Cor 13)

