



The Spiritual Gift of **ADMINISTRATION**

Literal Meaning: To pilot or steer a ship

Key Word: *efficiency*

Description: The gift of Administration is the divine enablement to understand what makes an organization function, and the special ability to plan and execute procedures that accomplish the goals of the ministry.

People with this gift develop strategies or plans to reach identified goals, assist ministries to become more effective and efficient, create order out of organizational chaos, manage or coordinate a variety of responsibilities to accomplish a task or event.

Distinctives:

- Develop strategies or plans to reach identified goals
- Assist ministries to become more effective and efficient
- Create order out of organizational chaos
- Manage or coordinate a variety of responsibilities to accomplish a task
- Organize people, tasks, or events

Traits:

- Thorough
- Objective
- Responsible
- Organized
- Goal-oriented
- Efficient
- Conscientious

Cautions:

- Need to be open to adjusting their plans, so that they don't stifle a leader's vision
- Could use people simply to accomplish goals without being concerned for their growth in the process
- Could fail to see God's purposes being fulfilled in the process of meeting a goal

References: 1 Corinthians 12:28; Acts 6:1–7; Exodus 18:13–26





The Spiritual Gift of **APOSTLESHIP**

Literal Meaning: To be sent with a message

Key Word: *new ministries*

Description: The gift of Apostleship is the divine ability to start and oversee the development of new churches or ministry structures.

People with this gift pioneer and establish new ministries in churches, adapt to different surroundings by being culturally sensitive and aware, desire to minister to unreached people in other communities or countries, have responsibilities to oversee ministries or groups of churches, demonstrate authority and vision for the mission of the church.

Distinctives:

- Pioneer and establish new ministries or churches
- Adapt to different surroundings by being culturally sensitive and aware
- Desire to minister to unreached people in other communities or countries
- Have responsibilities to oversee ministries or groups of churches
- Demonstrate authority and vision for the mission of the church

Traits:

- Adventurous
- Entrepreneurial
- Persevering
- Adaptable
- Cause-driven
- Risk-taking
- Culturally sensitive

Cautions:

- Should be aware that misusing their authority can quench the Spirit in others
- Need to be affirmed and sent by the church
- Can be demanding and pessimistic

References: 1 Corinthians 12:28–29; Ephesians 4:11–12; Romans 1:5; Acts 13:2–3





The Spiritual Gift of **CRAFTSMANSHIP**

Literal Meaning: To craft, design, build

Key Word: *hand skills*

Description: The gift of Craftsmanship is the divine enablement to creatively design and/or construct items to be used for ministry.

People with this gift work with wood, cloth, paints, metal, glass and other raw materials to make things that increase the effectiveness of others' ministries. They enjoy designing and building items with their hands to serve and meet tangible needs. They work with different kinds of tools and are skilled with their hands.

Distinctives:

- Work with wood, cloth, paints, metal, glass, and other raw materials
- Make things that increase the effectiveness of others' ministries
- Enjoy serving with their hands to meet tangible needs
- Design and build tangible items and resources for ministry use
- Work with different kinds of tools and are skilled with their hands

Traits:

- Creative Designer Handy Resourceful Practical
- Helpful Behind-the-scenes

Cautions:

- Could fail to see that their gift is significant and one that makes a spiritual contribution to the body
- Could use people to get things done instead of helping them grow in the process
- Should remember that the things they produce are just a means to the end and not the end itself

References: Exodus 31:3; 35:31–35; Acts 9:36–39; 2 Kings 22:5–6





The Spiritual Gift of **CREATIVE COMMUNICATION**

Literal Meaning: To communicate artistically

Key Word: *artistic expression*

Description: The gift of Creative Communication is the divine enablement to communicate God's truth through a variety of art forms.

People with this gift use the arts to communicate God's truth, develop and use artistic skills such as drama, writing, art, music, dance, etc.. They use variety and creativity to captivate people, causing them to consider Christ's message. They challenge people's perspectives of God through various art forms and demonstrate fresh ways to express the Lord's ministry and message.

Distinctives:

- Use the arts to communicate God's truth
- Develop and use artistic skills such as drama, writing, art, music, etc.
- Use variety and creativity to captivate people and cause them to consider Christ's message
- Challenge people's perspective of God through various forms of the arts
- Demonstrate fresh ways to express the Lord's ministry and message

Traits:

- Expressive Creative Idea-oriented Imaginative
- Artistic Sensitive Unconventional

Cautions:

- Need to remember that art is not for art's sake, but it's to glorify God and edify others
- Could find evaluation and constructive criticism difficult to accept
- Might be uncooperative (because of ego, pride, or individualism) and need to work at being a team player

References: Psalms 150:3–5; 2 Samuel 6:14–15; Mark 4:2, 33





The Spiritual Gift of **DISCERNMENT**

Literal Meaning: To separate or make a distinction, differentiate

Key Word: *clarity*

Description: The gift of Discernment (of spirits) is the divine enablement to distinguish between truth and error. It is able to discern the spirits, differentiating between good and evil, right and wrong.

People with this gift identify deception in others with accuracy and appropriateness. They recognize pure motives from impure and whether a word attributed to God is authentic or inconsistent with His teaching, message or interpretation. They have a keen sense of when evil is present.

Distinctives:

- Distinguish truth from error, right from wrong, pure motives from impure
- Identify deception in others with accuracy and appropriateness
- Determine whether a word attributed to God is authentic
- Recognize inconsistencies in a teaching, prophetic message, or interpretation
- Are able to sense the presence of evil

Traits:

- Perceptive Insightful Sensitive Intuitive
- Decisive Truthful Challenging

Cautions:

- May struggle with how to express their perceptions, feelings, or insights
- Could be harsh when confronting others, instead of speaking the truth in love
- Need to confirm their perceptions before speaking

References: 1 Corinthians 12:10; Acts 5:1–4; Matthew 16:21–23





The Spiritual Gift of **ENCOURAGEMENT**

Literal Meaning: To come alongside of

Key Word: *affirmation*

Description: The gift of Encouragement is the divine enablement to present truth in order to strengthen, comfort, or urge to action those who are discouraged or wavering in their faith.

People with this gift strengthen and reassure those who are discouraged while challenging comforting or carefronting others to trust and hope in the promises of God. They urge others to action by applying biblical truth, motivating them to grow. They emphasize God's promises and have confidence in His will.

Distinctives:

- Come to the side of those who are discouraged to strengthen and reassure them
- Challenge, comfort, or carefront others to trust and hope in the promises of God
- Urge others to action by applying biblical truth
- Motivate others to grow
- Emphasize God's promises and have confidence in his will

Traits:

- Positive Motivating Affirming Challenging
- Reassuring Supportive Trustworthy

Cautions:

- Can sometimes be overly optimistic, too simplistic, or flattering
- Should first take time to understand where others are and what they really need
- May want to just say "positive" things to others and avoid being confrontational when it's needed

References: Romans 12:8; Acts 11:22–24, 15:30–32





The Spiritual Gift of **EVANGELISM**

Literal Meaning: To bring good news

Key Word: *good news*

Description: The gift of Evangelism is the divine enablement to effectively communicate the gospel to unbelievers so they respond in faith and move toward discipleship.

People with this gift communicate the message of Christ with clarity and conviction, seeking out opportunities to talk to unbelievers about spiritual matters. They call unbelievers to faith and to become fully devoted followers of Christ. They will adapt their presentation of the gospel to connect with the individual's needs as they seek opportunities to build relationships with unbelievers.

Distinctives:

- Communicate the message of Christ with clarity and conviction
- Seek out opportunities to talk to unbelievers about spiritual matters
- Challenge unbelievers to faith and to become fully devoted followers of Christ
- Adapt their presentation of the gospel to connect with the individual's needs
- Seek opportunities to build relationships with unbelievers

Traits:

- Spiritual Candid Respected Sincere/Serious
- Influential Confident Commitment-oriented

Cautions:

- Need to remember the Holy Spirit, not guilt, is the motivator in a person's decision for Christ
- Should avoid becoming critical of others by remembering that we are all "witnesses," but we are not all "evangelists"
- Need to listen to people carefully, because the same approach is not appropriate for everyone

References: Ephesians 4:11; Acts 8:26–40; Luke 19:1–10





The Spiritual Gift of **FAITH**

Literal Meaning: To trust, have confidence, believe

Key Word: *confidence*

Description: The gift of Faith is the divine enablement to act on God's promises with confidence and unwavering belief in God's ability to fulfill his purposes.

People with this gift believe the promises of God and inspire others to do the same. They act in complete confidence of God's ability to overcome obstacles. They demonstrate an attitude of trust in God's will and His Word as they go forward advancing the cause of Christ, asking God for what is needed and trusting Him for provision.

Distinctives:

- Believe the promises of God and inspire others to do the same
- Act in complete confidence of God's ability to overcome obstacles
- Demonstrate an attitude of trust in God's will and his promises
- Advance the cause of Christ because they go forward when others will not
- Ask God for what is needed and trust him for his provision

Traits:

- Prayerful Optimistic Trusting Assured Positive
- Inspiring Hopeful

Cautions:

- Need to act on their faith
- Should remember that those who speak with reason and desire to plan do not necessarily lack faith
- Should listen to and consider the counsel of wise and Spirit-filled believers

References: 1 Corinthians 12:9, 13:2; Hebrews 11:1; Romans 4:18–21





The Spiritual Gift of **GIVING**

Literal Meaning: To give part of, share

Key Word: *resources*

Description: The gift of Giving is the divine enablement to contribute money and resources to the work of the Lord with cheerfulness and liberality.

People with this gift do not ask, “How much money do I need to give to God?” but “How much money do I need to live on?” They manage their finances and limit their lifestyle in order to give as much of their resources as possible to support ministry with sacrificial gifts to advance the kingdom. They desire to meet tangible needs that enable spiritual growth to occur. They provide resources while trusting God for His provision and the special opportunities they have to generously give to further kingdom work.

Distinctives:

- Manage their finances and limit their lifestyle in order to give as much of their resources as possible
- Support the work of ministry with sacrificial gifts to advance the kingdom
- Meet tangible needs that enable spiritual growth to occur
- Provide resources, generously and cheerfully, trusting God for his provision
- May have a special ability to make money so that they may use it to further God’s work

Traits:

- Stewardship-oriented Responsible Resourceful Charitable
- Trusts in God Disciplined

Cautions:

- Need to esteem their gift, remembering that giving money and resources is a spiritual contribution to the body of Christ
- Need to remember the church’s agenda is determined by leaders, not by the giver’s gift
- Need to guard against greed

References: Romans 12:8; 2 Corinthians 6:8; Luke 21:1–4





The Spiritual Gift of **HEALINGS**

Literal Meaning: To restore instantaneously

Key Word: *wholeness*

Description: The gift of Healings is the divine enablement to be God's means for restoring people to wholeness. NOTE: The Greek word is plural, indicating different kinds of healings are possible with this gift (i.e., emotional, relational, spiritual, physical, etc.).

People with this gift demonstrate the power of God to bring restoration to the sick and diseased. They authenticate a message as being from God through various kinds of healings. They pray, touch or speak words that miraculously bring healing to one's body, soul or spirit. God is glorified as healings reveal His Kingdom power for the restoration of all things.

Distinctives:

- Demonstrate the power of God
- Bring restoration to the sick and diseased
- Authenticate a message from God through healing
- Use healing as an opportunity to communicate a biblical truth and to see God glorified
- Pray, touch, or speak words that miraculously bring healing to one's body

Traits:

- Obedient Trusts in God Prayerful Full of faith
- Humble Responsive Compassionate

Cautions:

- Need to remember that it is not always their faith or the faith of the sick that determines a healing, but God who determines it
- Need to realize that God does not promise to heal everyone who asks or is prayed for
- Should remember that Jesus did not heal everyone who was sick or suffering while he was on the earth

References: 1 Corinthians 12:9, 28, 30; Acts 3:1–16; Mark 2:1–12





The Spiritual Gift of **HELPS**

Literal Meaning: To take the place of someone

Key Word: *support*

Description: The gift of Helps is the divine enablement to accomplish practical and necessary tasks which free up, support, and meet the needs of others.

People with this gift serve behind the scenes wherever needed to support the gifts and ministries of others. When they see the tangible and practical things needing to be done, they enjoy doing them with a sense of God's purpose and pleasure. They meet everyday responsibilities and see the spiritual value in their practical service. They love knowing they are making it possible for others to do what God has called them to do.

Distinctives:

- Serve behind the scenes wherever needed to support the gifts and ministries of others
- Seek the tangible and practical things to be done and enjoy doing them
- Sense God's purpose and pleasure in meeting everyday responsibilities
- Attach spiritual value to practical service
- Enjoy knowing that they are freeing up others to do what God has called them to do

Traits:

- Available Willing Helpful Reliable Dependable
- Loyal Whatever-it-takes attitude

Cautions:

- Need to esteem their gift, remembering that doing practical deeds is a *spiritual* contribution to the body of Christ
- Find it difficult to say "no"
- Need to be responsive to the priorities of leadership instead of setting their own agendas

References: 1 Corinthians 12:28; Romans 12:7; Acts 6:1–4; Romans 16:1–2





The Spiritual Gift of **HOSPITALITY**

Literal Meaning: To love strangers

Key Word: *acceptance*

Description: The gift of Hospitality is the divine enablement to care for people by providing fellowship, food, and shelter.

People with this gift provide an environment in which people feel valued and cared for, meeting new people and helping them feel welcomed. They create a safe and comfortable setting, setting people at ease in unfamiliar surroundings so relationships develop and people can be connected into meaningful relationships.

Distinctives:

- Provide an environment where people feel valued and cared for
- Meet new people and help them to feel welcomed
- Create a safe and comfortable setting where relationships can develop
- Seek ways to connect people together into meaningful relationships
- Set people at ease in unfamiliar surroundings

Traits:

- Friendly Gracious Inviting Trusting Caring
- Warm Responsive

Cautions:

- Should avoid viewing their gift as just “entertaining”
- Need to remember to ask *God* who he wants them to befriend and serve
- Should be careful not to cause stress in their own family when inviting others into their home

References: 1 Peter 4:9–10; Romans 12:13; Hebrews 13:1–2





The Spiritual Gift of **INTERCESSION**

Literal Meaning: To plead on behalf of someone, intercede

Key Word: *protection*

Description: The gift of Intercession is the divine enablement to consistently pray on behalf of and for others, seeing frequent and specific results.

People with this gift feel compelled to earnestly pray on behalf of someone or some cause. They have a daily awareness of the spiritual battles being waged and pray diligently, totally convinced God moves in direct response to prayer. They follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, whether they understand Him or not. They exercise authority and power for protection and petitioning God on behalf of others.

Distinctives:

- Feel compelled to earnestly pray on behalf of someone or some cause
- Have a daily awareness of the spiritual battles being waged and pray
- Are convinced God moves in direct response to prayer
- Pray in response to the leading of the Spirit, whether they understand it or not
- Exercise authority and power for the protection of others and the equipping of them to serve

Traits:

- Advocate Caring Sincere Peacemaker Trustworthy
- Burden bearer Spiritually sensitive

Cautions:

- Should avoid feeling that their gift is not valued, by remembering that interceding for others is their ministry and spiritual contribution to the body of Christ
- Should avoid using prayer as an escape from fulfilling responsibilities
- Need to avoid a “holier-than-thou” attitude sometimes caused by extended times of prayer and spiritual intimacy with God

References: Romans 8:26–27; John 17:9–26; 1 Timothy 2:1–2; Colossians 1:9–12; 4:12–13





The Spiritual Gift of **INTERPRETATION**

Literal Meaning: To translate, interpret

Key Word: *understanding*

Description: The gift of Interpretation is the divine enablement to make known to the body of Christ the message of one who is speaking in tongues.

People with this gift respond to a message spoken in tongues by giving an interpretation so the body can hear from God, understand and be edified. They glorify God and demonstrate his power by interpreting a timely message from the Lord through this miraculous manifestation.

Distinctives:

- Respond to a message spoken in tongues by giving an interpretation
- Glorify God and demonstrate his power through this miraculous manifestation
- Edify the body by interpreting a timely message from God
- Understand an unlearned language and communicate that message to the body of Christ
- Are sometimes prophetic when exercising an interpretation of tongues for the church

Traits:

- Worshipful Responsive Devoted Responsible Spiritually intimate
- Sensitive Faithful

Cautions:

- Need to remember that the message being interpreted should reflect the will of God and not man
- Should remember that this gift is to provide edification, it's to build up the church
- Use it in an orderly manner in conjunction with tongues

References: 1 Corinthians 12:10; 14:5, 26–28





The Spiritual Gift of **WORD OF KNOWLEDGE**

Literal Meaning: To know

Key Word: *awareness*

Description: The gift of the Word of Knowledge is the divine enablement to bring truth to the body through a revelation or biblical insight.

People with this gift receive truth which enables them to better serve the body. They search the Scriptures to understand truth and gain the knowledge that at times is not attained by natural means, but is revealed to them by God. They have an unusual insight or understanding that serves the church well by communicating truth for teaching and practical use.

Distinctives:

- Receive truth which enables them to better serve the body
- Search the Scriptures for insight, understanding, and truth
- Have an unusual insight or understanding that serves the church
- Organize information for teaching and practical use
- Gain knowledge which was not attained by natural observation or means

Traits:

- Inquisitive Responsive Observant Insightful Reflective
- Truthful Spiritually sensitive

Cautions:

- Need to be careful of this gift leading to pride (“knowledge” puffs up)
- Should remember that it’s God’s message, not theirs, when they give a word of knowledge to the church
- Need to remember with the increasing of knowing comes the increasing of pain (Ecclesiastes 1:18)

References: 1 Corinthians 12:8; Mark 2:6–8; John 1:45–50





The Spiritual Gift of **LEADERSHIP**

Literal Meaning: To stand before

Key Word: *direction*

Description: The gift of Leadership is the divine enablement to cast vision, motivate, and direct people to harmoniously accomplish the purposes of God.

People with this gift provide direction for God’s people or ministries, inspire others to perform to the best of their abilities, present the “big picture” for others to see, model the values of the ministry, take responsibility to establish ministry goals.

Distinctives:

- Provide direction for God’s people or ministry
- Motivate others to perform to the best of their abilities
- Present the “big picture” for others to see
- Model the values of the ministry
- Take responsibility and establish goals

Traits:

- Influential Diligent Visionary Trustworthy Persuasive
- Motivating Goal setter

Cautions:

- Should realize their relational credibility takes time and is critical for leadership effectiveness
- Should remember that servant leadership is the biblical model, the greatest being the servant of all
- You do not need to be in a leadership “position” to use this gift

References: Romans 12:8; Hebrews 13:17; Luke 22:25–26





The Spiritual Gift of **MERCY**

Literal Meaning: To have compassion

Key Word: *care*

Description: The gift of Mercy is the divine enablement to cheerfully and practically help those who are suffering or in need, having compassion that is moved to action.

People with this gift focus on alleviating the sources of pain or discomfort in suffering people. They address the needs of the lonely and forgotten, extending God's love, grace, and dignity to those facing hardships and crisis. They serve in difficult or unsightly circumstances and do so with joy as they concern themselves with individual or social issues that oppress people.

Distinctives:

- Focus upon alleviating the sources of pain or discomfort in suffering people
- Address the needs of the lonely and forgotten
- Extend love, grace, and dignity to those facing hardships and crisis
- Serve in difficult or unsightly circumstances and do so cheerfully
- Concern themselves with individual or social issues that oppress people

Traits:

- Empathetic
- Caring
- Responsive
- Kind
- Compassionate
- Sensitive
- Burden-bearing

Cautions:

- Need to be aware that rescuing people from their pain may be hindering God's work in them
- Need to guard against feeling "unappreciated," since some of the people helped will not show or express any appreciation
- Should guard against becoming defensive and angry about the sources of others' pain

References: Romans 12:8; Matthew 5:7; Mark 10:46–52; Luke 10:25–37





The Spiritual Gift of **MIRACLES**

Literal Meaning: To do powerful deeds

Key Word: *God's power*

Description: The gift of Miracles is the divine enablement to authenticate the ministry and message of God through supernatural interventions that glorify Him.

People with this gift speak God's truth and it is authenticated by an accompanying miracle that points people to a relationship with Jesus. They express confidence in God's faithfulness and believe that God will manifest His presence with power through the ministry and message of Jesus Christ. They make God famous by affirming Him to be the source of the miracle.

Distinctives:

- Speak God's truth and have it authenticated by an accompanying miracle
- Express confidence in God's faithfulness and ability to manifest his presence
- Bring the ministry and message of Jesus Christ with power
- Claim God to be the source of the miracle and glorify him
- Represent Christ and through the miracle, point people to a relationship with Christ

Traits:

- Bold
- Venturesome
- Authoritative
- God-fearing
- Convincing
- Prayerful
- Responsive

Cautions:

- Need to remember that miracles are not necessarily caused by faith
- Should avoid viewing this gift as a personal responsibility, remembering that God determines the location and timing of his deeds
- Need to guard against the temptation to call on the Lord's presence and power for selfish purposes

References: 1 Corinthians 12:10, 28–29; John 2:1–11; Luke 5:1–11





The Spiritual Gift of **PROPHECY**

Literal Meaning: To speak before

Key Word: *conviction*

Description: The gift of Prophecy is the divine enablement to reveal truth and proclaim it in a timely and relevant manner for understanding, correction, repentance, or edification. There may be immediate or future implications.

People with this gift expose sin or deception in others for the purpose of reconciliation. They see truth that others often fail to see and challenge them to respond, warning of God's judgment if there is no repentance. They personally understand God's heart and ministry through the experiences He has taken them through.

Distinctives:

- Expose sin or deception in others for the purpose of reconciliation
- Speak a timely word from God causing conviction, repentance, and edification
- See truth that others often fail to see and challenge them to respond
- Warn of God's immediate or future judgment if there is no repentance
- Understand God's heart and mind through experiences he takes them through

Traits:

- Authoritative
- Compelling
- Uncompromising
- Outspoken
- Discerning
- Convicting
- Confronting

Cautions:

- Need to be aware that listeners may reject the message if it's not spoken in love and for their edification
- Need to avoid pride, which can create a demanding or discouraging spirit that hinders the gift
- Should remember that discernment and Scripture must support and agree with each prophecy

References: Romans 12:6; 1 Corinthians 12:10, 28; 13:2; 2 Peter 1:19–21





The Spiritual Gift of **SHEPHERDING**

Literal Meaning: To shepherd a flock

Key Word: *nurture*

Description: The gift of Shepherding is the divine enablement to nurture, care for, and guide people toward ongoing spiritual maturity so they are able to live and love more like Christ.

People with this gift take responsibility to nurture the whole person in their walk with God, provide guidance and oversight to a group of God's people, model with their life what it means to be a fully devoted follower of Jesus, establish trust and confidence through long-term relationships, lead and protect those within their span of care.

Distinctives:

- Take responsibility to nurture the whole person in their walk with God
- Provide guidance and oversight to a group of God's people
- Model with their life what it means to be a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ
- Establish trust, loyalty, and confidence through long-term relationships
- Lead and protect those within their span of care

Traits:

- Influencing Nurturing Guiding Discipling Protective
- Supportive Relational

Cautions:

- Should remember that God judges those who neglect or abuse their oversight responsibilities
- Need to be aware that the desire to feed and support others can make it difficult to say "no"
- Should realize that some of those being nurtured will grow beyond the shepherd's own ability and need to be freed to do so

References: Ephesians 4:11–12; 1 Peter 5:1–4; John 10:1–18





The Spiritual Gift of **TEACHING**

Literal Meaning: To instruct

Key Word: *application*

Description: The gift of Teaching is the divine enablement to understand, clearly explain, and apply the Word of God, causing greater Christlikeness in the lives of listeners.

People with this gift communicate biblical truth that inspires greater obedience to the Word, challenge listeners simply and practically with the truths of Scripture, teach the whole counsel of God for maximum life-change, give attention to detail and accuracy, prepare through extended times of study and reflection.

Distinctives:

- Communicate biblical truth that inspires greater obedience to the Word
- Challenge listeners simply and practically with the truths of Scripture
- Present the whole counsel of God for maximum life-change
- Give attention to detail and accuracy
- Prepare through extended times of study and reflection

Traits:

- Disciplined Perceptive Teachable Authoritative
- Practical Analytical Articulate

Cautions:

- Should avoid pride that may result from their “superior” biblical knowledge and understanding
- Could become too detailed when teaching and fail to make life application
- Should remember that their spirituality is not measured by how much they know

References: Romans 12:7; 1 Corinthians 12:28–29; Acts 18:24–28; 2 Timothy 2:2





The Spiritual Gift of **TONGUES**

Literal Meaning: Tongue, language

Key Word: *a message*

Description: The gift of Tongues is the divine enablement to receive a spontaneous message from God in public worship and speaks it in an unknown language that is then made known to the church through the gift of interpretation.

People with this gift speak a word to the church in an unknown language they have not learned and do not understand. It is then made known to the body through someone with the gift of interpretation. Those messages by the Holy Spirit are intended to edify the church.

Distinctives:

- Express with an interpretation a word by the Spirit that edifies the church
- Communicate a message given by God for the church
- Speak in a language they have never learned or do not understand
- Worship the Lord with unknown words too deep for the mind to comprehend
- Experience an intimacy with God which inspires them to serve and edify others

Traits:

- Worshipful Prayerful Responsive Trusting Devoted
- Spontaneous Receptive

Cautions:

- Should remain silent in the church if there is no gift of interpretation
- Should avoid expecting others to manifest this gift which may cause inauthenticity of the Spirit
- Should remember that all the gifts, including this one, are to edify others

References: 1 Corinthians 12:10, 28–30, 13:1, 14:1–33; Acts 2:1–11





The Spiritual Gift of **WORD OF WISDOM**

Literal Meaning: To apply truth practically

Key Word: *guidance*

Description: The gift of Wisdom is the divine enablement to effectively apply spiritual truth to meet a need in a specific situation.

People with this gift focus on the unseen consequences in determining the next steps to take, receive an understanding of what is necessary to meet the needs of the body, provide divinely given solutions in the midst of conflicts and confusion, hear the Spirit provide direction for God's best, apply spiritual truth in practical ways.

Distinctives:

- Focus on the unseen consequences in determining the next steps to take
- Receive an understanding of what is necessary to meet the needs of the body of Christ
- Provide divinely given solutions in the midst of conflict and confusion
- Hear the Spirit provide direction for God's best in a given situation
- Apply spiritual truth in specific and practical ways

Traits:

- Sensible Insightful Practical Experienced Fair
- Wise Common sense

Cautions:

- Could fail to share or apply the wisdom that God has given them
- Need to avoid having others develop a dependence upon them, which may weaken their faith in God
- Need to be patient with others who have common sense, but not a "wisdom" gift

References: 1 Corinthians 12:8; 2:3–14; James 3:13–18; Jeremiah 9:23–24

