

Explanation of Spiritual Gifts

Just as we all have talents, skills, and interests, we all have been given spiritual gifts by God. A spiritual gift is a special ability, given by God, for Christian service. Spiritual gifts are tools that God gives Christians to do the work of the ministry—to fulfill the Great Commission to reach, baptize, and teach, and to minister to one another. gvcv cl110 Intro to Spiritual Gifts

Spiritual gifts are the tools God uses to build his church. A spiritual gift is a divine calling with a divine responsibility, because what God has gifted you to do, he has called you to do. gvcv cl110 Intro to Spiritual Gifts

The following four scripture passages comprise the main instructions about spiritual gifts:

Romans 12:3-8

1 Corinthians 12 – 14

Ephesians 4:7-16

1 Peter 4:8-11

What we learn from these passages is that:

1. each and every believer have been given spiritual gifts (*Romans 12:6, 1 Corinthians 12:7, Ephesians 4:7, and 1 Peter 4:9-10*)
2. the gifts are from God (*1 Corinthians 12:7-11 “the Holy Spirit”, Ephesians 4:7-11 “the resurrected Christ”, and 1 Peter 4:10 “God”*)
3. the gifts are given so that the body (church) can function (*Romans 12: 4-5*), for the common good (*1 Corinthians 12:7*), for works of ministry (*Ephesians 4:12*), and so God may be glorified in all things (*1 Peter 4:11*).

Ephesians 4:12 paints a wonderful portrait of why God has equipped every believer with spiritual gifts and what happens when those believers put those gifts into service.

¹¹The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. (NRSV)

Notice what happens as we use our gifts for works of ministry:

Verse 12: the body (the church) is built up --- it grows in the number of people who participate

Verse 13: the church is unified (our faith and knowledge of Christ increases, and thus our love for and understanding/acceptance of others increases)

the members grow in spiritual maturity

Notice, also, the importance of the diversity of the members. Look at the passage from 1 Corinthians 12 from which I read at the beginning of class:

¹⁴Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,”

that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many members, yet one body.

At First Church, we believe that it is important to have people connected to the ministries for which God has uniquely gifted and equipped them. After all, if the ministry was designed to be carried out by a hand, a foot may be able to struggle through the tasks, but is not going to be as effective as a hand and the doing of the ministry won't be nearly as fulfilling to that foot as would doing a ministry designed for a foot --- where the foot can be effective and see results that glorify God and build up others.

We want First Church to be a congregation where everyone is connected to and participating in ministries for which God has uniquely equipped them and from which they and others are blessed.

So that is why we offer this opportunity to help our members identify their spiritual gifts and get matched up with the most appropriate areas in which they can put those gifts to use and further develop and strengthen those gifts.

This handout provides you with

- a description/definition of each gift
- Scripture references (where it is listed as a spiritual gift) and also where you can read examples of the gift being exercised or expressed.
- Some examples of the types of ministries through which the gift is used/expressed

I encourage you to look up the information related to your strongest spiritual gifts (those highlighted on your Connections Profile Summary) and become familiar with those. It will help you recognize opportunities to use your gifts in ministry.

Administration

Scripture

Listed as a spiritual gift in: 1 Corinthians 12:28

References/Examples:

Acts 6:1-7 Titus 1:5

Description

The gift of Administration is the God-given ability 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. - Organize people, tasks, or events. -Assist ministries to become more effective and efficient.

People with this gift often have the following traits: -Thorough -Objective - Responsible -Organized -Goal-oriented -Efficient -Conscientious ^{gvc}

Potential Ministries/Ministry Involvement

Planning teams; Ministry Coordinator; Organizer of special events; Chairperson;

Apostleship

Scripture

Listed as a spiritual gift in: 1 Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 4:11

References/Examples:

Acts 6:2-4; 13:1-3; 2 Corinthians 12:11-12; Ephesians 3:1-9; 4:11-13
2 Peter 3:2; 1 Thessalonians 2:6;

Description

The God-given ability to start and nurture new churches by preaching, teaching both through instruction and example, and equipping the people to serve one another. Persons with this gift are eager to bring the Gospel to those who have never heard it. They can easily adapt methods of evangelism and service to widely different environments. People with this gift envision themselves as missionaries, or they may accept and exercise leadership over a number of new churches. ^{sfh}

Discernment

Scripture

Listed in Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:10

References/Examples:

Acts 5:1-11; 13:8-12; 17:11; 18:24-26; 1 John 4:1-4; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15; Rom. 9:1

Description

The gift of Discernment is the God-given ability to distinguish between truth and error. It is able to discern the difference between good and evil; right and wrong. People with this gift will: -Identify deception in others with accuracy and appropriateness. -Are able to sense the presence of evil. -Recognize inconsistencies in a teaching or message. People with this gift often have the following traits: -Perceptive -Insightful -Sensitive -Intuitive -Truthful -Decisive^{gvc}

Potential Ministries/Ministry Involvement

Committee/Board member; youth ministry; counseling; Small Group leader

Evangelism

Scripture

Listed

Listed as a spiritual gift in: Ephesians 4:11

References/Examples:

Luke 9:6; Acts 5:42; 8:4-6, 26-40; 14: 21; 16:6-10; 2 Timothy 4:5

Description

The gift of Evangelism is the God-given ability to effectively communicate the gospel to unbelievers so they respond in faith and move toward discipleship. People with this gift will: -Communicate the message of Christ with clarity and conviction. -Seek out opportunities to talk to unbelievers about spiritual matters. People with this gift have the following traits: -Sincere -Candid -Influential -Confident -Commitment- oriented-Challenge unbelievers to faith in Christ.^{gvc}

Potential Ministries/Ministry Involvement

Visitor Calling; Door-to Door visitation; Outreach events; Literature distribution; Greeter

Exhortation/Encouragement

Scripture

Listed in Scripture: Romans 12:8

References/Examples:

Acts 4:32-37; Acts 11:19-24; Acts 14:21-22; 15:30-33; 20:1-2
Hebrews 10:24-25; 2 Timothy 4:2; Rom. 12: 8

Description

The gift of Exhortation/Encouragement is the God-given ability to present words of comfort, consolation, and encouragement, so to strengthen, or urge to action, those who are discouraged or wavering in their faith. People with this gift will: -Comfort others to trust and hope in the promises of God. -Motivate others to grow. -Urge others to action by applying biblical truth. People with this gift often have the following traits: -Positive -Motivating -Affirming -Reassuring -Supportive -Trustworthy^{gcv}

Potential Ministries/Ministry Involvement

Children's Ministry; Visitation to sick or shut-in; Counseling; Greeter; Support Group Facilitator, Prayer ministry

Faith

Scripture

Listed in Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:9

References/Examples:

Matthew 9:2, 22; Acts 11:22-24; 14:22;
Rom. 4: 19-21; Ephesians 2:8-9; 1 Cor. 13: 2; Hebrews 11

Description

The gift of Faith is the God-given ability to act on God's promises with confidence and unwavering belief in God's ability to fulfill His purposes -Act in complete confidence of God's ability to overcome obstacles. -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. -Prayerful -Optimistic -Trusting -Assured -Inspiring -Hopeful -Positive^{gcv}

Potential Ministries/Ministry Involvement

Prayer ministry; Hospital visitation; Committee/Board member

Giving/Generosity

Scripture

Listed in Scripture: Romans 12:8;

References/Examples:

Luke 3:11; 21: 1-4; Acts 4:36-37; 2 Cor 6: 8; Galatians 8:1-7; 9:2-8

1 Thessalonians 2:8

Description

The gift of Giving is the God-given ability to contribute money and resources to the work of the Lord with cheerfulness and liberality. People with this gift will: -Manage their finances and limit their lifestyle in order to give as much of their resources as possible. -Meet tangible needs that enable spiritual growth to occur. -Support the work of ministry with sacrificial gifts to advance the Kingdom. People with this gift have the following traits: -Responsible - Stewardship- oriented -Resourceful -Charitable -Disciplined^{gvc}

Potential Ministries/Ministry Involvement

Support Missionaries; Fund Raising; Stewardship Board

Healing

Scripture

Listed in Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:9; 28

References/Examples:

Matthew 4:23; Luke 9:11; Acts 3:1-10; 4:28-30; 5:12-16; 9:32-35; 10:38;

Description

The divine ability to bring wholeness—physical, emotional or spiritual—to others. People with this gift listen skillfully as they seek God’s guidance to learn the needs of the sick and to determine the causes and nature of an illness. They believe that God can cure and that prayer can overcome any negative forces at work. (They also know that God might have a different agenda.) Their tools include prayers, touch and spoken words. This gift shows God’s power; at the same time, it is to His glory. The goal of healing in the New Testament is not healing itself, but spreading the gospel by pointing to the power of Jesus Christ and to show the glory of God.^{sth}

Potential Ministries/Ministry Involvement

Prayer Team; Stephen Minister; Hospital Visitation Team

Helps/Service

Scripture

Listed in Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:28; Romans 12:7

References/Examples:

Acts 6:1-7; 9:36; 24:23; Romans 12: 7; 16:1-2; Philippians 2:25-30

Galatians 6:2, 10; 2 Timothy 1:16-18; 4:11; Hebrews 6:10;

Titus 3:14

Description

The gift of Helps/Service is the God-given ability to accomplish practical and necessary, behind the scenes tasks, which free up, support, and meet the needs of others. People equipped with this gift are able to see when someone needs help or a situation requires action and they take care of the needs. People with this gift will: -Serve behind the scenes wherever needed. -See the tangible and practical things to be done and enjoy doing them. -Attach spiritual value to practical service. Traits: -Available -Willing -Reliable -Loyal -Dependable - Whatever-it-takes attitude ^{gcv}

Potential Ministries/Ministry Involvement

Office helper; Telephoning; Teacher's aid; Usher; Clean-up projects; Information Center Host

Hospitality

Scripture

Listed

Listed in Scripture: 1 Peter 4:9

References/Examples:

Luke 10: 38; Acts 16:14-15; Romans 12:9-13; 16:23; Hebrews 13:1-2

Description

The gift of Hospitality is the God-given ability to care for people by providing fellowship, food, and lodging. People with this gift will: -Provide an environment where people feel valued and cared for. -Seek ways to connect people together into meaningful relationships. -Set people at ease in unfamiliar surroundings. Traits: -Friendly -Gracious -Inviting -Trusting -Caring - Responsive -Warm ^{gcv}

Potential Ministries/Ministry Involvement

Small Group Host; Banquet server; New Member Sponsor; Fellowship events; Coffee hour host; Greeter; Easter Breakfast

Knowledge

Scripture

Listed in Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:8

References/Examples:

1 Cor. 14:6; Romans 10:2-3; 2 Corinthians 11:6; Colossians 2:2-3

2 Peter 1:2-11;

Description

The gift of Knowledge is the God-given ability to learn, analyze, and uncover new insights from the Bible that are pertinent to the growth and well being of the church. People with this gift will: -Research the scriptures for insight, understanding, and truth. -Organize information for teaching and practical use. - Gain knowledge that was not attained by natural observation or means. Traits: - Inquisitive -Responsive -Observant -Insightful -Reflective -Studious -Truthful
gcv

Potential Ministries/Ministry Involvement

Board/Committee member; Teaching; Research; Counseling; Marriage Enrichment

Leadership

Scripture

Listed

Listed in Scripture: Romans 12:8

References/Examples:

John 13:12-17; Acts 6:1-7; 15:6-12; Philippians 3:17-21; 1 Timothy 5:17;

Hebrews 13:17

Description

The gift of Leadership is the God-given ability to cast vision, motivate, and direct people to harmoniously accomplish the purpose of God. People with this gift will: -Motivate others to perform to the best of their abilities. -Take responsibility and establish goals. -Provide direction for God's people or ministry. Traits: -Influential -Visionary -Persuasive -Motivating -Goal-setter^{gcv}

Potential Ministries/Ministry Involvement

Small Group Leader; Board/Committee Chairperson; Teaching Leader; Youth/Children's Leader; Vision Setting team; Long-Term Planning Committee Chair/member

Mercy/Compassion

Scripture

Listed

Listed in Scripture: Romans 12:8

References/Examples:

Matthew 9:36; 25: 34-40; Mark 9: 41; Luke 10:30-37;
Acts 16:33-34; Colossians 3:12-15

Description

The gift of Mercy is the God-given ability to feel deeply for those in physical, spiritual, or emotional need and then act to meet that need. People with this gift will: -Focuses on alleviating the sources of pain or discomfort in suffering people. -Concern themselves with individual or social issues that oppress people. -Address the needs of the lonely and forgotten. Traits: -Empathetic - Caring -Responsive -Kind -Compassionate -Sensitive -Burden-bearing^{gvc}

Potential Ministries/Ministry Involvement

Hospital/Shut-In visitation; Nursery worker; Homeless ministry; Food pantry worker;

Miracles

Scripture

Listed

Listed in Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:10, 28

References/Examples:

John 2:11; 6:2; Acts 2:22; 8:6; 9:36-38; 13; 19:11-12;
Romans 15:18-19; Hebrews 2:4

Description

The divine ability to perform miracles that testify to the truth of the Gospel. People with this gift perform miracles among the people for the purpose of getting their attention, so as to point to the might works of God, testifying to the validity of the message being spoken. The performance of these miracles leads to listening, following, and believing in the message by those who witness them.
sfh

Potential Ministries/Ministry Involvement

Prayer Team; Outreach/Mission Team; Missionary

Shepherding Pastor

Scripture

Listed

Listed in Scripture: Ephesians 4:11

References/Examples:

John 10:1-16; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; 1 Peter 5:1-4;

Ephesians 4:11-16;

Description

The gift of Shepherding is the God-given ability to assume long term personal responsibility for the spiritual welfare of a group of believers by nurturing and guiding them toward on-going spiritual maturity. People with this gift will: - Provide guidance and oversight to a group of God's people. -Establish trust and confidence through long-term relationships.-Lead and protect those within their span of care. Traits: --Nurturing -Guiding -Protective -Supportive -Relational – Influencing^{gvc}

Potential Ministries/Ministry Involvement

Small Group Leader; Sunday School teacher; Follow-up on visitors; Shut-In Visitation; College ministry; Outreach

Prophecy

Scripture

Listed

Listed in Scripture: Romans 12:6; 1 Corinthians 12:10, 28; Ephesians 4:11; 1 Peter 4:11

References/Examples:

Acts 13:1; 21:9-11; Romans 10:14-15; 1 Corinthians 14:1, 3^{sl}

Revelation 19:10;

Description

The gift of Prophecy is the God-given ability to reveal God's truth and proclaim it in a timely and relevant manner for understanding, correction, repentance, or edification. People with this gift will: -See a truth that others often fail to see and challenge them to respond. -Understand God's heart and mind through experiences He takes them through. -Expose sin or deception in others for the purpose of reconciliation. Traits: -Discerning -Compelling -Uncompromising -Outspoken -Authoritative -Confronting –Convicting^{gvc}

Potential Ministries/Ministry Involvement

Teaching Leader; Vision Setting team; Outreach; Devotion Leader

Teaching

Scripture

Listed in Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 4:11

References/Examples:

Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 18:24-28; 29:20-21

Rom 12: 7; Colossians 1:28; James 3:1; 1 Timothy 6:3-5; Titus 1:7-11

Description

The gift of Teaching is the God-given ability to understand, clearly explain, and apply the word of God, in such a way that it is clearly understood by others.

People with this trait will: -Give attention to detail and accuracy. -Prepare through extended times of study and reflection. -Challenge listeners simply and practically with the truths of Scripture. Traits: -Disciplined -Perceptive - Teachable -Authoritative -Practical -Analytical -Articulate ^{gcv}

Potential Ministries/Ministry Involvement

Adult Teaching Leader; Small Group Leader; Youth/Children's Teacher; Education Committee ^{gcv}

Speaking in Tongues

Scripture

Listed

Listed in Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:10, 28;

References/Examples:

Acts 2:1-13; 10:44-46; 19:1-7; 1 Corinthians 14:13-19

Description

The divine ability to speak a message from God to the people in a language one has not naturally learned. The gift of tongues is a sign to unbelievers showing the power and glory of God. There seems to be three types of tongues: speaking in a language the speaker does not know, but the listener does; speaking in a language neither the speaker nor the listeners understand, which requires an interpreter; and a private prayer language. The first two build up the Body of Christ. The third edifies only the speaker, who should not use it in church but only practice it in private. ^{sfh}

Interpretation of Tongues

Scripture

Listed

Listed in Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:10, 30;

References/Examples:

1 Corinthians 14:13, 26-28

Description

The divine ability to translate the message of someone speaking in tongues. People with this gift enable the gift of tongues to build up the church, by interpreting God's message for the people. ^{sfh}

Wisdom

Scripture

Listed

Listed in Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:8;

References/Examples:

Acts 6:3, 10; 1 Corinthians 2:1-13; 1; Colossians 1:9-12, 28; 2:3; 3:16;

James 1:5; 3:13-18; 2 Peter 3:15

Description

The gift of Wisdom is the God-given ability to apply spiritual truth effectively to meet a need in a specific situation. People with this gift will: -Focus on the unseen consequences in determining the next steps to take. -Provide God-given solutions in the midst of conflict and confusion. Apply spiritual truth in specific and practical ways. Traits: -Sensible -Insightful -Practical -Wise -Fair - Experienced ^{gcvc}

Potential Ministries/Ministry Involvement

Board/Committee Member; Counseling; Mentor; Marriage enrichment; Counseling ^{gcvc}

sfh – Information quoted from *Serving From the Heart*, © 2002 Abingdon Press.

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