

EIGHT REASONS FOR KNOWING AND UNDERSTANDING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

From *SPIRITUAL GIFTS IN THE DISCIPLE-MAKING CHURCH* by Yvonne Carter

1. Knowing your spiritual gift helps you understand God's will for your life.

Spiritual gifts are tools given by God for doing the work of the ministry. Different people are given different gifts to handle different tasks. For example, if God gives you a hammer, he wants you to drive nails, not cut boards. If he wanted you to cut boards, he would have given you a saw rather than a hammer. Understanding your gift in light of this principle will enable you to make decisions about where to serve God and how to serve God, and in many cases will help you choose your occupation. But in all cases it will help you set priorities for your life. *What God has called you to do he has gifted you to do, and what he has gifted you to do he has called you to do.*

2. Knowing your spiritual gift helps you know what God has NOT called you to do.

The more I understand what God *has not* called me to, the more I understand what he *has* called me to do. No doubt, recognizing what you are not supposed to do can be as important as recognizing what you are supposed to do. If you realize God has not given you the gift of “mercy,” you can easily turn down a position that would require that gift, without worrying that you might miss God’s calling. The same is true with all of the gifts.

3. Knowing your spiritual gift relieves you from serving out of “duty.”

If the truth were known, many active church workers have no business doing what they are doing. They are only doing it because the pastor asked them to, a committee elected them, or they feel obligated to do something; but are not serving where they were gifted. Christians have many reasons for serving in areas that keep them busy but not fulfilled. It boils down to this: many serve out of *duty* instead of *God’s calling*. When you serve out of just duty, it is only a matter of time until burnout sets in. But, when you use the gift God has given you, you will be able to operate at maximum fulfillment with minimum frustration—and you will find the true area for which God has gifted and equipped you. You will find significance in the area of ministry for which God has equipped you.

4. Knowing your spiritual gift helps you understand how the Holy Spirit works through you. God has chosen people through which to do his work here on earth. Dr. Elmer Towns teaches a principle he calls “the division of labor,” based on 1 Corinthians 3:9: “For we are laborers together with God.” His principle simply states, “God will not do what he has commanded you to do, and you cannot do what God has reserved as his authority.” Spiritual gifts are God’s provision for the Holy Spirit to minister to people, through people. Without spiritual gifts people can minister one to another only in the flesh. You and I are the only vessels the Holy Spirit uses to accomplish his work here on earth. We must yield ourselves to the Spirit and learn as much as we can about how the Holy Spirit works through us.

5. Knowing your spiritual gift fills a deep inner need or void in your life.

Have you ever visited a hospital? You may have met the mean old nurse who bites your head off every time you sit on a patient’s bed. But overall, a hospital is a place where you find a staff of people who are getting more fulfillment out of life than the average person. Why? Because they are in the “people serving business.” They are willing to wrap their lives in the lives of other people. They are meeting an inner need that God has put into the souls of all people, Christians and non-Christians alike. Your spiritual gift will complement this inner need God has placed in you. Stop and think for a minute of the most miserable, unhappy person you know. Without a doubt that person is very self-centered and only does for others when it benefits him or her in return.

6. Knowing your spiritual gift builds unity among Christians.

When you understand the characteristics of spiritual gifts, you see how gifts influence your desires, motivation, and behavior. You will begin to realize why other people do not always see things, or react to a situation, the same as you would. It's all part of God's plan. The different gifts complement each other. Understanding spiritual gifts will also prevent you from imposing your gift or lifestyle on others and will help you recognize God's individual calling for your life. Unfortunately, too many Christians are living God's will for someone else's life rather than their own.

7. Knowing your spiritual gift equips you to fulfill God's purpose for your life.

Rick Warren's book *The Purpose Driven Life* has become the number one best-selling hardback book of all time (other than the Bible) with over 40 million copies sold. Why? Because people are finding a real void in their lives and feel they lack purpose. Understanding your spiritual gifts gives you a clearer understanding of God's purpose for your life. God has created each one of us uniquely different and has given us different gifts, talents, personalities, temperaments, and passions to outfit us to accomplish his unique purpose for each of us. True significance in life comes when we discover and apply that purpose and calling in our lives. Introducing spiritual gifts in Ephesians 4, Paul exhorts us to "walk worthy of the *vocation* wherewith we are called." Today when we use the term vocation we are referring to job or career. But the term vocation in Bible times went far beyond career. It actually takes in all aspects of our life, our career, our family life, our ministry, our hobbies, etc. It's our *calling* in life. In fact, later translation of Scripture translates the word "vocation" as "calling." Your calling in life is the purpose for which God made you. It has been said, "Career is what you're paid for, but calling is what you're made for."

8. Knowing your spiritual gift adds to your self-acceptance.

Undue guilt is the greatest tool Satan uses to keep Christians from living up to their potential. Many believers consider themselves unspiritual because they cannot live up to someone else's expectations. Trying to live up to others' expectations of you always equals failure if your expectations are not in line with what *God* expects of you. Think of the greatest Christian you know. Now consider this: God has called you to do what this person cannot do. Your God has given you a special endowment that suits you perfectly for your special position in the Body. The Christian who knows he has the gift of serving will not belittle himself because he is not a preacher. He can accept himself knowing his Lord has given him a special endowment that suits him perfectly for this special position. The Christian who knows that her gift is administration, and is functioning effectively in her capacity, will not think herself unworthy or unnecessary because she is not a teacher.

Administration (Serving Gift) - The special ability God gives to some to steer the body toward the accomplishment of God-given goals and directives by planning, organizing, and supervising others.

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
- organize people, tasks, or events.

Possible tasks

Pastor, elder, worship service leader, department leader, long-term planning.

Possible weaknesses

A constant danger to all leaders is spiritual isolation. Many leaders don't have anyone who can see them as they really are and hold them accountable.

Apostle (Leadership Gift) - The special ability God gives to some to exercise general leadership or oversight over a number of churches with an authority in spiritual matters, which is readily recognized. In the strict sense this gift was confined to the twelve apostles. The New Testament does, however, give this title to a number of others, e.g. Romans 16:7 and Acts 14:14 . It is the gift whereby the Spirit appoints certain Christians to lead, inspire, and develop the churches of God by the proclamation and the teaching of true doctrine.

The divine ability to start and oversee the development of new churches or ministry structures.

People with this gift:

- 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.

Possible tasks

Church planting, church consulting, long-term planning, regional/denomination responsibilities, foreign missions.

Possible weaknesses

Not everyone with an apostolic gift has the gifts of leadership and organization. This can lead to a lack of structure in their ministry.

Celibacy - The special ability God gives to some to voluntarily remain single without regret and with the ability to maintain control over sexual impulses so as to serve the Lord without distraction.

Celibacy is a state totally opposed to all of the biological, social, and emotional needs built into man or woman by God. Only God is able to overrule instincts and by grace control them so that a person can remain unmarried.

Being unmarried is not necessarily the same as having this gift. Those who have this gift remain single because they feel they can serve the Lord better that way.

People with this gift:

- remain single so as to be able to devote themselves completely to ministry
- have other gifts that they are able to use more effectively because they are celibate.

Discernment / Distinguishing of Spirits - The special ability God gives to some to know with assurance whether certain behavior or teaching is from God, Satan, human error, or human power.

The divine enablement to distinguish between truth and error, to discern the spirits, differentiating between good and evil, right and wrong.

People with this gift:

- 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.

Possible tasks

Public relations, counseling, deliverance ministry, church board member, evangelistic campaigns, preaching, prayer team ministry, long-term planning, ministry to the underprivileged.

Possible weaknesses

Some people with this gift tend to develop a "spirit of criticism" that can cause them to criticize almost everything.

Encouragement (Speaking Gift) - The special ability God gives some to offer comfort, words of encouragement, hope, and reassurance to discouraged, weak, or troubled Christians in such a way that they are consoled.

People with this gift:

- come to the side of those who are discouraged to reassure them and give them hope
- emphasize God's promises and confidence in his will.

Possible tasks

Integrating new Christians, hospital ministry, counseling team, gift consulting, prayer team, challenging passive Christians, substance abuse counseling, family counseling, seniors ministry, telephone counseling, prison ministry, hospice ministry.

Possible weaknesses

Some Christians who can identify with and show sympathy toward others lack the necessary directness and firmness to deal with the root problems.

(See also Exhortation)

Evangelism / Evangelist - The special ability God gives to some to proclaim the Gospel of salvation effectively so that people respond to the promises of Christ through conversion to Christianity.

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
- 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.

Possible tasks

Preaching, open houses, visitation ministry, counseling, radio ministry, foreign missions, church planting team, ministry to the underprivileged, evangelistic home groups, music or band ministry, children's evangelism, ministry to internationals.

Possible weaknesses

Some evangelists are so preoccupied with "decisions for Christ" that the process of integrating new believers into a local church is neglected.

Exhortation (Speaking Gift) - The special ability God gives some to help strengthen weak, faltering, and fainthearted Christians in such a way that they are motivated to be all God wants them to be.

The ability to help others reach their full potential by means of encouraging, challenging, comforting, and guiding.

The divine enablement to present truth so as to strengthen or urge to action those who are discouraged or wavering in their faith.

People with this gift:

- come to the side of those who are weak in spirit to strengthen them
- challenge or confront others to trust and hope in the promises of God
- urge others to action by applying Biblical truth
- offers advice, an outline for a solution, or a program for progress
- motivates others to grow.

Possible tasks

Integrating new Christians, hospital ministry, counseling team, gift consulting, prayer team, challenging passive Christians, substance abuse counseling, family counseling, seniors ministry, telephone counseling, prison ministry, hospice ministry.

Possible weaknesses

Some Christians who can identify with and show sympathy toward others lack the necessary directness and firmness to deal with the root problems.

(see also Encouragement)

Faith - The special conviction God gives to some to be firmly persuaded of God's power and promises to accomplish His will and purpose and to display such a confidence in Him and His Word that circumstances and obstacles do not shake that conviction.

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
- 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.

Possible tasks

Prayer group leader, church board member, long-term planning, church planting, creative ideas team, denominational leadership, church leadership for missions, evangelism.

Possible weaknesses

Some people with this gift are not able to admit when their goals or vision have not been realized.

Giving (Serving Gift) - The gift that enables a believer to recognize God's blessings and to respond to those blessings by generously, sacrificially, and cheerfully giving of one's resources (time, talent, and treasure)

without thought of return.

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?"

People with this gift:

- 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.

Possible tasks

Finance committee member, supporting missionaries, treasurer, full-time financial adviser, tithe coordinator, assisting in crises, supporting special projects.

Possible weaknesses

Some Christians with this gift believe that giving money toward certain projects is all that they need to do.

Healing (Sign Gift) - The special ability God gives to some to serve as a human instrument through whom it pleases Him to cure illness and restore health (physically, emotionally, mentally, or spiritually) apart from the use of natural means.

The divine enablement to be God's means for restoring people to wholeness.

People with this gift:

- demonstrate the power of God
- bring restoration to the sick and diseased
- authenticate a message from God through healing
- use it 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.

Possible tasks

Counseling, prayer team, visiting the sick.

Possible weaknesses

Some Christians believe that when someone is not healed after much prayer, it must be due to a lack of faith. This misconception sends many sincere Christians into a spiritual tailspin.

Helps / Serving (Serving Gift) - The gift that enables a believer to work gladly behind the scenes in order that God's work is fulfilled. The special ability God gives to some to serve the church in a supporting roll or to invest their talents in the life and ministry of other members of the body enabling them to increase their effectiveness.

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 whenever needed to support the gifts and ministries of others (without having to be asked)
- see the tangible and practical things to be done and enjoy doing them
- sense God's purpose and pleasure in meeting every day responsibilities
- attach spiritual value to practical service
- enjoy knowing that they are freeing up others to do what God has called them to do.
- would rather do a job than find someone else to do it.

Possible tasks

Telephone ministry, supporting leaders, secretarial help, helping families move into new homes, custodial service.

Possible weaknesses

There is a danger that people with the gift of helps may express their concern for others to such an extent that those in need actually become co-dependent.

Hospitality (Serving Gift) - The special ability God gives to some to provide an open home and warm welcome to those in need of food, lodging, and fellowship. It involves a readiness to invite strangers to your home (or church) for the sake of the Gospel.

The divine enablement to care for people by providing fellowship, food, and shelter.

People with this gift:

- 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.

Possible tasks

Odd jobs, gardening, caring for guests, cooking and baking, maintenance, typing/computer work, tape ministry, babysitting.

Possible weaknesses

Some Christians with this gift have a tendency to take on the ministry tasks of others, which could

make these persons co-dependent.

Intercession / Prayer (Serving Gift) - The special ability God gives to some to pray for extended periods of time on a regular basis and see frequent and specific answers to their prayers to a degree much greater than that which is expected of the average Christian.

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
- 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.

Knowledge (Speaking Gift) - The special gift whereby the Spirit enables certain Christians to understand in an exceptional way the great truths of God's Word and to make them relevant to specific situations in the church. Also, the desire to seek out and learn as much about the Bible as possible through gathering much information and the analysis of that data.

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
- search the scriptures for insight, understanding, and truth
- gain knowledge which at times was not attained by natural means
- have an unusual insight or understanding that serves the church
- organize information for teaching and practical use.

Possible tasks

Church growth research, seminar preparation, writing, long-term planning, Bible study, journalism, theological studies, creative evangelistic outreach.

Possible weaknesses

Some Christians with this gift have an underdeveloped view of practical ministries. This is particularly true of those who don't have the gift of teaching as a part of their gift mix.

(See also Wisdom)

Leadership (Serving Gift) - The special ability God gives to some to set goals in accordance with God's purpose and to communicate these goals to others in such a way that they voluntarily and harmoniously work together to accomplish these goals for the glory of God.

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 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.

Possible tasks

Pastor, elder, worship service leader, department leader, long-term planning.

Possible weaknesses

A constant danger to all leaders is spiritual isolation. Many leaders don't have anyone who can see them as they really are and hold them accountable.

(See also Administration)

Mercy / Compassion (Serving Gift) - The special gift whereby the Spirit enables certain Christians to feel exceptional empathy and compassion for those who are suffering (physically, mentally, or emotionally) so as to feel genuine sympathy for their misery, speaking words of compassion, but more so caring for them with acts of love that help alleviate their distress.

The divine enablement to cheerfully and practically help those who are suffering or are in need by putting compassion into action.

People with this gift:

- focus upon alleviating the sources of pain or discomfort in suffering people
- address the needs of the lonely and forgotten
- express 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.

Possible tasks

Counseling sessions, intercessory prayer, ministry to the underprivileged, prison ministry, foreign missions, ministry to single mothers/fathers, ministry to the handicapped, hospital/sick calls, ministry to the chemically dependent.

Possible weaknesses

Some Christians with this gift are so sensitive to injustice that they tend to have an overly negative

view of the world.

Miracles (Sign Gift) - The special ability God gives to some to serve as a human intermediary through whom He pleases to perform acts of supernatural power that are recognized by others to have altered the ordinary course of nature and authenticated the divine commission.

People with this gift:

- speak God's truth and may have it authenticated by an accompanying miracle
- express confidence in God's faithfulness and ability to manifest Christ's presence
- bring the ministry and message of Jesus Christ with power
- claim God to be the source of miracles and glorify the Lord
- represent Christ and through this gift, point people to a relationship with Christ.

Possible tasks

Foreign missions, spiritual warfare, prayer ministry.

Possible weaknesses

Some Christians with this gift tend to exaggerate in retelling their experiences.

Missionary (Leadership Gift) - The special ability God gives to some to minister whatever other spiritual gifts they have in another culture.

Those with this gift find it easy or exciting to adjust to a different culture or community. Missionaries find great joy working with minorities, people of other countries, or those with other distinct cultural differences. Those with this gift have a stronger-than-average desire to be a part of the fulfillment of the Great Commission around the world.

People with this gift:

- have an intense spirit of unease at the thought of all the unsaved people in the world
- adapt themselves and core Biblical principles to different surroundings by being culturally sensitive and aware
- have the ability to reach out people groups of a different ethnicity, language, or cultural background
- can establish meaningful relationships with people of other nationalities or cultures
- desire to minister to unreached people in other communities or countries.

Music - The gift that gives a believer the capability to present personal witness and inspiration to others through instrumental music, singing, or dancing.

The special gift whereby the Spirit enables certain Christians to praise God through music in such a way as to

enhance the worship experience of other believers. It gives the believer the desire and capability to express personal faith and provide inspiration and comfort through the playing of a musical instrument, singing, or dancing. The spiritual aspect of the gift is revealed as the gift bearer gives witness to love and praise for the Lord, and thus glorifies God. Those listening or watching become inspired to feel the presence and majesty of God when music, song, or dance uplifts their soul in a manner that brings them closer to their Lord.

People with this gift:

- sing or play a musical instrument quite well, and enjoy it
- have special joy singing praises to God, either alone or with other people
- feel secure in the fact that their musical ability will be of benefit to other people with whom they come in contact
- can use their musical ability to help and inspire others to worship God
- see that their singing or instrument playing is a spiritual encouragement for others.

Pastor / Shepherd - The special ability God gives to some to assume a long-term personal responsibility for leadership and the spiritual care, protection, guidance, and feeding (teaching) of a group of believers.

The divine enablement to nurture, care for, and guide people toward on-going spiritual maturity and becoming like Christ.

The collective (plural in Greek) ministry of the Elders to “shepherd” an individual or community of Christian believers. This gift is a special passion and empowering to lead people into green pastures, steer others away from danger, fight off predators, and bind up wounds.

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.

Possible tasks

Pastor, gift consultant, children’s church, small group leader, youth ministry, assimilating new Christians, training programs.

Possible weaknesses

Pastors with this gift may have difficulty leading a church of more than 150–200 believers. They want to maintain a close relationship with every member, but it is not possible with more than 150–200 people.

Poverty (voluntary) - The special ability God gives to some to purposely live an impoverished lifestyle to serve and aid others with their material resources.

The special ability that God gives to some members of the body of Christ to renounce material comfort and luxury and adopt a personal lifestyle equivalent to those living at the poverty level in a given society in order to serve God more effectively.

People with this gift:

- will often choose to live among people who are considered poverty-stricken
- live at a poverty level although they have the means to live at a higher standard
- choose this lifestyle in order to minister more effectively to people through identification.

Prophet / Prophecy (Special Gift) - The special ability God gives to some to proclaim the Word of God with clarity and to apply it fearlessly with a view to the strengthening, encouragement, and comfort of believers and the convincing of unbelievers. The special gift whereby the Spirit empowers certain Christians to interpret and apply God's revelation in a given situation.

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.

Note: The primary ministry in this gift is not prediction, but in confronting people with the truth about God and humankind—with conviction and repentance as the result.

People with this gift:

- 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.

Possible tasks

Pastor, foreign missions, evangelistic events, long-term planning, outreach to the underprivileged, worship team, prayer team, small groups, counseling, prayer chains.

Possible weaknesses

Anyone exercising this gift must acquire a solid biblical foundation in order to better distinguish between divine inspiration and one's own favorite ideas.

Teaching / Teacher - The special ability God gives to some to explain the truths of the Word of God clearly and to apply them effectively so that those taught understand and learn. To instruct others in the Bible in a logical and systematic way so as to communicate pertinent information for true understanding and growth.

The divine enablement to understand, clearly explain, and apply the word of God causing greater Christ-likeness 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
- focus on changing lives by helping others understand the Bible better
- give attention to detail and accuracy
- prepare through extended times of study and reflection.

Possible tasks

Small group ministry, seminars, training courses, Bible studies, new members/baptism class, church growth training.

Possible weaknesses

Some teachers can communicate certain truths extremely well, but don't practice what they teach.

Tongues (interpreting) - The special ability God gives to some translate the message of one who speaks in tongues.

If a tongue is spoken without an interpretation, the speaker is edified. If the tongue is interpreted, it is for the edification of the body.

People with this gift:

- express with an interpretation a word by the Spirit which edifies the Body
- enable the gift of tongues to build up the church by interpreting God's message for the people.

Possible tasks

Prayer groups, worship service team, spiritual warfare.

Possible weaknesses

This gift is not to be used in large gatherings if it has not first been confirmed in smaller circles.

Tongues (speaking) - The special ability God gives to some to speak prayer or praise in a language they have never learned or to communicate a message from God to His people. The special ability God gives to some to speak in a language not previously learned so unbelievers can hear God's message in their own language.

If a tongue is spoken without an interpretation, the speaker is edified. If the tongue is interpreted, it is for the edification of the body.

People with this gift:

- may receive a spontaneous message from God which is made known to His body through the gift of interpretation
- communicate a message given by God for the church (if there is someone to interpret)

- speak in a language they have never learned and 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
- speak in tongues as a private prayer language
- when used in a group setting, an interpretation must take place, or else the one speaking the tongue should remain silent.

Possible tasks

Prayer ministry, spiritual warfare.

Possible weaknesses

Some of the groups which understand speaking in tongues as the trademark of the “baptism of the Holy Spirit” belittle the spiritual authority of Christians who don’t have this gift.

Wisdom (Speaking Gift) - The gift that allows the believer to sort through opinions, facts, and thoughts in order to determine what solution would be best for the individual believer or the community of believers. The ability to apply knowledge to life in such a way as to make spiritual truths quite relevant and practical in proper decision making and daily life situations.

The special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to know the mind of the Holy Spirit in such a way as to receive insight into how knowledge may best be applied to specific needs arising in the body of Christ.

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 conflict and confusion
- hear the Spirit provide direction for God's best in a given situation
- apply spiritual truth in specific and practical ways.

Possible tasks

Counseling, conflict resolution, prayer team, career consulting, training courses, gift consulting, seminars, church consulting.

Possible weaknesses

Christians with this gift must guard against patronizing or browbeating others. It is important for them to allow those under their influence enough freedom to experiment and fail from time to time.

(See also Knowledge)

Word Of Knowledge - A word of knowledge is a definite conviction, impression, or knowing that comes to you in a mental picture, a dream, through a vision, or by a Scripture that is quickened to you. It is supernatural insight or understanding of circumstances, situations, problems, or a body of facts by revelation; that is, without assistance by any human resource but solely by divine aid.

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 conflict and confusion
- hear the Spirit provide direction for God's best in a given situation
- apply spiritual truth in specific and practical ways.

Possible tasks

- Used in a small group setting during times of ministry
- Word given to a pastor before sharing with an entire congregation
- Counseling

Possible weaknesses

This gift can be confused with subjective feelings. It is important to learn & discern between feelings stemming from emotion, and the Word of Knowledge as rooted in Scripture. Pride can also cause a person with this gift to flaunt all kinds of "instruction" to others, many times all the while not listening or humbling themselves to instruction themselves. This person must be "quick to listen and slow to speak".

Writing - the gift that gives a believer the ability to express truth in a written form; a form that can edify, instruct and strengthen the community of believers.

The special God-given ability to formulate thoughts and ideas into meaningful written forms so that the reader will find courage, guidance, knowledge, or edification through the words shared with them.

The Bible was written by people with this gift.

People with this gift:

- may write stories, sermons, devotions, histories, prayers, songs, or poetry to be used to build up the body of Christ
- may be inspired by the Holy Spirit in what they write
- may teach God's word to others through what they write
- may use writing to express other gifts
- may be better at expressing their thoughts in written form than in verbal form.