

CHARISMA



The explosive growth of the Church didn't happen just because of social innovation. Its growth was miraculous—divine action through human instruments. Deposited in each follower of Jesus are spiritual gifts that build up the Church and that are for the common good. Do you know how you've been gifted? And are you courageous enough to live them out?

CHARISMA...

This is what the Holy Spirit gives us. He brings awakening. He develops character. He bestows spiritual gifts. Think of these more as ministries, not abilities. Spiritual gifts are capacities through the power of the Spirit to minister to others and build up the body of Christ. There are 20 spiritual gifts and these are manifested in various apportions through various ministries. Spiritual gifts are not natural gifts like athleticism or acquired gifts like playing the guitar. Rather, spiritual gifts are supernaturally-endowed through the power of the Spirit, fuelled by spiritual disciplines, and require practice through stepping out in faith.

There are three categories of spiritual gifts: Love, Word, and Power. None of these gifts are more important than the other; they are all necessary for the body of Christ. Think of each category as representing one leg of a three-legged stool. If you take one of the legs away, the stool does not hold; the stool needs all three legs to function properly and provide stability. Also, if one leg is more emphasized than the other, the stool will be off-balance. Love gifts, Word gifts, and Power gifts need to be equally present in order to cultivate unity and health in the church.

Jesus is our model for living in these gifts. He lived a life that was full of the Holy Spirit and had the capability to operate in any of the gifts at any time. He modelled this life to show us that it's possible for us to do the same. As you become more like Jesus, you also will realize the capability to operate in many of these gifts through the power of the Holy Spirit. So then, don't think of spiritual gifts as either possessing them or not possessing them. Rather, think of yourself as on a spectrum with each of these gifts. You may be low on the Mercy scale and high on the Prophetic scale, but as you mature in Christ, you'll move further along in the Mercy gift. The Apostle Paul says to earnestly desire the spiritual gifts. So as you pursue Jesus, desire to look more and more like Him through operating in these various gifts.

LOVE GIFTS (4)

The capability to demonstrate the reality of God's love through practical ways.

2) Administration (1 Corinthians 12:28)

Definition

The spiritual capacity to demonstrate God's direction by understanding what a group of people needs to meet its mission and vision and the divine ability to make that a reality by steering or governing them toward a destination.

When operating in this gift...

- you can create order out of chaos
- you can see problems before they occur that others can't see
- you understand how the details relate to the big picture
- you enjoy organizing people and tasks
- you think strategically
- you can take what someone else is doing and make it more efficient and effective
- you are okay with not being in charge
- you see administration as love and worship

You can develop in this gift by...

- practicing the spiritual disciplines of obedience, meditation, self-examination, and stewardship
- serving in an organizational role
- supporting the leadership of your church
- developing organizational skills (e.g. running a meeting)
- developing communication skills (e.g. delegating tasks)
- developing relational skills (e.g. encouraging others)
- studying Scripture that addresses with servanthood

Biblical Examples

- Jesus (Luke 9:1-6)
- The Twelve (Acts 6:1-4)
- Titus (Titus 1:5)

3) Giving (Romans 12:8)

Definition

The spiritual capacity to display God's generosity by giving liberally to meet the needs of others with pure motives.

When operating in this gift...

- you jump at the chance to meet financial needs
- you seek out ways to help others
- you adjust your lifestyle to give more to Kingdom efforts
- you are skilled in managing finances
- you experience great joy when giving and there is no reluctance or compulsion or pretense
- you enjoy giving sacrificially
- you may have a special ability to make money
- you use money to enable spiritual growth

You can develop in this gift by...

- practicing the spiritual disciplines of gratitude, generosity, stewardship, and obedience
- developing integrity, honesty, and cheerfulness
- having a lifestyle of moderation
- dedicating all you have and will receive to God
- studying the accounts of generosity in the early church

Biblical Examples

- Jesus (Matthew 19:16-30)
- Barnabas (Acts 4:34b-37)

4) Mercy (Romans 12:8)

Definition

The spiritual capacity to display God's compassion by both feeling empathy for those in need and manifesting this empathy in a beneficial way toward those who are suffering or afflicted.

When operating in this gift...

- you are deeply moved when you see or hear of others undergoing great suffering
- you have a very empathetic personality
- you are sensitive to hurting people
- when confronted by hurting people your first thought is, 'How can I come alongside them?'
- you demonstrate patience and strive to alleviate the sources of suffering, not just a quick-fix
- you are a good listener
- you are concerned with social justice

You can develop in this gift by...

- practicing the spiritual disciplines of prayer, contemplation, journaling, and fellowship
- serving in a small group
- being around those who are hurting
- pursuing a mentor who has this gift
- studying this characteristic of God throughout the Scriptures

Biblical Examples

- Jesus (John 11:32-38)
- Tabitha/Dorcas (Acts 9:36)

WORD GIFTS (7)

The capability to communicate about God and for God by clarifying the nature of God and what He desires for His children.

8) Shepherding (Ephesians 4:11)

Definition

The spiritual capacity to demonstrate God's care by exercising concern for members of a group so as to encourage them in their growth in Christ.

When operating in this gift...

- you care deeply for other believers
- disunity in the church disturbs you
- you are protective for those you care for
- you feel and take responsibility for others' walks with God
- you organically model what it means to be a fully-devoted follower
- you are capable of building trust/respect/confidence through long-term relationships
- you easily see problems and assume responsibility to help
- you are naturally influential

You can develop in this gift by...

- practicing the spiritual disciplines of prayer, fasting, fellowship, and confession
- serving in a small group
- spending time in the Word
- opening yourself to carrying one another's burdens
- receiving discipleship so that you can disciple others

Biblical Examples

- Jesus (John 10:2-18)
- The Ephesian Elders (Acts 20:28-31)

9) Teaching

(Romans 12:7; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 4:11)

Definition

The spiritual capacity to communicate God's authenticity so that others grow in their understanding of the Word of God and ability to live through the Spirit of God.

When operating in this gift...

- others increasingly understand truth as a result of what you say about the Scriptures
- you have a deep passion to understand truth
- you are always explaining things you're learning to others
- you are able to discipline yourself to study the Scriptures
- you find yourself overly concerned about words and meaning
- you are unsatisfied with unclear explanations
- your teaching enables spiritual growth
- you are protective of the clear communication of truth in context and without error

You can develop in this gift by...

- practicing the spiritual disciplines of prayer, meditation, journaling, and self-examination
- serving in a teaching capacity
- observing various teaching methodologies in order to discover your own voice
- being teachable regarding your communication skills

Biblical Examples

- Jesus (Matthew 7:28-29)
- Apollos, Priscilla, Aquila (Acts 18:24-28)
- John (1 John 1:1-4)

POWER GIFTS (9)

The capability to help others experience the authenticity, credibility, power, and reality of God.

12) Discernment (1 Corinthians 12:10)

Definition

The spiritual capacity to demonstrate God's perception by perceiving and knowing the power source behind certain issues and giving judgment concerning those issues, including the ability to recognize the spiritual forces behind them.

When operating in this gift...

- you have a keen sense for recognizing inconsistencies
- you have a good grasp of scriptural truth in general
- you are critical positive, not critical negative
- you have a strong distaste for half-truth, misapplied truth, and false teaching
- perhaps you get a 'bad feeling' when you enter a room or place
- you see, hear, or even smell things that others can't
- you get bad vibes from certain people for seemingly no particular reason
- you can clearly distinguish between the influence of God/good and the influence of the world/evil

You can develop in this gift by...

- practicing the spiritual disciplines of silence, prayer, and meditation
- studying the accounts of power encounters in the Scriptures
- pursuing mentorship from someone who has this gift
- being in situations where you can use this gift in an environment where power and word gifts are used

Biblical Examples

- Jesus (Luke 8:26-39)
- Peter (Acts 8:18-24)
- Paul (Acts 16:6-10; 16-18)

15) Faith (1 Corinthians 12:9)

Definition

The spiritual capacity to demonstrate God's sovereignty by trusting in God's ability to fulfill His purposes and acting on God's promises with confidence.

When operating in this gift...

- you have an unusual willingness to accept God's promises at face value
- you think big picture and can see the big picture in God's working
- you have an attitude that says 'not only can God do something, but He definitely will do something, or even has already done it'
- you wonder why others have so many doubts
- you expect God to move and aren't surprised when He does

You can develop in this gift by...

- practicing the spiritual disciplines of prayer, fasting, silence, solitude, obedience, journaling, and celebration
- maintaining remembrance stones in your journey with God
- learning about the lives of saints who have gone before you

Biblical Examples

- Jesus (Matthew 14:13-21)
- Rahab (Joshua 2:8-14)
- Daniel (1:11-16)
- Woman (Matthew 9:20-22)

17) Miracles (1 Corinthians 12:10)

Definition

The spiritual capacity to display God's glory through revealing God's power and presence by operating outside of His creation-order.

When operating in this gift...

- you find yourself in situations in which you must see God's power demonstrated in order to confirm His character
- you have an ability to sense what God wants to do in a given situation
- willing to risk your reputation and trust God in unusual situations
- you have a deep trust and faith
- you do not claim power yourself, but always give credit to God
- you are a person of prayer
- you have an ability to see the spiritual realities of a situation and discern the power encounters that are happening
- others either come to faith in Christ or draw closer to Him as a result

You can develop in this gift by...

- practicing the spiritual disciplines of prayer, fasting, and obedience
- pursuing the gift of discernment or pairing up with someone who has it
- studying the miraculous accounts in the Scriptures
- listening to those who have experienced a miracle

Biblical Examples

- Jesus (Luke 8:23-24; 26-33)
- Paul (Acts 20:7-12)

19) Interpretation of Tongues (1 Corinthians 12:10)

Definition

The spiritual capacity to reveal God's faithfulness by clearly communicating the heart (or message) of an individual praying in tongues and/or the spiritual capacity to hear and understand a spontaneous prayer in tongues to God so that it is heard and understood by everyone present.

When operating in this gift...

- you feel you understand what is being said when an individual publicly/corporately speaks in tongues
- when you share what you feel the message is, others affirm it, and it leads to the building up of the church

You can develop in this gift by...

- practicing the spiritual disciplines of prayer, meditation, and obedience
- learning about different kinds of tongues
- asking questions of those who practice this gift
- studying 1 Corinthians 12-14
- asking a person with discernment about the use of your gift

Biblical Examples

- Paul (1 Corinthians 14:13)

