

# FINDING *Spiritual Gifts* IN THE BIBLE

The Bible does not lock us into tight restrictions as to the number of spiritual gifts, or even their definitions. There is not a single passage that lists all the spiritual gifts found in all the others. The most commonly read passages where spiritual gifts are found are: Romans 12:3-8, 1Corinthians 12:7-11, 27-31, Ephesians 4:11-12, and 1 Peter 4:9-11, but there are other passages that mention or illustrate gifts not included in these lists.

Read through each scripture passage and write the Spiritual Gift you identify on a numbered line to the right. If a Spiritual Gift is found more than once, only list it the first time it occurs.

Spiritual Gifts Passage	Spiritual Gift Identified
<p><b>1 Corinthians 12:7-11</b>  <i>Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines. --NIV</i></p>	<p>1. <u>Word of Wisdom</u>            2. <u>Word of Knowledge</u>            3. <u>Faith</u>            4. <u>Gifts of Healing</u>            5. <u>Effecting of Miracles</u>            6. <u>Prophecy</u>            7. <u>Distinguishing of Spirits (Discernment)</u>            8. <u>Speaking in Tongues</u>            9. <u>Interpretation of Tongues</u></p>
<p><b>1 Corinthians 12:28</b>  <i>And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues. --NIV</i></p>	<p>10. <u>Apostle (apostleship)</u>            11. <u>Teacher (teaching)</u>            12. <u>Helps</u>            13. <u>Administration</u></p>
<p><b>Romans 12:6-8</b>  <i>We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully. --NIV</i></p>	<p>14. <u>Encouragement (exhortation)</u>            15. <u>Giving</u>            16. <u>Leadership</u>            17. <u>Mercy (compassion)</u></p>
<p><b>Ephesians 4:11</b>  <i>It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers. --NIV</i></p>	<p>18. <u>Evangelist (evangelism)</u>            19. <u>Pastor (shepherding)</u></p>
<p><b>1 Peter 4:9-10</b>  <i>Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. --NIV</i></p>	<p>20. <u>Hospitality</u></p>

# A Spiritual Gift MATCHING EXERCISE

## Directions

- Match each “Characteristic” with its corresponding “Spiritual Gift.”
- Write the letter of the description under the Spiritual Gift on the line marked “Matches:”
- The description for each Spiritual Gift can be matched from those listed on the same page.

Spiritual Gift	Characteristic
1. Administration  Matches: _____	<b>A.</b> The ability to distinguish right from wrong, truth from error, good from evil, and to give an immediate evaluation based on God’s Word; to discern whether the source of an experience is Satan, self, or God’s Spirit.
2. Apostleship  Matches: _____	<b>B.</b> The ability to effectively communicate the Good News of Jesus Christ to unbelievers in a positive, non-threatening way; to sense opportunities to share Christ and lead people to respond in faith and move toward discipleship.
3. Discernment  Matches: _____	<b>C.</b> The ability and desire to reach out where others may never dare and influence others to follow; possess a contagious and industrious enthusiasm to cross cultural, geographical, and economic boundaries for Christ.
4. Evangelism  Matches: _____	<b>D.</b> The ability to trust God for what cannot be seen and to act on God’s promise, regardless of what the circumstances indicate; a willingness to risk failure in pursuit of a God-given vision, expecting God to handle the obstacles.
5. Exhortation  Matches: _____	<b>E.</b> The ability to recognize the gifts of others and recruit them to a ministry; to organize and manage people, resources, and time for effective ministry; to coordinate many details and execute the plans of leadership.
6. Faith  Matches: _____	<b>F.</b> The ability to accomplish practical and necessary tasks which free-up or support others; quick to recognize unmet needs in the church family, and take the initiative to provide assistance immediately, cheerfully, and without a need for recognition.
7. Giving  Matches: _____	<b>G.</b> The ability to motivate God’s people to apply and act on biblical principles, especially when they are discouraged or wavering in their faith; to bring out the best in others and challenge them to develop their potential.
8. Helps/Serving  Matches: _____	<b>H.</b> The ability to generously contribute material resources and/or money beyond the 10% tithe so that the Body may grow and be strengthened; an inclination to earn and manage money so it may be given to support the ministry of others.

## Spiritual Gift Matching – page 2

Spiritual Gift	Characteristic
9. Hospitality  Matches: _____	<b>I.</b> The ability to bring truth to the body through a biblical or spirit-revealed insight; to observe and reflect upon matters regarding Christ’s Church and render a perception which enables others to better serve God and each other.
10. Knowledge  Matches: _____	<b>J.</b> The ability to understand God’s perspective on life situations and share those insights in a simple, understandable way; to explain what to do and how to do it, so that God’s Will is accomplished in one’s life.
11. Leadership  Matches: _____	<b>K.</b> The ability to publicly communicate God’s Word in an inspired way that convinces unbelievers and both challenges and comforts Christ-followers; to persuasively declare God’s Will which leads to understanding, correction, repentance, or edification.
12. Showing Mercy  Matches: _____	<b>L.</b> The ability to make others, especially strangers, feel warmly welcomed, accepted, and comfortable; a desire to coordinate factors that promote fellowship, and provide food and shelter to others.
13. Prophecy  Matches: _____	<b>M.</b> The ability to detect hurt and empathize with those who are suffering in the church family; to provide compassionate and cheerful support to those experiencing distress, loneliness, crisis, or pain.
14. Shepherding (Pastoring)  Matches: _____	<b>N.</b> The ability to educate God’s people by clearly explaining and applying the Bible in a way that inspires life change through a greater obedience to God’s Word and application of biblical principles; to effectively equip other Christ-followers for ministry.
15. Teaching  Matches: _____	<b>O.</b> The ability to clarify and communicate the purpose and direction (“vision”) of a ministry in a way that attracts others to get involved; to motivate others by example to work together in accomplishing a ministry goal.
16. Wisdom  Matches: _____	<b>P.</b> The ability to care for the spiritual needs of a group of Christ-followers and equip them for ministry; to nurture a small group in on-going spiritual maturity, establishing trust and confidence through personal relationships, and assuming responsibility for their care.

Answers: 1=E 2=C 3=A 4=B 5=G 6=D 7=H 8=F 9=L 10=I 11=O 12=M 13=K 14=P 15=N 16=J

# A Spiritual Gift SURVEY

## northpointe community church

- Directions: Read each statement in the Spiritual Gifts Survey with this scale in mind, and record the numerical value that represents how the statement applies to you:
  - 3 = Consistently, definitely true
  - 2 = Most of the time, usually true
  - 1 = Some of the time, once in a while
  - 0 = Not at all, never
- **IMPORTANT:** Answer according to “who you really are,” not who you would like to be or think you ought to be. Ask... How true is this statement of me? What has been my tendency in ministry settings? To what degree does this statement reflect my ministry involvement?

### Spiritual Gift Survey...

1. \_\_\_ I like to organize people, tasks, and events.
2. \_\_\_ I am careful, thorough, and skilled at managing details.
3. \_\_\_ I can clarify goals and develop strategies or plans to accomplish them.
4. \_\_\_ I can identify and effectively use the resources needed to accomplish tasks.
5. \_\_\_ I like to help organizations or groups become more efficient.
6. \_\_\_ I enjoy learning about how organizations function.
7. \_\_\_ I can visualize a coming event, anticipate potential problems, and develop backup plans.
8. \_\_\_ I would like to help start a church where one does not presently exist.
9. \_\_\_ I am attracted to the idea of serving in another country or ethnic community.
10. \_\_\_ I am willing to take an active part in starting a new church.
11. \_\_\_ I can adapt well to different cultures and surroundings.
12. \_\_\_ I can relate to others in culturally sensitive ways.
13. \_\_\_ I enjoy pioneering new undertakings.
14. \_\_\_ I am able to orchestrate or oversee several church ministries.

15. \_\_\_ I can readily distinguish between spiritual truth and error, good and evil.
16. \_\_\_ I frequently am able to judge a person's character based upon first impressions.
17. \_\_\_ I can see through phoniness or deceit before it is evident to others.
18. \_\_\_ I tend to see rightness or wrongness in situations.
19. \_\_\_ I receive affirmation from others concerning the reliability of my insights or perceptions.
20. \_\_\_ I can identify preaching, teaching, or communication which is not true to the Bible.
21. \_\_\_ I can sense when demonic forces are at work in a person or situation.
22. \_\_\_ I communicate the gospel to others with clarity and effectiveness.
23. \_\_\_ I consistently look for opportunities to build relationships with unbelievers.
24. \_\_\_ I am effective at adapting the gospel message so that it connects with an individual's felt need.
25. \_\_\_ I invite unbelievers to accept Christ as their Savior.
26. \_\_\_ I openly tell people that I am a Christ-follower and want them to ask me about faith.
27. \_\_\_ I openly and confidently tell others what Christ has done for me.
28. \_\_\_ I seek opportunities to talk about spiritual matters with unbelievers.
29. \_\_\_ I tend to see the potential in people.
30. \_\_\_ I enjoy reassuring and strengthening those who are discouraged.
31. \_\_\_ I give hope to others by directing them to the promises of God.
32. \_\_\_ I reassure those who need to take courageous action in their faith, family, or life.
33. \_\_\_ I strengthen those who are wavering in their faith.
34. \_\_\_ I like motivating others to take steps for spiritual growth.
35. \_\_\_ I am able to challenge or rebuke others to foster spiritual growth.

36. \_\_\_ I find it natural and easy to trust God to answer my prayers.
37. \_\_\_ I have confidence in God's continuing provision and help, even in difficult times.
38. \_\_\_ I believe that God will help me to accomplish great things.
39. \_\_\_ I trust God in circumstances where success cannot be guaranteed by human effort alone.
40. \_\_\_ I am convinced of God's daily presence and action in my life.
41. \_\_\_ I am regularly challenging others to trust God.
42. \_\_\_ I can move forward in spite of opposition or lack of support when I sense God's blessing on an understanding.
43. \_\_\_ I give liberally and joyfully to people in financial need or to projects requiring support.
44. \_\_\_ I give more than a tithe so that kingdom work can be accomplished.
45. \_\_\_ I manage my money well in order to free more of it for giving.
46. \_\_\_ I am challenged to limit my lifestyle in order to give away a higher percentage of my income.
47. \_\_\_ I like knowing that my financial support makes a real difference in the lives and ministries of God's people.
48. \_\_\_ I give generously due to my commitment to stewardship.
49. \_\_\_ I believe I have been given an abundance of resources so that I may give more to the Lord's work.
50. \_\_\_ I enjoy working behind the scenes to support the work of others.
51. \_\_\_ I enjoy doing routine tasks that support the ministry.
52. \_\_\_ I willingly take on a variety of odd jobs around the church to meet the needs of others.
53. \_\_\_ I see spiritual significance in doing practical tasks.
54. \_\_\_ I like to find small things that need to be done and often do them without being asked.
55. \_\_\_ I feel comfortable being a helper, assisting others to do their job more effectively.
56. \_\_\_ I readily and happily use my natural or learned skills to help whenever needed.

57. \_\_\_ I view my home as a place to minister to people in need.
58. \_\_\_ I enjoy meeting new people and helping them to feel welcomed.
59. \_\_\_ I genuinely believe the Lord directs strangers to me who need to get connected to others.
60. \_\_\_ I like to create a place where people do not feel that they are alone.
61. \_\_\_ I enjoy entertaining people and opening my home to others.
62. \_\_\_ I do whatever I can to make people feel that they belong.
63. \_\_\_ I can make people feel at ease even in unfamiliar surroundings.
  
64. \_\_\_ I am approached by people who want to know my perspective on a particular passage or biblical truth.
65. \_\_\_ I receive information from the Spirit that I did not acquire through natural means.
66. \_\_\_ I am committed, and schedule blocks of time for reading and studying scripture, to understand biblical truth fully and accurately.
67. \_\_\_ I have insight or just know something to be true.
68. \_\_\_ I have suddenly known some things about others, but did not know how I knew them.
69. \_\_\_ I discover important biblical truths when reading or studying scripture, which benefit others in the body of Christ.
70. \_\_\_ I confidently share my knowledge and insights with others.
  
71. \_\_\_ I am able to motivate others to accomplish a goal.
72. \_\_\_ I am able to influence others to achieve a vision.
73. \_\_\_ I can adjust my leadership style to bring out the best in others.
74. \_\_\_ I set goals and manage people and resources effectively to accomplish them.
75. \_\_\_ I influence others to perform to the best of their capability.
76. \_\_\_ I am able to cast a vision that others want to be a part of.
77. \_\_\_ I figure out where we need to go and help others to get there.

78. \_\_\_ I empathize with hurting people and desire to help in their healing process.
79. \_\_\_ I can patiently support those going through painful experiences as they try to stabilize their lives.
80. \_\_\_ I enjoy helping people sometimes regarded as undeserving or beyond help.
81. \_\_\_ I have great compassion for hurting people.
82. \_\_\_ I can look beyond a person's handicaps or problems to see a life that matters to God.
83. \_\_\_ I enjoy bringing hope and joy to people living in difficult circumstances.
84. \_\_\_ I enjoy doing practical things for others who are in need.
85. \_\_\_ I can speak in a way that results in conviction and change in the lives of others.
86. \_\_\_ I feel responsible to confront others with the truth.
87. \_\_\_ I boldly expose cultural trends, teachings, or events, which contradict biblical principles.
88. \_\_\_ I see most actions as right or wrong, and feel the need to correct the wrong.
89. \_\_\_ I like people who are honest and will speak the truth.
90. \_\_\_ I will speak God's truth, even in places where it is unpopular or difficult for others to accept.
91. \_\_\_ I feel compelled to expose sin wherever I see it and to challenge people to repentance.
92. \_\_\_ I enjoy spending time nurturing and caring for others.
93. \_\_\_ I have compassion for wandering Christ-followers and want to protect them.
94. \_\_\_ I like to provide guidance for the whole person – relationally, emotionally, spiritually, etc.
95. \_\_\_ I can faithfully provide a long-term support and concern for others.
96. \_\_\_ I enjoy giving guidance and practical support to a small group of people.
97. \_\_\_ I can gently restore wandering Christ-followers to faith and fellowship.
98. \_\_\_ I enjoy patiently but firmly nurturing others in their development as Christ-followers.

99. \_\_\_ I am able to communicate God’s word effectively.
100. \_\_\_ I can spend time in study knowing that presenting truth will make a difference in the lives of people.
101. \_\_\_ I pay close attention to the words, phrases, and meaning of those who teach.
102. \_\_\_ I like to take a systematic approach to my study of the Bible.
103. \_\_\_ I can communicate scripture in ways that motivate others to study and want to learn more.
104. \_\_\_ I can present information and skills to others at a level that makes it easy for them to grasp and apply to their lives.
105. \_\_\_ I enjoy explaining things to people so that they can grow spiritually and personally.
106. \_\_\_ I am often sought out by others for advice about spiritual or personal matters.
107. \_\_\_ I can often find simple, practical solutions in the midst of conflict or confusion.
108. \_\_\_ I can easily select the most effective course of action from among several alternatives.
109. \_\_\_ I can anticipate the likely consequences of an individual’s or a group’s action.
110. \_\_\_ I give practical advice to help others through complicated situations.
111. \_\_\_ I can apply scriptural truth that others regard as practical and helpful.
112. \_\_\_ I have insights into how to solve problems that others do not see.

***Turn to the next page, “Spiritual Gifts Survey Key,” and follow the instructions in order to identify the spiritual gifts you likely have.***

# SPIRITUAL GIFT SURVEY KEY

- After completing the Spiritual Gift Survey, record the totals of your responses to the range of questions found in the table below. In other words, what is the total of all the numbers you wrote down next to questions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7? Now write this total in the table.
- Continue totaling for each range of numbers.

Add Values For Questions	Totals	.....	Spiritual Gift
#1-7		.....	Administration
#8-14		.....	Apostleship
#15-21		.....	Discernment
#22-28		.....	Evangelism
#29-35		.....	Exhortation
#36-42		.....	Faith
#43-49		.....	Giving
#50-56		.....	Helps/Service
#57-63		.....	Hospitality
#64-70		.....	Knowledge
#71-77		.....	Leadership
#78-84		.....	Mercy
#85-91		.....	Preaching/Prophecy
#92-98		.....	Pastoring/Shepherding
#99-105		.....	Teaching
#106-112		.....	Wisdom

- Next, **CIRCLE** the three (3) highest totals.
- One or all of these are likely your spiritual gifts. Remember, it is easier to discover your gift through ministry, than to discover your ministry through your gift.

**Additional Notes**

*For the purpose of this Spiritual Gift Survey, the sign gifts of Healing, Miracles, Speaking in Tongues, and Interpretation of Tongues are not included because their presence in the life of a Christ-follower tends to be self-evident.*

*As a matter of practice at Northpointe it is important to note that we do pray for healing and miracles in the lives of people. In our worship gatherings we are not accustomed to nor do we encourage the speaking of tongues (accompanied by an interpretation). Though we acknowledge the existence of these gifts in the life of some Christ-followers, our practice and preference is to not have them become the center of our public worship times.*

# MORE *Spiritual Gift* INFORMATION

- Once you identified the top 3 spiritual gifts you are likely to have, read the descriptions below. Knowing the “label” for your spiritual gift is not half as important as contributing to the ministry of the church and its activities to advance the purposes of God.
- Find a place to use your natural talents, learned abilities, and personality style in concert with the spiritual giftedness God has given you to impact the lives of others.

<p><b>Administration/Ruling</b></p>	<p>The Gift of Administration /Ruling is seen in those who either like to organize or delegate to others. Compelled by a strong sense of duty, they like to find things for people to do. Unlike the Gift of Service/Helps, the Gift of Administration focuses on team participation. They see the big picture and work to keep everyone on track. Often, but not always, personally organized they prefer delegating tasks. They simply like to evaluate what needs to be done, then design systems or give responsibilities to those who can get the job done. They are gifted to forge forward as a group.</p> <p>In a word: Initiator          Overuse: Expects too much          Goal: Lead by example, not manipulation</p>
<p><b>Apostleship</b></p>	<p>Unlike apostles of old, who actually saw the Lord and spread the Word from place to place, apostles today have a clear vision to start new ministries where others may not. They make great ministry starters and, of course, church planters. Those with the Gift of Apostleship today have a desire to reach out where others may never dare. They demonstrate tremendous abilities in influencing others to follow. They also have contagious and industrious enthusiasm to cross cultural, geographical, and economic boundaries for Christ.</p> <p>In a word: Pioneer/Visionary          Overuse: Pushes too hard/Too much authority          Goal: Build deeper and stronger</p>
<p><b>Discernment</b></p>	<p>The Gift of Discernment is evident in those who have unusual ability to see through a lot of confusion and pinpoint problems and solutions. They are mostly concerned about right and wrong. They tend to listen well and hear the little and seemingly insignificant things that shed light on a specific need. Those with the Gift of Discernment are often more serious. They distinguish between good and evil, truth and error. They often relate problems to the violation of biblical principles. They feel strongly about obeying truth and living by the Word of God.</p> <p>In a word: Listener/Perceiver          Overuse: Too critical or too quick to share          Goal: Get more information before responding</p>
<p><b>Evangelism</b></p>	<p>A Christ-follower with the Gift of Evangelism feels compelled to reach lost people. They seem to have the ability to communicate the gospel very effectively. Their concern for witnessing to a lost and dying world is evident. They desire to be involved in ministries to reach people for Christ. Missions and outreach are important to them. Always being ready to give an answer to every person is their goal. Conversations naturally seem to turn toward eternal values.</p> <p>In a word: Dynamic          Overuse: Zeal          Goal: Build disciples, not statistics</p>

<p><b>Exhortation</b></p>	<p>Christ-followers with the Gift of Exhortation find themselves encouraging others. They are compelled to give advice. As counselors, they seem to often have steps of action. While Prophets declare truth and Teachers clarify truth, Exhorters like to tell you what to do with truth. They bless others with a strong sense of concern. Often looking to encourage others, they are sought out as counselors. People find Exhorters friendly, understanding and practical. They enjoy using their communication skills to share specific insights.</p> <p>In a word: Encourager  Overuse: Talks too much  Goal: Apply truth, don't create expectations</p>
<p><b>Faith</b></p>	<p>The Gift of Faith is often found in those with the obvious ability to trust God in the most adverse circumstances. Every Christ-follower has a saving faith, but those with the Gift of Faith have a deeper dependence upon God and His word. The Gift of Faith is seen in those who believe strongly in the presence and power of God. They tend to stretch the faith and commitments of others. They encourage others to act upon their faith and challenge everyone to increase their faith.</p> <p>In a word: Optimist  Overuse: Overly trusting and often proud of their faith  Goal: Combine faith with works/Learn to be patient with others</p>
<p><b>Giving</b></p>	<p>Christ-followers with the Gift of Giving tend to be seriously concerned about financial matters. Givers are sensitive to the way money is spent and saved. Those with the Gift of Giving don't always give to the wheel that squeaks the loudest, but the wheel that truly needs the most grease. Givers have unique financial insights. They serve especially well on a team responsible for maintaining budgets. They tend to be conscientious. The gift of Giving may not be always evident, but a genuine interest in wise stewardship will be.</p> <p>In a word: Steward  Overuse: The power of money  Goal: Sincere stewardship, not financial harassment</p>
<p><b>Helps/Serving</b></p>	<p>When you think of Christ-followers who serve faithfully behind the scenes, those with the Gift of Helps/Serving come to mind. They are interested in blessing others to serve the Lord. They love to help others. Motivated by a strong sense of need, they feel that "someone has to do it". Caring and concerned for others, they find themselves doing what no one else likes to do. They tend to do whatever is called for. Flexible, they adapt to many challenges. They simply enjoy helping others and meeting needs. Often truly selfless those with the Gift of Helps/Serving like to be involved.</p> <p>In a word: Selfless  Overuse: Takes on too much  Goal: Be a servant, not a martyr</p>
<p><b>Hospitality</b></p>	<p>The Gift of Hospitality is that special interest in opening one's home for food and fellowship, or to just provide a place to stay for someone in need. Those with the Gift of Hospitality have the ability to make others, especially strangers, feel warmly welcomed, accepted, and comfortable. They seem to always be ready and willing to provide refreshments or prepare meals for individuals or groups. They are often involved in the efforts that promote fellowship, and provide food and shelter to others.</p> <p>In a word: Sociable  Overuse: Take on too much/Get worn out  Goal: Provide fellowship without sacrificing family time</p>

<p><b>Knowledge</b></p>	<p>The Gift of Knowledge is the ability to retain truth from the Word of God. Those with this gift seem to be ready always to give an answer to everyone who asks a question. They love to study and learn in order to provide scripture and verse for anyone needing truth that matters. Those with the Gift of Knowledge work at mastering the Scriptures for the purpose of letting the Scriptures master others. Sometimes their vast source of knowledge may overwhelm others and bring more attention to their wealth of knowledge, rather than the purpose of sharing what they know.</p> <p>In a word: Walking Bible  Overuse: Make others feel inferior or ignorant  Goal: Change lives, rather impress others</p>
<p><b>Leadership</b></p>	<p>The Gift of Leadership, much like the Gift of Administration/Ruling, is evident in those who demonstrate an unusual ability to influence others. They seem to have an independent determination to challenge and direct others toward a specific goal. They stand out and take stands. Those with the Gift of Leadership tend to be multi-talented, excelling with their task-assigning skills. Often result-oriented and driven, they need to guard their strengths. They also need to be more sensitive and patient with those who don't respond as well or positively as they. They are great motivators.</p> <p>In a word: Dreamer  Overuse: Too demanding and impatient  Goal: Lead by example and willingness to be a servant</p>
<p><b>Showing Mercy</b></p>	<p>Christ-followers with the Gift of Showing Mercy demonstrate genuine sensitivity to suffering. They are compelled to help people reduce pain. They're concerned more with the person, than the reason for the suffering. Focusing on the feelings of those who hurt, the Merciful strongly desire to minister by "being there" when people really need them. Sympathizing and/or empathizing are their specialties. While others may care more about why, what, when, or how, those with the Gift of Showing Mercy are interested in "who" needs tender loving care.</p> <p>In a word: Caring  Overuse: Too sensitive  Goal: Wise insights, not foolish responses</p>
<p><b>Prophecy</b></p>	<p>Prophets today are not exactly like prophets of old. Old Testaments prophets spoke the literal Word of God. Today people with the Gift of Prophecy seem to have the same seriousness and straight forward attitude toward truth. They like to share truth, regardless of what anyone else may think. Prophets today are motivated to confront anyone with what they believe is right. Then controlled by the Holy Spirit, the Gift of Prophecy is a powerful tool to reprove, rebuke and exhort others. Prophets often find themselves pointing the way, declaring specific truth or standing up for something significant.</p> <p>In a word: Bold  Overuse: Fighter  Goal: Declare truth, don't divide Christ-followers</p>
<p><b>Shepherding</b></p>	<p>The Gift of Shepherding is obvious in those who really enjoy leading others in serving the Lord. Unlike the Gift of Helps/Serving, this gift involves the motivation to lead. Shepherds are compelled to encourage others to work together for the body's sake. Influencing others to work together is important as well as stressing a need for team participation. Those with the Gift of Shepherding see their service as one of maturing others. With a motivation to unite the ministry, they feel strongly about spiritual health.</p> <p>In a word: Leader  Overuse: Takes advantage of others' trust  Goal: Strong leadership, not manipulating people</p>

<p><b>Teaching</b></p>	<p>Christ-followers with the Gift of Teaching prefer explaining why things are true. While the prophet declares truth, the teacher explains the reasoning behind the truth. Interested in research, those with the Gift of Teaching like to dig into seemingly insignificant details. They enjoy presenting what they discover. Often negligent of other needs, they press toward a deeper understanding. They love to study. Searching patiently and persistently, they may miss the obvious. They stretch the limits of learning, setting high standards of education.</p> <p>In a word: In-depth  Overuse: Digs too deep  Goal: Reveal truth, don't exhaust it</p>
<p><b>Wisdom</b></p>	<p>The gift of Wisdom is the unique ability to use knowledge in a practical way. Christ-followers with this gift like to combine what they know with a serious reverence of God in order to influence others. They sometimes battle with pride and an attitude of superiority. They need to be consistently humble and exhibit a sense of quietness and thoughtfulness before responding. Those with the Gift of Wisdom are often given some sort of adversity to stay in tune with God and His Word. Otherwise, those with this gift will tend to be puffed up. They make great counselors and give tremendous advice. Therefore, they need to stay in constant prayer, asking God for His wisdom.</p> <p>In a word: Perceptive  Overuse: Speak down to people  Goal: Consistently trust and ask God for wisdom</p>