



Understanding Your **Spiritual Gifts**

faithgives

Discover and Effectively Use Your Spiritual Gifts

Every Christian has at least one spiritual gift—but do you know what yours is? Are you using it effectively? Allow this guide to help you discover what the Bible says about spiritual gifts, identify what your gift is, learn how to develop it and be encouraged to use it effectively. The more you know about the gift(s) you've been given, the better you can serve the Body of Christ!

What is a spiritual gift?

A spiritual gift is a God-given ability, distributed to individual Christians by the [Holy Spirit](#) that allows him/or her to work through their lives to help the church execute its mission on earth.

What are the spiritual gifts? (Romans 12)

The gift of **giving** is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to contribute their material resources to the work of the Lord liberally and cheerfully, above and beyond the tithes and offerings expected of all believers.

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The gift of **teaching** is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to communicate information relevant to the health and ministry of the Body and its members in such a way that others will learn.

The gift of **exhortation** is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to minister words of comfort, consolation, encouragement, and counsel to other members of the Body in such a way that they feel helped and healed.

The gift of **leadership** is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to set goals in accordance with God's purpose for the future and to communicate these goals to others in such a way that they voluntarily and harmoniously work together to accomplish those goals for the glory of God.

The gift of **mercy** is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to feel genuine empathy and compassion for individuals, both Christian and non-Christian, who suffer distressing physical, mental, or emotional problems, and to translate that compassion into cheerfully done deeds that reflect Christ's love and alleviate the suffering.

The gift of **service** is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to identify the unmet

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needs involved in a task related to God's work, and to make use of available resources to meet those needs and help accomplish the desired goals.

The gift of **prophecy** is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to receive and communicate an immediate message of God to His people through a divinely anointed utterance.

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The Spiritual Gift of Leadership

Characteristics of people with this spiritual gift

LEADERSHIP

- ♥ You often are able to discern areas in work or your church that need improving and are able to direct the process toward success.
- ♥ You are invested in seeing growth (spiritual, emotional, professional) in a person and are willing to help guide them toward progress.
- ♥ If there is chaos or disorder, you know how to take charge to make the necessary changes.
- ♥ You find great joy in motivating others to grow and helping them along the way.
- ♥ You see the weaknesses and hiccups in systems and are eager to help improve them.

LEADERSHIP: *Decoding Your Gift*

You're likely to have the gift of leadership if you enjoy leading others toward maturity – spiritually and emotionally. You prefer to be “in charge” and don't hesitate to improve areas that are lacking. Whether it's people or processes, you desire to leave them better than you found them.

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The gift of **leadership** is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to set goals in accordance with God's purpose for the future and to communicate these goals to others in such a way that they voluntarily and harmoniously work together to accomplish those goals for the glory of God.

Does this sound like you?

LEADERSHIP: *Dedicate Your Gift to the Lord*

Once you acknowledge that the Holy Spirit has given you this unique gift of leadership, it's equally important to dedicate it back to the Lord. As with any gift, without an anchor to the One who gave it, pride can rear its ugly head and take over, causing one to believe that he/she is better than someone else or has more power because of it.

Dedicating your gift of leadership to the Lord can look like (but not limited to) this:

- ♥ Thank God for the gift of leadership.
- ♥ Prayerfully seek His counsel before interacting with others, to ensure you are offering the best direction.
- ♥ Remain humble and open to God's leadership in your life.

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- ♥ Pray for those whom you lead and ask the Lord to use your gift to strengthen their walk with Christ.
- ♥ Connect with other believers who can help you think big and plan big to accomplish your vision.

LEADERSHIP: *Developing Your Gift*

The spiritual gift of leadership comes as a gift from the Holy Spirit, but living it out purely and abundantly can be more fully developed..

Developing your gift of leadership can look like (but not be limited to) this:

- ♥ Prayerfully ask the Lord for opportunities where your unique style and vision can help lead others into a deeper relationship with Christ.
- ♥ Seek respected, Christian leaders to serve as mentors for you. Ask for feedback and guidance for your own personal growth.
- ♥ Spend time studying Christ's life and his style of leadership. Glean from Him all you can to lead with grace and boldness.
- ♥ Continue learning. Study leadership books, take courses on leadership, meet with other leaders to continue growing as a leader yourself.

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Scripture passages to consider:

Acts 20:28

Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

Romans 12:6-8

We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your[a] faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead,[b] do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

Prov 27:23-24

Be sure you know the condition of your flocks, give careful attention to your herds; for riches do not endure forever, and a crown is not secure for all generations.

Titus 1:7-8

Since an overseer manages God's household, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Rather, he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined.

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LEADERSHIP: *Deploying Your Gift of Leadership Can Look Like (But Not Be Limited To) this:*

- ♥ Deploying your gift of leadership can look like (but not be limited to) this:
- ♥ The best leadership encompasses genuine care for other people. Start by investing in your team or others so that they know you care.
- ♥ Incorporate clear, reachable steps to lead you and your team to the goal.
- ♥ Express your vision clearly and plainly so that others around you may “buy into” the plan.
- ♥ Lead with enthusiasm and clarity, help your team along the way and guide them strategically so they feel respected and are able to grow, too.
- ♥ Praise God for the ability to give and enjoy the fullness of the gift of leadership

Questions to reflect on:

Is there a time when you saw this gift manifested specifically in your life? Did you get feedback from others about it? How did the experience make you feel? Are there areas in your life where you think you could deploy this gift in your life right now? [Have 3-5 lines for a person to write some thoughts down in response to these questions.]

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The Spiritual Gift of Prophecy

Characteristics of people with this spiritual gift

PROPHECY:

- ♥ You receive unique messages from the Lord that you feel compelled to share with others
- ♥ The Lord gives you specific insight into the lives of individuals around you - whether you know the person or not.
- ♥ You've been told that the message you've given someone was one that no one else knew about.
- ♥ You feel a divine compulsion to speak into specific circumstances in the lives of certain individuals.
- ♥ The Lord regularly reveals divine messages to you that, when shared, bring great clarity to an individual.

PROPHECY: *Decoding Your Gift*

You likely have the gift of prophecy if the Lord gives you specific messages and visions that aren't being given to others. People with the gift of prophecy tend to be overwhelmed with

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the compulsion to share a specific message with another person in the Body of Christ. The receiver of the message is often caught off guard by the accuracy and significance of the message.

The gift of **prophecy** is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to receive and communicate an immediate message of God to His people through a divinely anointed utterance.

Does this sound like you?

PROPHECY: *Dedicate Your Gift to the Lord*

Once you acknowledge that the Holy Spirit has given you this unique gift of prophecy, it's equally important to dedicate it back to the Lord. As with any gift, without an anchor to the One who gave it, pride can rear its ugly head and take over, causing one to believe that he/she is better than someone else or has more power because of it—*especially* when one has the gift of prophecy.

Dedicating your gift of prophecy to the Lord can look like (but not limited to) this:

- ♥ Continually thank God for the gift of prophecy.
- ♥ Prayerfully pursue the Lord and His word to understand and decipher His voice.

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DEPLOY

- ♥ Maintain a humble posture before the Lord and treasure your unique relationship.
- ♥ Trust that the Lord has gifted you uniquely for a reason.

PROPHECY: *Developing Your Gift*

The spiritual gift of prophecy comes as a gift from the Holy Spirit, but living it out purely and abundantly can be more fully developed..

Developing your gift of prophecy can look like (but not be limited to) this:

- ♥ Spend time daily with the Lord to simply listen and discern His voice.
- ♥ Start journaling what the Lord is communicating to you: what do you hear? What visions have you been given?
- ♥ Reflect on the messages the Lord has been giving you; prayerfully consider their purpose and whose lives are impacted by it.

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- ♥ Seek wise counsel from a trustworthy Christian mentor and share your understanding of the messages you've received from the Lord.
- ♥ Reflect on Scripture and prophets found in the Bible to learn about the long lineage of faithful men and women who the Lord has entrusted with this gift.

Scripture passages to consider:

1 Corinthians 13:2

If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

Deuteronomy 18:18

I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.

1 Corinthians 14:3

But the one who prophesies speaks to people for edification, exhortation, and consolation.

Romans 12:6

We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with

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your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

PROPHECY: *Deploying Your Gift*

Deploying your gift of prophecy can look like (but not be limited to) this:

- ♥ Before sharing with others the message the Lord has given you, prayerfully confirm with the Lord that it's indeed what He wants you to say. You will likely receive confirmation by receiving the same message over and over (as opposed to confusing or contradicting details).
- ♥ Pray for the person(s) to whom you will be giving the message, that it would bring clarity and encouragement.
- ♥ When sharing, consider explaining the process by which the Lord led you to the message He gave you. Be mindful that for the recipient, it may be a lot to take in, so offer the message as a sign of hope and assurance that the Lord deeply cares for him or her.
- ♥ Praise God for the ability to encourage believers and enjoy the fullness of the gift of prophecy!

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DEPLOY

Questions to reflect on:

Is there a time when you saw this gift manifested specifically in your life? Did you get feedback from others about it? How did the experience make you feel? Are there areas in your life where you think you could deploy this gift in your life right now? [Have 3-5 lines for a person to write some thoughts down in response to these questions.]

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The Spiritual Gift of Teaching

Characteristics of people with this spiritual gift

TEACHING:

- ♥ When a topic interests you, you dive into learning as much as you can about it.
- ♥ In your opinion, there is no limit to how much you can learn.
- ♥ In group settings, you typically are the person who is the most well-researched.
- ♥ You tend to know more than your peers on significant subjects.
- ♥ You enjoy learning the ins and outs of most subjects so that you can impart your knowledge on others.

TEACHING: *Decoding Your Gift*

You likely have the gift of teaching if you have an unquenchable desire to learn, understand and share what you learn with others. The gift of teaching leans toward a

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DEPLOY

scholarly level of approaching and understanding topics. While a high level of education is not necessary to use this gift effectively, the amount of research and comprehension is extremely important.

The gift of **teaching** is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to communicate information relevant to the health and ministry of the Body and its members in such a way that others will learn.

Does this sound like you?

TEACHING: *Dedicate Your Gift to the Lord*

Once you acknowledge that the Holy Spirit has given you this unique gift of teaching, it's equally important to dedicate it back to the Lord. As with any gift, without an anchor to the One who gave it, pride can rear its ugly head and take over—causing one to believe that he/she is better than someone else or has more power because of it.

Dedicating your gift of teaching to the Lord can look like (but not limited to) this:

- ♥ Thank God for the gift of teaching.
- ♥ Prayerfully seek His counsel before sharing your knowledge with a group of learners.

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DEVELOP



DEPLOY

- ♥ Pursue your time of learning as an act of worship to the Lord, asking the Lord to uniquely equip you and prepare you for teaching others.
- ♥ Maintain a humble attitude and spirit, acknowledging that it's a gift from the Lord.
- ♥ Remember to pray for those whom you will teach, that it will be received with clarity and encouragement.

TEACHING: *Developing Your Gift*

The spiritual gift of teaching comes as a gift from the Holy Spirit, but living it out purely and abundantly can be more fully developed..

Developing your gift of **teaching** can look like (but not be limited to) this:

- ♥ The most significant part of the teaching gift is the learning. Therefore, research and studying is integral to being an effective teacher. Spend time learning.
- ♥ Develop lessons (curriculum, messages) where concepts can be grasped and understood by those who are new to subject matters.

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DEVELOP



DEPLOY

- ♥ Simplify the message. Though you have an in-depth understanding, style the communication of it to the level of learners to whom you are teaching.
- ♥ Ask a trusted Christian mentor to give you feedback on your style of teaching—is it effective? Clear? Where can you grow?
- ♥ Study other teachers who have taught you. What about their teaching methods helped you learn more about particular subjects?

Scripture passages to consider:

Romans 12:6

We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

Ephesians 4:11-13

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service,

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DEPLOY

so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Colossians 3:16

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

Titus 2:7-8

In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.

TEACHING: *Deploying Your Gift*

Deploying your gift of teaching can look like (but not be limited to) this:

- ♥ Seek out opportunities to teach a class or group of people.
- ♥ Consider unique ways in which you can teach—writing, podcast, public speaking, small group or classroom setting.

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DEDICATE



DEVELOP



DEPLOY

- ♥ Consider what subjects you know the most about and pursue opportunities to teach at your church, where you work or a particular place where you are invested.
- ♥ Use your gift as an opportunity to serve and encourage others. Imparting knowledge is a valuable gift to the body of Christ.
- ♥ Praise God for the ability to offer knowledge to others. Enjoy the fullness of the gift of teaching!

Questions to reflect on:

Is there a time when you saw this gift manifested specifically in your life? Did you get feedback from others about it? How did the experience make you feel? Are there areas in your life where you think you could deploy this gift in your life right now? [Have 3-5 lines for a person to write some thoughts down in response to these questions.]

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The Spiritual Gift of Exhortation

Characteristics of people with this spiritual gift

EXHORTATION:

- ♥ When someone needs encouragement, you help them by offering options for solutions.
- ♥ No matter what a person is going through, you want to encourage them to find a way to rely on the Lord to get through it.
- ♥ You love helping people see their circumstances in new ways and with greater hope.
- ♥ When someone is going through a tough time, you prefer to help them by offering Biblical encouragement rather than simply sitting with them and feeling what they're feeling.
- ♥ You recognize that everyone goes through trials in their lives, but that is not a reason to wallow or grow bitter. God is sovereign over all!

DISCOVER



DEDICATE



DEVELOP



DEPLOY

EXHORTATION: *Decoding Your Gift*

You likely have the gift of exhortation if you love to encourage others and offer spiritual help. God's Word is your greatest source of support for why a person can trust that no matter their circumstance, the Lord is in control. You would prefer to offer solutions and ways to grow than to sit and listen to someone in the midst of their sadness.

The gift of **exhortation** is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to minister words of comfort, consolation, encouragement, and counsel to other members of the Body in such a way that they feel helped and healed.

Does this sound like you?

EXHORTATION: *Dedicate Your Gift to the Lord*

Once you acknowledge that the Holy Spirit has given you this unique gift of exhortation, it's equally important to dedicate it back to the Lord. As with any gift, without an anchor to the One who gave it, pride can rear its ugly head and take over, causing one to believe that he/she is better than someone else.

Dedicating your gift of exhortation to the Lord can look like (but not be limited to) this:

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DEVELOP



DEPLOY

- ♥ Thank God for the gift of exhortation.
- ♥ Spend time reading God's Word to gain insight and understanding into God's deep love for His creation.
- ♥ Offer your words and actions as an act of worship and continual dependency on the Lord.
- ♥ Surround yourself with other encouraging believers in Christ Jesus, to stay encouraged yourself.
- ♥ Prayerfully pursue your relationship with the Lord as your ultimate source of encouragement and hope.

EXHORTATION: *Developing Your Gift*

Having the spiritual gift of exhortation comes as a gift from the Holy Spirit, but living it out purely and abundantly can be more fully developed..

Developing your gift of exhortation can look like (but not be limited to) this:

- ♥ Meditating on and memorizing scripture makes finding words of encouragement easier when it's written on your heart.

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DEDICATE



DEVELOP



DEPLOY

- ♥ Practice listening to others and hearing from their hearts what their burdens are. This way you can encourage and direct them more effectively.
- ♥ Develop a method for speaking into others' lives. Consider how you can listen, engage, exhort and offer practical solutions for growth and maturity.
- ♥ Remind yourself and others that God is in control and spread the love of Christ with everyone!
- ♥ Be patient with others as they learn and grow, though your exhortation may be helpful, it may not mean the person is ready for change.

Scripture passages to consider:

1 Thessalonians 5:14

We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

1 Timothy 6:3

So teach and exhort. If any one is a teacher of any other kind of doctrine, and refuses assent to wholesome instructions--those of our Lord Jesus Christ--and the teaching that harmonizes with true godliness,

DISCOVER



DEDICATE



DEVELOP



DEPLOY

2 Timothy 4:2

Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

Romans 12:6-8

We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophecy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

EXHORTATION: *Deploying Your Gift*

Deploying your gift of exhortation can look like (but not be limited to) this:

- ♥ Seek opportunities within your church body to impart biblical encouragement and perspective on an individual facing challenges.
- ♥ Spend time in ministries of all ages to learn who in the church body needs spiritual uplifting. Encouragement knows no age limit!
- ♥ Get involved with church programs that are designed to encourage believers to make significant changes in their lives.

DISCOVER



DEDICATE



DEVELOP



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- ♥ Use your gift of exhortation to help motivate the body of Christ to grow in positive ways.
- ♥ Praise God for the ability to encourage the body of Christ and enjoy the fullness of the gift of exhortation!

Questions to reflect on:

Is there a time when you saw this gift manifested specifically in your life? Did you get feedback from others about it? How did the experience make you feel? Are there areas in your life where you think you could deploy this gift in your life right now? [Have 3-5 lines for a person to write some thoughts down in response to these questions.]

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DEPLOY

The Spiritual Gift of Service

Characteristics of people with this spiritual gift

SERVICE:

- ♥ In an occasion where much work needs to be done, you jump right in to do whatever is needed to accomplish the task.
- ♥ You prefer working behind-the-scenes to being in front of a large group of people.
- ♥ You are drawn to big-picture people because you know they will need help accomplishing their goals and tasks.
- ♥ You often think to yourself, “Many hands make light work.”
- ♥ There is no task too small if it means helping accomplish a desired goal.

SERVICE: *Decoding Your Gift*

You likely have the gift of service if you are energized by completing tasks to help meet needs or accomplish goals for

DISCOVER



DEDICATE



DEVELOP



DEPLOY

others. There is no task too big or small that you wouldn't be willing to take on. However, you likely prefer smaller tasks that can be completed to enable you to move on to other needs.

The gift of **service** is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to identify the unmet needs involved in a task related to God's work, and to make use of available resources to meet those needs and help accomplish the desired goals.

Does this sound like you?

SERVICE: *Dedicate Your Gift to the Lord*

Once you acknowledge that the Holy Spirit has given you this unique gift of service, it's equally important to dedicate it back to the Lord. As with any gift, without an anchor to the One who gave it, pride can rear its ugly head and take over—causing one to believe that he/she is better than someone else or has more power because of it.

Dedicating your gift of service to the Lord can look like (but not be limited to) this:

- ♥ Thank God for the gift of service.

DISCOVER



DEDICATE



DEVELOP



DEPLOY

- ♥ Make a commitment to use your gift for the betterment and encouragement of the Body of Christ.
- ♥ Seek the Lord for areas where your particular skill set could best serve and help others.
- ♥ To keep a cheerful attitude, establish boundaries for how often you say “yes” to helping, so that you do not grow bitter.
- ♥ Acknowledge that your unique gift is very important in helping accomplish goals and give God the glory for that!

SERVICE: *Developing Your Gift*

The spiritual gift of service comes as a gift from the Holy Spirit, but living it out purely and abundantly can be more fully developed..

Developing your gift of service can look like (but not be limited to) this:

- ♥ Prayerfully ask the Lord to open your eyes to needs in the body of Christ where help could be beneficial.

DISCOVER



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DEPLOY

- ♥ Evaluate your responsibilities and determine your availability for service.
- ♥ Practice taking on small tasks for others first before you start to take on too many helping opportunities at once.
- ♥ Don't seek praise or thanks for your selfless acts.
- ♥ Remind others as you serve, that you do it as an act of worship for the Lord.

Scripture passages to consider:

Acts 20:35

In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' ”

Philippians 2:4

. . . not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Galatians 5:13

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh ; rather, serve one another humbly in love.

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Romans 12:11

Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

Romans 12:6-8

We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

SERVICE: *Deploying Your Gift*

Deploying your gift of service can look like (but not be limited to) this:

- ♥ Start by offering your help to people in leadership positions with large task lists.
- ♥ Seek out those who cannot accomplish tasks on their own and offer your service. Perhaps ask an elderly person, a single parent or a parent of someone with special needs.
- ♥ Listen for opportunities within the church or Body of Christ that are available—children’s ministry, youth

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ministry, mission trips, food pantries, homeless ministries, church productions/events, etc.

♥ Keep an open mind for the opportunity that is less appealing, often neglected or left undone because it doesn't appeal to others. You can be a huge blessing to help make it happen.

♥ Praise God for the ability to help and enjoy the fullness of the gift of service!

Questions to reflect on:

Is there a time when you saw this gift manifested specifically in your life? Did you get feedback from others about it? How did the experience make you feel? Are there areas in your life where you think you could deploy this gift in your life right now? [Have 3-5 lines for a person to write some thoughts down in response to these questions.]

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The Spiritual Gift of Giving

Characteristics of people with this spiritual gift

GIVING:

- ♥ When a missionary lacks funding to continue his/her ministry, you find great joy in financially filling in the gap.
- ♥ When your church launches a campaign to create a new ministry initiative, you joyfully determine the greatest amount you can give.
- ♥ You believe that a lack of finances should never be the reason ministry has to stop.
- ♥ Your greatest joy is knowing that your resources are able to help continue the work of the Lord.
- ♥ It excites you to give your resources to help others in need, especially in the body of Christ.

GIVING: *Decoding Your Gift*

The gift of **giving** is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to contribute their material

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DEVELOP



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resources to the work of the Lord liberally and cheerfully, above and beyond the tithes and offerings expected of all believers.

GIVING: *Dedicate Your Gift to the Lord*

Once you acknowledge that the Holy Spirit has given you this unique gift of giving, it's equally important to dedicate it back to the Lord. As with any gift, without an anchor to the One who gave it, pride can rear its ugly head and take over, causing one to believe that he/she is better than someone else or has more power because of it.

Dedicating your gift of giving to the Lord can look like (but not be limited to) this:

- ♥ Thank God for being given the gift of giving.
- ♥ Prayerfully seek His counsel before making a financial gift of any kind.
- ♥ Do not seek praise or thanks for the giving of your gift.
- ♥ Thank God that you were able to have the funds to make a special gift toward the Lord's work.

DISCOVER



DEDICATE



DEVELOP



DEPLOY

- ♥ Remain humble and generous, knowing that nothing you have is your own, but was received as a gift from a generous God.

GIVING: *Developing Your Gift*

Having the spiritual gift of giving comes as a gift from the Holy Spirit, but living it out purely and abundantly can be more fully developed.. For instance, you may have the gift of giving, but aren't necessarily aware of ways in which it can be used. You may joyfully be willing to give, but "never get the chance."

Developing your gift of giving can look like (but not be limited to) this:

- ♥ Prayerfully ask the Lord to open your eyes to needs in the body of Christ where financial gaps can be filled.
- ♥ Study God's Word to learn what Scripture says about giving, generosity and the significance of supporting the work of the Lord.
- ♥ Commit Scripture about giving to memory, allowing it to serve as a source of encouragement for you!

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- ♥ Use wisdom and discernment when considering how much and to whom to give.
- ♥ The gift of giving is over and above what is expected of Christian tithing. Seek opportunities where financial/material resources can spur on the work of the Lord.

Scripture passages to consider:

Romans 12:6-8

We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

1 Chronicles 29:14

But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.

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DEPLOY

Matthew 6:2

So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.

GIVING: *Deploying Your Gift*

It's worth mentioning that the Lord would never desire for you to go into debt or outside of your means to fulfill this gift. The gift of giving is not reserved for "millionaires." It's given to those who find great joy in giving toward the work of the Lord. The deployment of this gift, again, is a prayerful experience between you and the Lord (and the grateful recipient!).

♥ Deploying your gift of giving can look like (but not be limited to) this: Once you become aware of opportunities to give, prayerfully consider which opportunity stokes the most excitement for you. Joyful giving is the best kind of giving. Giving toward projects or people whose need aligns with your heart can be extra fulfilling!

♥ Consider the greatest need. At times, you may be aware of many important opportunities where you can give, but occasionally the need for one way may be more significant than the need for another.

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- ♥ Simply start giving. The particular amount can only be determined between you and the Lord, but by making a joyful gift towards the Lord's work you will grow in your relationship with God and experience the fullness of joy that comes from using your gift!
- ♥ Pray for those to whom you gave, ask the Lord to multiply your generosity and use it for His good!
- ♥ Praise God for the ability to give and enjoy the fullness of the gift of giving!

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The Spiritual Gift of Mercy

Characteristics of people with this spiritual gift

MERCY:

- ♥ You are often drawn to people who are “hard to love.” (Others might even turn their back to them.)
- ♥ When someone is hurting or in pain, you are quick to spend time with them listening and showing compassion.
- ♥ Needy people tend to grow attached to you, sometimes too attached.
- ♥ Oftentimes, you can’t fathom the heartache and pain that people experience all throughout the world. When others hurt, you hurt.
- ♥ You love reaching out to those who feel unloved, troubled, helpless.

MERCY: *Decoding Your Gift*

You like having the gift of mercy if you are quick to sense the emotional state of people with whom you interact. You

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tend to feel deeply for those who feel unloved, unseen or are actually difficult to love because they push people away. Your kind and gentle spirit is very attractive to those in need, and you may find that others become easily attached to you.

The gift of **mercy** is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to feel genuine empathy and compassion for individuals, both Christian and non-Christian, who suffer distressing physical, mental, or emotional problems, and to translate that compassion into cheerfully done deeds that reflect Christ's love and alleviate the suffering.

Does this sound like you?

MERCY: *Dedicate Your Gift to the Lord*

Once you acknowledge that the Holy Spirit has given you this unique gift of mercy, it's equally important to dedicate it back to the Lord. As with any gift, without an anchor to the One who gave it, pride can rear its ugly head and take over—causing one to believe that he/she is better than someone else because of it.

Dedicating your gift of mercy to the Lord can look like (but not be limited to) this:

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- ♥ Thank God for the gift of mercy.
- ♥ Commit your dependence on God as you minister to others (being needed).
- ♥ Ask the Lord to fill your heart and mind with His Word as you serve those in need.
- ♥ Pray for opportunities to help others place their faith and trust in the Lord.
- ♥ Prayerfully consider your boundaries for how much of yourself (time, presence) can be given to another – to avoid unhealthy relationship dependency on you.

MERCY: *Developing Your Gift*

The spiritual gift of mercy comes as a gift from the Holy Spirit, but living it out purely and abundantly can be more fully developed..

Developing your gift of mercy can look like (but not be limited to) this:

- ♥ Use wisdom and discernment when pursuing others in need.

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- ♥ Be mindful that you may feel defeated if your compassion doesn't help change a circumstance in someone's life.
- ♥ Your role is to show love and compassion and point others to Christ, not "save" them.
- ♥ Prayerfully seek the Lord's guidance so that you don't become too dependent on being needed and others don't become too dependent on you. (Ask the Lord for a healthy balance!)
- ♥ Seek out relationships and grow your pool of people who can help supply time, resources and opportunities for those in need. You can't do it all alone.
- ♥ Establish trusted Christian relationships where others can encourage you in the Lord as you invest in others.

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Scripture passages to consider:

James 2:13

. . .because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

Micah 6:8

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Luke 6:36

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Romans 12:6-8

We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

MERCY: Deploying Your Gift

Deploying your gift of mercy can look like (but not be limited to) this:

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- ♥ Volunteer at an organization that ministers to the needy—homeless, elderly, disabled.
- ♥ Join a ministry at your church that focuses on counseling and healing past spiritual or emotional wounds.
- ♥ Be available for those who need compassion—keep your eyes and ears open for stories of suffering people.
- ♥ Go on a mission trip where you can offer compassion and mercy to underprivileged people and families.
- ♥ Praise God for the ability to show compassion and enjoy the fullness of the gift of mercy!

Questions to reflect on:

Is there a time when you saw this gift manifested specifically in your life? Did you get feedback from others about it? How did the experience make you feel? Are there areas in your life where you think you could deploy this gift in your life right now? [Have 3-5 lines for a person to write some thoughts down in response to these questions.]

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Thank You!

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Faith Gives exists to rally the body of Christ and bring Funding and Resources to causes that are closest to God's heart.

We achieve this by:

- ♥ Equipping the saints to rightly think about their role as ambassadors of Christ (**2 Corinthians 5:20**)
- ♥ Helping people understand their specific gifting by the Holy Spirit and the role they play in the Body of Christ (**1 Peter 4:10**)
- ♥ Share giving opportunities and provide funding to high impact Christian ministries

You can see other free resources that are available and learn more about causes we are bringing awareness to by going to www.FaithGives.org.

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