



BodyBuilders

Knowing and using your spiritual gifts to build up the body of Christ

Study 1 - What Are Spiritual Gifts?

The apostle Paul wrote his first letter to the Corinthian church to address many issues that the church was going through. One of such issues was their understanding and use of spiritual gifts in the church. Paul spends three chapters (chapters 12, 13, and 14) to help the Corinthian Christians understand what spiritual gifts are all about, what they are for, and how their attitude should be concerning their gifts. Spiritual gifts are still relevant today, and therefore, we can learn to discern and use our spiritual gifts in a way that glorifies God.

The following are 4 discussion questions followed by one exercise. Please note that the exercise might take thirty minutes to an hour to complete.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-13

1. What is the main agenda of the Holy Spirit according to verse 3? (See also John 16:13-14)
2. According to 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, who have been given spiritual gift(s) and what are they for? (See also 1 Peter 4:10 and 1 Corinthians 14:12)
3. What can you learn from the passage concerning the diversity and uniqueness of each person's spiritual gifts?
4. What then should our attitude be regarding our spiritual gifts and the gifts of others? (See also 1 Corinthians 12:21-26)
5. **Exercise:** Fill in the "Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts" questionnaire provided in this study guide and share the result with the group. You can find what each gift is about in the List of Spiritual Gifts.

During the week.

1. Interview 2 people who know you well. They could be people from your family, church, friends, etc. Ask them: "Based on what you know and have seen of me..."
 - What areas of service do you think I do well?
 - What areas of service do you think might suit me?
 - What areas of service do you think I should avoid?
 - What do you think are my areas of gifting?
2. Write a short reflection based on the questionnaire result and the interviews
 - How have the questionnaire results and interviews affirmed what you know about yourself?
 - How have they challenged your perspective about yourself?
 - If you are currently serving in a ministry, how can you utilise your gifts more in that ministry?
 - If you are not serving in a ministry, where can you start putting your gifts into action?

Study 2 - How do we use our spiritual gifts?

Read Romans 12:1-8

Check Up

1. What does it mean by “the mercies of God” in verse 1? How has God’s mercy changed your life?
2. What does “present your bodies as a living sacrifice” mean? Why do you think Paul mentions these things before writing about using your gifts?

Sober Up

3. In light of Romans 12:3-8 (thinking of yourself with sober judgement), reflect on your **SHAPE** for serving the body and share with the group some of your reflections.
 - a. **Spiritual Gift** - Based on the questionnaire results and the interviews, what do you think your spiritual gifts are?
 - b. **Heart** - What are you passionate about? What has God put on your heart? What do you care the most about? What would you do for others if you could do anything in this world?
 - c. **Ability** - What natural abilities God has given you? What are your natural strengths?
 - d. **Personality** - What kind of personality God has given you? Are you an extrovert or an introvert? Are you more task-oriented or people-oriented? Do you prefer to work alone or with people? Do you enjoy structure or spontaneity? Etc.
 - e. **Experience** - What experiences has God given you? What ministries have you been involved in? What projects have you participated in?

Join Up

4. In verse 6, Paul says, “Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them.” In light of what you have learned about yourself and your gifts, how will you get involved in building the Body of Christ?

We hope that these studies have helped you discern where and how you can serve. To find out more about how to start serving at CrossCulture, please visit <https://crossculture.net.au/volunteer/>.

The apostle Peter writes this in his first letter:

¹⁰As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: ¹¹whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. - 1 Peter 4:10–11 (ESV)

May God be glorified as you discern and use your gifts to serve one another and build up the Body of Christ.

List of Spiritual Gifts

We can find a few passages in the Bible that outline the spiritual gifts available for believers. We believe, however, that the lists of gifts in the Bible are not exhaustive. Nevertheless, the following are the gifts that have been mentioned in several passages.

Administration (1 Cor 12:28; Acts 6:1-7; Titus 1:5)

The gift to understand what makes an organisation function, and the special ability to plan and execute procedures that accomplish the goals of the ministry. Christians with this gift develop strategies and plans to reach identified goals, help ministries become more effective and efficient, create order out of organisational chaos, and manage or coordinate various responsibilities to accomplish a task.

Apostleship (1 Cor 12:28; Ephesians 2:20; 4:11)

The gift to communicate across cultural barriers and plant churches where there is no knowledge of the gospel, and to start and oversee the development of new churches or ministry structures. It is usually accompanied by a distinct calling and a miraculous lifestyle. People with this gift pioneer and establish new ministries in churches and desire to minister to unreached people in other communities or countries.

Craftsmanship (Exodus 31:3-5)

The gift to creatively design and construct items for ministry. Christians with this gift work with wood, cloth, paints, and other raw materials, make things that increase the effectiveness of others' ministries, enjoy serving with their hands to meet tangible needs, design and build tangible items and resources for ministry use, work with different kinds of tools and are skilled with their hands.

Creative Communication (Psalm 150:3-5)

The gift to communicate God's truth through various art forms. Christians with this gift develop and use artistic skills, use variety and creativity to captivate people and cause them to consider Christ's message, challenge people's perspective of God through various forms of the arts, demonstrate fresh ways to express the Lord's ministry and message.

Discernment (1 Cor 12:8-10; Acts 5:1-11; 16:16-18; Heb 5:14)

The gift to know with assurance whether a certain behaviour is in reality divine, human, or Satanic. Christians with this gift can recognise people's true motives, recognise inconsistencies in a teaching, prophetic, or message, recognise when a person is distorting the truth or communicating error, and recognise when Satan or other evil spirits are at work in a given person or situation.

Encouragement (Romans 12:6-8; Acts 11:23; 14:22; 1 Tim 4:12; 5:1)

The gift 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. Christians who use this gift are often driven to give practical application to their insights. Those gifted in this gift often desire step-by-step plans of action to help others mature in Christ.

Evangelism (Ephesians 4:11; Acts 8:5-6, 26-40; 2 Tim 4:5)

The gift to share the gospel with unbelievers in such a way that they often become Jesus' disciples and responsible members of the Body of Christ. While all Christians should be involved with evangelism, God gives

certain members an ability to have unusual sensitivity when ready to accept Christ and will generally have greater success in leading people to Christ than other Christians.

Faith (1 Cor 12:8-10; Acts 11:22-24; 27:21-25; Rom 4:18-21)

The gift to discern the will and purposes of God for His work. Those with this gift often scare other people with their confidence. People with this gift are often very irritated by criticism, as they consider it to be criticism against God and His will. The biggest danger for those with this gift is that they often try to project their gift onto other people.

Giving (Rom 12:6-8; Mark 12:41-44; 2 Cor 8:1-7; Phil 4:14-19)

The gift to contribute their material resources to the work of the Lord with liberality and cheerfulness. While all Christians should practise the discipline of giving, God gifts certain members of the body to give remarkably greater amounts of their income with liberality and great joy. These people have an acute awareness that all they have belongs to the Lord. Therefore, they know that God will supply their needs and richly bless them in their giving.

Healing (1 Cor 12:8-10; Acts 3:1-10; 5:12-16; 9:32-35)

The gift to serve as human intermediaries through whom God cures illness and restores health apart from the use of natural means. Christians who have this gift must use it knowing that the healing only occurs within the limits of God's will, and therefore miraculous healing will not always occur. Those with this gift must also recognise that God often uses medical science to heal a person.

Helps (1 Cor 12:28; Luke 8:2-3; 2 Tim 1:16-18)

The gift to invest the talents they have in the life and ministry of other members of the Body, thus enabling those others to increase the effectiveness of their spiritual gifts. People with this gift often enjoy doing routine tasks to free others to do the ministry God has called them to do. People with this gift are often not looking for recognition for their work.

Hospitality (1 Peter 4:9-10; Acts 16:14-15; Rom 12:9-13; 16:23)

The gift to provide an open house and a warm welcome to those in need of food and lodging. Christians with this gift enjoy visitors in their home, make all people feel welcome, and are usually not bothered if someone stops by and their home is not spotless. Those with this gift are a key to helping new people become a part of the group.

Intercession (1 Timothy 2:1-2; Acts 12:12; Col 1:9-12; 4:12-13)

The gift to pray for extended periods 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. Christians with this gift often feel compelled to pray for specific requests when they are made known, have a much greater occurrence of specific answers to prayer than most Christians, and experience times when God moves them to pray for situations when they are not entirely sure what they are praying for. Those with this gift should help others learn how to pray more effectively.

Interpretation (1 Cor 12:8-10; 1 Cor 12:10-30; 14:13-17, 26-28)

The gift to make known to the body of Christ the message of one who is speaking in tongues. Those with this gift understand what God is trying to say when they hear a person speak in tongues. Often, the interpreter is

also the person who has spoken in tongues. The interpretation of tongues is often closely related to the message given by an exhorter or a prophet.

Knowledge (1 Cor 12:8-10; Luke 1:1-4; 2 Cor 11:6)

The gift to discover, accumulate, analyse, and clarify information and ideas pertinent to the well-being of the Body. Christians with this gift will often spend countless hours researching information. These people are interested in ideas and problem-solving by gathering information, reading, and studying books and other written materials. Often, those with this gift have a low need for people.

Leadership (Romans 12:6-8; Acts 6:1-7; 15:7-11; 1 Tim 5:17)

The gift to cast vision, motivate and direct people to harmoniously accomplish the purposes of God. Christians 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, and take responsibility.

Mercy (Romans 12:6-8; Matt 20:29-34; Acts 11:28-30)

The gift to feel genuine empathy and compassion for individuals (both Christian and non-Christian) who suffer from distressing physical, mental, or emotional problems, and to translate that compassion into cheerfully done deeds that reflect Christ's love and alleviate the suffering. Those with this gift generally enjoy helping those with physical or mental problems and do well in ministries involving visiting hospitals, nursing homes, prisons, and shut-ins.

Miracles (1 Cor 12:8-10; Rom 15:17-19; 2 Cor 12:12)

The gift to serve as human intermediaries through whom God performs mighty acts perceived to have altered the ordinary course of nature. This gift is manifested through the supernatural intervention by God into specific circumstances to change the perceived natural outcome. Those with this gift must recognise that God only causes miracles to happen to bring the greatest glory to Himself.

Prophecy (1 Cor 12:8-10; Acts 15:32; Romans 12:6; 14:3)

The gift to receive and communicate an immediate message of God to His people with authority and urgency. Christians with this gift will often feel as though they have a direct word from God that will comfort, encourage, guide, warn, or rebuke the Body of Christ. These people will have a desire to speak strongly against evil in society or the church and have a great sense of urgency to their message.

Shepherding (Ephesians 4:11; John 10:1-18; 1 Peter 5:1-4)

The gift to assume long-term personal responsibility for the welfare of a group of believers. Those with this gift have a great need for long-term relationships, will sacrificially give themselves to other people to build them up in their faith, and take personal responsibility for the successes and failures of those in the group that they invest themselves in.

Teaching (1 Cor 12:28; Acts 15:32; Eph 4:11-14)

The gift to communicate information relevant to the health and ministry of the Body and its members in such a way that others will learn. People with this gift enjoy studying the Bible and related materials in order to communicate what they have learned to other Christians. Those with this gift find it easy to organise vast amounts of information in such a way as to make it easy to communicate, understand, and remember.

Tongues (1 Cor 12:8-10; Acts 2:1-13; 10:44-46; 19:1-7)

The gift to speak to God in a language that they have never learned or to receive and communicate a message of God to his people through a divinely anointed utterance in a language they never learned. This spiritual gift, like other gifts, is given by God to whomever He chooses to be used to His glory and the edification of the Church. This would mean that the speaker could be speaking in an earthly language or a language beyond normal human understanding.

Wisdom (1 Cor 12:8-10; Acts 6:3; Ephesians 4:11-14)

The gift to know how given knowledge may best be applied to specific needs arising in the Body of Christ. Those with this gift have an excellent ability to apply spiritual truth to everyday life. Often, people in the church naturally seek out people with this gift when they are facing complicated spiritual problems. Christians with this gift realise that they often make good and correct decisions and judgements.

Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts

Please respond to each statement by circling the number according to the following scale:

- 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

Please answer according to who you are, not who you would like to be or think you should be. Please answer to reflect how true these statements are of you, what your experience has been, and to what degree these statements reflect your tendencies.

	Statement	Score			
1	I like to organise people, tasks and events	3	2	1	0
2	I would like to start churches in places where they do not presently exist	3	2	1	0
3	I enjoy working creatively with wood, cloth, paint, metal, glass or other materials	3	2	1	0
4	I enjoy challenging people's perspective of God by using various forms of art	3	2	1	0
5	I can readily distinguish between spiritual truth and error, good and evil	3	2	1	0
6	I tend to see potential in people	3	2	1	0
7	I communicate the gospel to others with clarity and effectiveness	3	2	1	0
8	I find it natural and easy to trust God to answer my prayers	3	2	1	0
9	I give liberally and joyfully to people in financial need or to projects requiring support	3	2	1	0
10	I enjoy working behind the scenes to support the work of others	3	2	1	0

11	I view my home as a place to minister to people in need	3	2	1	0
12	I take prayer requests from others and consistently pray for them	3	2	1	0
13	I am approached by people who want to know my perspective on a particular passage or biblical truth	3	2	1	0
14	I am able to motivate others to accomplish a goal	3	2	1	0
15	I empathize with hurting people and desire to help in their healing process	3	2	1	0
16	I can speak in a way that results in conviction and change in the lives of others	3	2	1	0
17	I enjoy spending time nurturing and caring for others	3	2	1	0
18	I am able to communicate God's word effectively	3	2	1	0
19	I am often sought out by others for advice about spiritual or personal matters	3	2	1	0
20	I am careful, thorough and skilled at managing details	3	2	1	0
21	I am attracted to the idea of serving in another country or ethnic community	3	2	1	0
22	I am skilled in working with different kinds of tools	3	2	1	0
23	I enjoy developing and using my artistic skills (art, drama, music, photography, etc)	3	2	1	0
24	I frequently am able to judge a person's character based upon first impressions	3	2	1	0
25	I enjoy reassuring and strengthening those who are discouraged	3	2	1	0
26	I consistently look for opportunities to build relationship with non-Christians	3	2	1	0
27	I have confidence in God's continuing provision and help, even in difficult times	3	2	1	0
28	I give more than a tithe so that kingdom work can be accomplished	3	2	1	0
29	I enjoy doing routine tasks that support the ministry	3	2	1	0
30	I enjoy meeting new people and helping them to feel welcomed	3	2	1	0
31	I enjoy praying for long periods of time and receive leadings as to what God wants me to pray for	3	2	1	0
32	I receive information from the Spirit that I did not acquire through natural means	3	2	1	0
33	I am able to influence others to achieve a vision	3	2	1	0
34	I can patiently support those going through painful experiences as they try to stabilize their lives	3	2	1	0
35	I feel responsible to confront others with the truth	3	2	1	0
36	I have compassion for wandering believers and want to protect them	3	2	1	0

37	I can spend time in study knowing that presenting truth will make a difference in the lives of people	3	2	1	0
38	I can often find simple, practical solutions in the midst of conflict or confusion	3	2	1	0
39	I can clarify goals and develop strategies or plans to accomplish them	3	2	1	0
40	I am willing to take an active part in starting a new church	3	2	1	0
41	I enjoy making things for use in ministry	3	2	1	0
42	I help people understand themselves, their relationships, and God better through artistic expression	3	2	1	0
43	I can see through phoniness or deceit before it is evident to others	3	2	1	0
44	I give hope to others by directing them to the promises of God	3	2	1	0
45	I am effective at adapting the gospel message so that it connects with an individual's felt need	3	2	1	0
46	I believe that God will help me to accomplish great things	3	2	1	0
47	I manage my money well in order to free more of it for giving	3	2	1	0
48	I willingly take on a variety of odd jobs around the church to meet the needs of others	3	2	1	0
49	I genuinely believe the Lord directs strangers to me who need to get connected to others	3	2	1	0
50	I am conscious of ministering to others as I pray	3	2	1	0
51	I am committed, and schedule blocks of time for reading and studying scripture, to understand biblical truth fully and accurately	3	2	1	0
52	I can adjust my leadership style to bring out the best in others	3	2	1	0
53	I enjoy helping people sometimes regarded as undeserving or beyond help	3	2	1	0
54	I boldly expose cultural trends, teachings, or events which contradict biblical principles	3	2	1	0
55	I like to provide guidance for the whole person - relationally, emotionally, spiritually, etc	3	2	1	0
56	I pay close attention to the words, phrases and meaning of those who teach	3	2	1	0
57	I can easily select the most effective course of action from among other alternatives	3	2	1	0
58	I can identify and effectively use the resources needed to accomplish tasks	3	2	1	0
59	I can adapt well to different cultures and surroundings	3	2	1	0
60	I can visualise how something would be constructed before I build it	3	2	1	0
61	I like finding new and fresh ways of communicating God's truth	3	2	1	0

62	I tend to see rightness or wrongness in situations	3	2	1	0
63	I reassure those who need to take courageous action in their faith, family or life	3	2	1	0
64	I invite unbelievers to accept Christ as their Saviour	3	2	1	0
65	I trust God in circumstances where success cannot be guaranteed by human effort alone	3	2	1	0
66	I am challenged to limit my lifestyle in order to give away a higher percentage of my income	3	2	1	0
67	I see spiritual significance in doing practical tasks	3	2	1	0
68	I like to create a place where people do not feel that they are alone	3	2	1	0
69	I pray with confidence because I know that God works in response to prayer	3	2	1	0
70	I have insight or just know something to be true	3	2	1	0
71	I set goals and manage people and resources effectively to accomplish them	3	2	1	0
72	I have great compassion for hurting people	3	2	1	0
73	I see most actions as right or wrong, and feel the need to correct the wrong	3	2	1	0
74	I can faithfully provide long term support and concern for others	3	2	1	0
75	I like to take systematic approach to my study of the Bible	3	2	1	0
76	I can anticipate the likely consequences of an individual's or a group's action	3	2	1	0
77	I like to help organisations or groups become more efficient	3	2	1	0
78	I can relate to others in culturally sensitive ways	3	2	1	0
79	I honour God with my handcrafted gifts	3	2	1	0
80	I apply various artistic expressions to communicate God's truth	3	2	1	0
81	I receive affirmation from others concerning the reliability of my insights or perceptions	3	2	1	0
82	I strengthen those who are wavering in their faith	3	2	1	0
83	I openly tell people that I am a Christian and want them to ask me about my faith	3	2	1	0
84	I am convinced of God's daily presence and action in my life	3	2	1	0
85	I like knowing that my financial support makes a real difference in the lives and ministries of God's people	3	2	1	0
86	I like to find small things that need to be done and often do them without being asked	3	2	1	0
87	I enjoy entertaining people and opening my home to others	3	2	1	0

88	When I hear about needy situations, I feel burdened to pray	3	2	1	0
89	I have suddenly known some things about others, but did not know how I knew them	3	2	1	0
90	I influence others to perform the best of their capability	3	2	1	0
91	I can look beyond a person's handicaps or problems to see a life that matters to God	3	2	1	0
92	I like people who are honest and will speak the truth	3	2	1	0
93	I enjoy giving guidance and practical support to a small group of people	3	2	1	0
94	I can communicate scripture in ways that motivate others to study and want to learn more	3	2	1	0
95	I give practical advice to help others through complicated situations	3	2	1	0
96	I enjoy learning about how organisations function	3	2	1	0
97	I enjoy pioneering new undertakings	3	2	1	0
98	I am good at and enjoy working with my hands	3	2	1	0
99	I am creative and imaginative	3	2	1	0
100	I can identify preaching, teaching, or communication which is not true to the Bible	3	2	1	0
101	I like motivating others to take steps for spiritual growth	3	2	1	0
102	I openly and confidently tell others what Christ has done for me	3	2	1	0
103	I am regularly challenging others to trust God	3	2	1	0
104	I give generously due to my commitment to stewardship	3	2	1	0
105	I feel comfortable being a helper, assisting others to do their job more effectively	3	2	1	0
106	I do whatever I can to make people feel that they belong	3	2	1	0
107	I am honoured when someone asks me to pray for them	3	2	1	0
108	I discover important biblical truths when reading or studying scripture which benefit others in the body of Christ	3	2	1	0
109	I am able to cast a vision that others want to be a part of	3	2	1	0
110	I enjoy bringing hope and joy to people living in difficult circumstances	3	2	1	0
111	I will speak God's truth, even in places where it is unpopular or difficult for others to accept	3	2	1	0
112	I can gently restore wandering believers to faith and fellowship	3	2	1	0
113	I can present information and skills to others at a level that makes it easy for them to grasp and apply to their lives	3	2	1	0
114	I can apply scriptural truth that others regards as practical and helpful	3	2	1	0

115	I can visualise a coming event, anticipate potential problems, and develop backup plans	3	2	1	0
116	I am able to orchestrate or oversee several church ministries	3	2	1	0
117	I am able to design and construct things that help the church	3	2	1	0
118	I regularly need to get alone to reflect and develop my imagination	3	2	1	0
119	I can sense when demonic forces are at work in a person or situation	3	2	1	0
120	I am able to challenge or rebuke others in order to foster spiritual growth	3	2	1	0
121	I seek opportunities to talk about spiritual matters with unbelievers	3	2	1	0
122	I can move forward in spite of opposition or lack of support when I sense God's blessing on an undertaking	3	2	1	0
123	I believe I have been given an abundance of resources so that I may give more to the Lord's work	3	2	1	0
124	I readily and happily use my natural or learned skills to help wherever needed	3	2	1	0
125	I can make people feel at ease in unfamiliar surroundings	3	2	1	0
126	I often see specific results in direct response to my prayers	3	2	1	0
127	I confidently share my knowledge and insights with others	3	2	1	0
128	I figure out where we need to go and help others to get there	3	2	1	0
129	I enjoy doing practical things for others who are in need	3	2	1	0
130	I feel compelled to expose sin wherever I see it and to challenge people to repentance	3	2	1	0
131	I enjoy patiently but firmly nurturing others in their development as believers	3	2	1	0
132	I enjoy explaining things to people so that they can grow spiritually and personally	3	2	1	0
133	I have insights into how to solve problems that others do not see	3	2	1	0
For the following four statement, simply place a check mark in the score box					
134	I have repeatedly seen an instant healing as I laid hands on someone and prayed				
135	When I hear people speak in tongues, I feel the Spirit revealing his message to me, and I speak it aloud, interpreting it for the church				
136	I have experienced the power of God within me to cast out demons and heal the sick, and I see his supernatural intervention in nature				
137	I have spoken in a language I do not understand, and someone has spoken out to interpret what I had just said				

Please transfer the score to the following table, and add up each of the columns for a total above each letter. For number 134-137, simply transfer the check mark to the table on the following page.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38
39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57
58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76
77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95
96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114
115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S

134		T = Healing
135		U = Interpretation
136		V = Miracles
137		W = Tongues

Assessment Key

A = Administration
 B = Apostleship
 C = Craftsmanship
 D = Creative Communication
 E = Discernment
 F = Encouragement
 G = Evangelism
 H = Faith

I = Giving
 J = Helps
 K = Hospitality
 L = Intercession
 M = Knowledge
 N = Leadership
 O = Mercy
 P = Prophecy

Q = Shepherding
 R = Teaching
 S = Wisdom
 T = Healing
 U = Interpretation
 V = Miracles
 W = Tongues