

# Serving Gifts

## Mercy

The capacity to feel and express unusual compassion, empathy, and sympathy for those in difficult or crisis situations and provide them with the necessary help and support to see them through tough times.

Malachi speaks of God's promise of mercy despite generational, institutional, and pervasive sin. Hosea is another great minor prophet that demonstrates God's mercy.

## Hospitality

The ability to welcome strangers and entertain guests, often in your home, with great joy and kindness so that they become friends. Hospitality is supposed to include one's family, friends, Christians, and strangers who may not be Christians.

The book of Acts recounts the story of the early church, including hospitality and fellowship in the homes of many believers.

## Discernment

The ability to quickly perceive whether such things as people, events, or beliefs are from God or Satan.

Daniel is a great example of one who was able to see beyond the physical realm into the spiritual in order to discern the spirits behind the events he experienced.

## Helps/Service

The ability to joyfully work alongside others and help them complete the task God has given them. People with this gift generally prefer to work behind the scenes.

The book of James, written by Jesus' brother, provides practical advice on how to be a servant of the Lord and of His Church.

## Administration

The God-given ability to give direction and make decisions on behalf of others that result in efficient operation and accomplishment of goals. Administration includes the ability to organize people, things, information, finances, etc.

The story of Joseph in Genesis and book of Nehemiah provide deep insight into their strengths in administering entire nations of people to accomplish the huge plans God had for them.

## Giving

Giving is the ability to give money and other forms of wealth joyfully, wisely, and generously to meet the needs of others and help support ministries.

Luke 19 and Mark 14 tell the stories of Zaccheus and the woman with the expensive jar of perfume, respectively, two paradoxical but equally insightful stories of givers. Boaz in the book of Ruth also exhibits great generosity.

## Faith

Faith is the ability to envision what needs to be done and to trust God to accomplish it, even though it seems impossible to most people.

Jesus' mother Mary, the Hall of Faith in Hebrews 11, and Job provide some poignant examples of people who had faith in God despite whatever was thrown at them. Deborah in Judges 4-5 also demonstrates great faith.

# Speaking Gifts

## Apostles

Today, church planters and missionaries are operating out of their gift of “little a” apostleship as well as those Christian leaders God raises up to lead and influence multiple churches and pastors. Apostolic leaders today are movement leaders with convening power to gather Christian leaders and mobilize them for Gospel ministry.

Paul in Acts and throughout the New Testament is an example of an Apostle with the strong gift of apostleship, as are James, Silas, and Timothy.

## Shepherding/Care

In one sense, pastoring is the office reserved for those who meet the Biblical criteria. In another sense, there is a pastoral gift also commonly known as shepherding or Christian counseling that God gives to people in the church beyond those who hold an official leadership position in the church.

David was a literal shepherd turned to king and biblical author whose Psalms exemplify his love and care for the people of Israel, trusted unto His care by the Lord.

## Evangelism

The ability and desire to boldly and clearly communicate the gospel of Jesus Christ so that non-Christians can become Christians.

All the prophets in the Old Testament (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi) were strong evangelists, as are the 12 Apostles.

## Teaching

The gift of teaching is the God-given ability to understand and communicate biblical truth in a clear and relevant manner so that there is understanding and application.

1 and 2 Timothy demonstrate Timothy's strong gift for teaching, as told by Paul.

## Encouragement

Involves motivating, encouraging, and consoling others so they mature in their walk with Jesus. To encourage someone is to literally pour courage into them to strengthen and sustain them.

Barnabas, whose name means “Son of Encouragement” (Acts 4:36) is a great character to study on this topic. Jonathan in 1 Samuel was also a great encourager. The book of Ephesians is also a great encouragement to believers whose identity is in Christ.

## Leadership

Found in people who have a clear, significant vision from God and are able to communicate it publicly or privately in such a way that they influence others to pursue that vision.

Abraham (Genesis), Moses (Exodus), Joshua, Peter are just a few examples of incredible leaders to study. More can be found among the kings in 1 and 2 Chronicles, some good and some bad.

## Wisdom

The ability to have insight into people and situations that is not obvious to the average person, combined with an understanding of what to do and how to do it. It is the ability to not only see, but also apply the principles of God's Word to the practical matters of life by the “Spirit of wisdom”.

The books of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes are dubbed “Wisdom Literature” along with Job. Esther also exhibits great wisdom.

## Knowledge

The word of knowledge is the ability to research, remember, and make effective use of a variety of information on a number of diverse subjects.

Ezra and Solomon (Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs) both had profound gifts of knowledge, as does Paul, as seen in the book of Romans.

# Supernatural Gifts

## Miracles

The gift of miracles is the ability to call on God to do supernatural acts that reveal His power by special moments of divine anointing from God the Holy Spirit.

Miracles are seen throughout Jesus' ministry, by Elisha in 1 Kings and by Moses (Exodus), as well.

## Healing

The gift of healing is the ability to call on God to heal the sick through supernatural means for the purpose of revealing God and His Kingdom where all sickness will be forever healed.

Jesus healed many (Matthew 4:23-24, 9:35), as did The Twelve (Matthew 10:1). In the Old Testament, Elijah performs multiple healings (1 Kings).

## Prophets/Prophecy

Like a mail delivery person who does not write or edit the mail, but collects and delivers it, the prophetic calling combined two ministries. First, prophets received specific revelation directly from God. Second, they speak that revealed Word to the people God had called them to with the expectation of an obedient response to God. Prophets communicate their God-given message either by speaking or in writing.

Prophets are numerous in the Bible, including Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, and John the Baptizer, and John (Revelation). Leviticus details the initial creation of the priestly line of the Old Testament.

## Tongues

The word "tongues" is best translated "languages" from the Greek, so speaking in tongues is a supernatural ability to pray in the Spirit in the language of Heaven, or speak to others in their native language, which is unknown to the speaker.

1 Corinthians 12-15 is the section of the Bible that most extensively addresses the topic of tongues.