

Spiritual Gifts Defined

This study written by LaRaine Dail, youth/college consultant, Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union. Used by permission of D. Leslie Hollon, Ph. D., Pastor of St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville, Kentucky.

1. Encouragement— The gift of uniquely knowing when and how to “breathe in courage” for another person’s spiritual benefit.
2. Hospitality— The gift of consistently and effectively making people feel at home with space to be and food to eat.
3. Giving— The gift of joyfully contributing beyond a tithe to financially support gospel ministries.
4. Missionary— The gift to feel comfortable in a culture different from one’s own native culture, and to effectively do ministry in the adopted culture.
5. Shepherding (Pastoring)— The gift to spiritually guide and provide spiritual care for a group of believers. The group may be small, like a New Testament house church, or large, like the size of a typical American congregation—80 people.
6. Helps— The gift to provide support and assistance so other people may better use their spiritual gifts.
7. Mercy— The gift empowered by a unique capacity to help people who have unusual levels of need, whether the needs be physical, emotional, cognitive, and/or spiritual.
8. Administration— The gift to organize human and physical resources so the spiritual gifts of the church can be used most effectively.
9. Apostleship— The gift to lead several churches and/or at-large groups in ministry.
10. Service— The gift of gracefully and consistently helping others to fulfill task needs in their life and/or work.
11. Leadership— The gift of effectively guiding people by creating a community consensus and direction to fulfill God’s will.
12. Teaching— The gift of uniquely understanding and communicating biblical truths for spiritual living.

13. Evangelism— The gift of effectively knowing with whom, how and when to share Jesus Christ with seekers.
14. Intercessory (Prayer)— The giftedness of one to pray with frequency, duration, and effectiveness for God’s will to be performed in a particular matter.
15. Preaching— The giftedness of one to communicate scriptural truths by making God—revealed as the Creator, Christ, and the Spirit—to be more spiritually experienced by worshipers.
16. Prophecy— The gift of uniquely bringing clarity from confusion by understanding and communicating God’s will. The person is informed by Scripture and the Spirit; his or her prophecy should be discerned by the church.
17. Exhortation— The gift to stir up people into gospel actions by clarifying for them their God given potential and responsibility.
18. Knowledge— The gift to learn biblical truths that reveal profound insights for spiritual living, and to research information from society which help people to apply the gospel.
19. Wisdom— The giftedness of knowing how to clarify and communicate spiritual truths for the church during times of confusion and/or crisis.
20. Faith— This gift is clustered with other gifts and is the unique capacity for trusting God to accomplish a Divine promise in a particular matter.
21. Discernment— The giftedness of one to perceive whether an idea or action operates with Christ-centered motivation.