

# GIFT DEFINITIONS & SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

The following four pages contain suggested definitions of the spiritual gifts. While not meant to be dogmatic or final, these definitions and supporting scriptures do correspond to common characteristics of the gifts as expressed in the Wagner-Modified Houts Questionnaire, but they will be comparable to the inventory by Pastor Mike.

## **A. Administration**

The gift of administration is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to understand clearly the immediate and long-range goals of a particular unit of the body of Christ and to devise and execute effective plans for the accomplishment of those goals.

## **B. Celibacy**

The gift of Celibacy is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to remain single and enjoy it: to be unmarried and not suffer undue sexual temptations

## **C. Exhortation**

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 or the body in such a way that they feel helped and healed.

## **D. Faith**

The gift of faith is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to explore with extraordinary confidence the will and purposes of God for his work.

## **E. Giving**

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 with liberality and cheerfulness.

## **F. Helps**

The gift of helps is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to invest the talents they have in the life and ministry of other members of the body, with thus enabling those others to increase the effectiveness of their own spiritual gifts.

1 Corinthians 12:28  
Acts 6:1-7  
Acts 27:11  
Luke 14:28-30  
Titus 1:5

1 Corinthians 7:7-8  
Matthew 19: 10-12

Romans 12:8  
1 Timothy 4:13  
Hebrews 10:25  
Acts 14:22

1 Corinthians 12:9  
Acts 11:22-24; 27:21-25  
Hebrews 11  
Romans 4:18-21

Romans 12:8  
2 Corinthians 8:1-7  
2 Corinthians 9:2-8  
Mark 12:41-44

1 Corinthians 12:28  
Romans 16:1-2  
Acts 9:36  
Luke 8:2-3  
Mark 15:40-41

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## **G. Hospitality**

The gift of hospitality is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to provide an open house and a warm welcome to those in need of food and lodging.

## **H. Intercession**

The gift of intercession is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to pray for extended periods of time 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.

## **I. Leadership**

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.

## **J. Mercy**

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 which reflect Christ's love and alleviate the suffering.

## **K. Service**

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 results.

## **L. Voluntary Poverty**

The gift of voluntary poverty is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to renounce material comfort and luxury and adopt a personal lifestyle equivalent to those living at the poverty level in a given society in order to serve God more effectively.

1 Peter 4:9  
Romans 12:9-13  
Romans 16:23  
Acts 16:14-15  
Hebrews 13:1-2

James 5:14-16  
1 Timothy 2:1-2  
Colossians 1:9-12  
Colossians 4:12-13  
Acts 12:12  
Luke 22:41-44

1 Timothy 5:17  
Acts 7:10  
Acts 15:7-11  
Romans 12:8  
Hebrews 13:17  
Luke 9:51

Romans 12:8  
Mark 9:41  
Acts 16:33-34  
Luke 10:33-35  
Matthew 20:29-34  
Matthew 25:34-40  
Acts 11:28-30

2 Timothy 1:16-18  
Romans 12:7  
Acts 6:1-7  
Titus 3:14  
Galatians 6:2,10

1 Corinthians 13:1-3  
Acts 2:44-45  
Acts 4:34-37  
2 Corinthians 6:10  
2 Corinthians 8:9

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## M. Evangelism

The gift of evangelism is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to share the Gospel with unbelievers in such a way that men and women become Jesus' disciples and responsible members of the body of Christ.

## N. Knowledge

The gift of knowledge is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to discover, accumulate, analyze, and clarify information and ideas which are pertinent to the well-being of the body.

## O. Missionary/Apostle

The gift of missionary/Apostle is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to minister and make disciples in a new field or second culture.

## P. Pastor/Shepherd

The gift of pastor is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to assume a long-term personal responsibility for the spiritual welfare of a group of believers.

## Q. Prophecy

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.

## R. Teaching

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.

## S. Wisdom

The gift of wisdom is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to know the mind of the Holy Spirit in such a way as to receive insight into how given knowledge may best be applied to specific needs arising in the body of Christ.

Ephesians 4:11-14  
2 Timothy 4:5  
Acts 8:5-6  
Acts 8:26-40  
Acts 14:21  
Acts 21:8

1 Corinthians 2:14  
1 Corinthians 12:8  
Acts 5:1-11  
Colossians 2:2-3  
2 Corinthians 11:6

1 Corinthians 9:19-23  
Acts 8:4  
Acts 13:2-3  
Acts 22-21  
Romans 10:15

Ephesians 4:11-14  
1 Timothy 3:1-7  
John 10:1-18  
1 Peter 5:1-3

1 Corinthians 12:10,28  
Ephesians 4:11-14  
Romans 12:6  
Luke 7:26  
Acts 15:32  
Acts 21:9-11

1 Corinthians 12:28  
Ephesians 4:11-14  
Romans 12:7  
Acts 18:24-28  
Acts 20:20-21

1 Corinthians 2:1-13  
1 Corinthians 12:8  
Acts 6:3,10  
James 1:5-6  
2 Peter 3:15,16

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## **T. Discernment**

The gift of discerning of spirits is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to know with assurance whether certain behaviour purported to be of God is in reality divine, human, or Satanic.

## **U. Exorcism**

The gift of exorcism is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to cast out demons and evil spirits.

## **V. Healing**

The gift of healing is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to serve as human intermediaries through whom it pleases God to cure illness and restore health apart from the use of natural means.

## **W. Interpretation**

The gift of interpretation is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to make known in the vernacular the message of one who speaks in tongues, dreams, and prophecy.

## **X. Miracles**

The gift of miracles is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to serve as human intermediaries through whom it pleases God to perform powerful acts that are perceived by observers to have altered the ordinary course of nature.

## **Y. Tongues**

The gift of tongues is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ (a) to speak to God in a language they have never learned and/or (b) to receive and communicate an immediate message of God to his people through a divinely-anointed utterance in a language they never learned.

1 Corinthians 12:10  
Acts 5:1-11  
Acts 16:16-18  
1 John 4:1-6  
Matthew 16:21-23

Matthew 12:22-32  
Luke 10:12-20  
Acts 8:5-8  
Acts 16:16-18

1 Corinthians 12:9,28  
Acts 3:1-10  
Acts 5:12-16  
Acts 9:32-35  
Acts 28:7-10

1 Corinthians 12:10,30  
1 Corinthians 14:13  
1 Corinthians 14:26-28

1 Corinthians 12:10,28  
Acts 9:36-42  
Acts 19:11-20  
Acts 20:7-12  
Romans 15:18-19  
2 Corinthians 12:12

1 Corinthians 12:10,28  
1 Corinthians 14:13-19  
Acts 2:1-13  
Acts 10:44-46  
Acts 19:1-7  
Mark 16:17