

DEFINITIONS OF MINISTRY GIFTS

by Christine Harman

Apostleship – The ability to introduce the gospel of Jesus Christ to new people and then nurture the development of their faith. It could also point an individual toward planting a new community of faith. Acts 15:1-2, 1 Corinthians 12:28, 2 Corinthians 12:12, Galatians 2:1-10

Prophecy – The ability to relate biblical truth in a timely and relevant means that offers interpretation of historic or modern messages from God. Acts 2:14-36, 11:28, 15:32, 21:9-11, Romans 12:6, Ephesians 3:1-6, 4:11-14

Evangelism – The ability to communicate the gospel to unchurched persons in ways that move them to become disciples of Jesus Christ. Acts 8:5-6, 21:8, 1 Corinthians 3:5-6, Ephesians 4:11, 1 Timothy 2:7

Shepherding – The ability to nurture, tend, and lead people in the ongoing development of their discipleship. Matthew 18:12-14, John 10:1-30, Acts 20:28, 1 Timothy 3:1-7, 1 Peter 5:2-4

Hospitality – The ability to offer care for persons in ways that let them know they are welcome and included. Matthew 25:35, Acts 16:14-16, Romans 12:13, 1 Timothy 3:2, Titus 1:8, 1 Peter 4:9-10.

Serving – The ability to provide service or labor to support the ministries of the church. The acts can be ordinary or routine and performed in a way that is often unnoticed. Matthew 4:11, Mark 1:31, Luke 10:40, John 12:2, Acts 6:1, Romans 12:7, Galatians 6:2, 10, Titus 3:4

Exhortation – The ability to offer encouragement to those who are disheartened and may be struggling in their faith. Romans 12:8, 1 Thessalonians 2:11, 1 Timothy 4:13, Hebrews 10:25

Giving – The ability to manage one's personal resources (money, time, skills, and energy) in order to joyfully contribute more than expected to the church and its ministries. 1 Kings 17:8-16, Mark 12:41-44, Luke 8:1-3, 21:1-4, Acts 4:32-37, Romans 12:8

Craftsmanship – The ability to design and/or create items to be used in the various ministries of the church. The ability to work with one's hands also includes repair and maintenance skills. Exodus 35:20-35, 36:1-3

Compassion – The ability to sense the pain or suffering of others in ways that compel one to take action to alleviate their condition. Matthew 20:29-34, Mark 9:41, Luke 10:33-35, Romans 12:8

Healing – The ability to be an agent through whom God restores health and wholeness to people who are ill. Luke 5:17, 6:19, 9:2, 11, 42, Acts 3:1-10, 5:12-16, 1 Peter 2:24

Working miracles – The ability to perform supernatural acts that transcend our understanding of nature's laws. Acts 4:30, 5:1-10, 5:12, 13:11; 1 Corinthians 2:4, 12:10, 28

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Tongues – The ability to pray, praise, or speak in an unknown language. 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 6:18

Interpretation of tongues – The ability to translate and reveal to the body of believers the message shared by someone speaking in tongues. 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 6:18

Wisdom – The ability to make exact and practical applications of knowledge imparted directly by God. 1 Corinthians 1:18-25, 26-27, 3:18-19, 12:18, Colossians 1:28, 3:16, 2 Peter 3:15

Knowledge – The ability to understand or comprehend the truth of a situation or belief from God's point of view. Acts 5:1-11, Romans 11:23, 1 Corinthians 12:8, 2 Corinthians 11:6, Ephesians 3:19, Colossians 2:3

Faith – The ability to depend upon God's promises with steadfast belief and certainty that God will accomplish His purposes. Matthew 17:19-21, Mark 9:23, Acts 11:22-24, Romans 4:18-21, 1 Corinthians 12:9, Hebrews 11

Discernment – The ability to distinguish between the things of God and those not of God in order to strengthen the body of Christ. Matthew 7:6, Acts 5:1-11, 8:22-23, 1 Corinthians 12:10, 2 Peter 2:1-3, 1 John 4:1-6

Helps – The ability to provide assistance to others for a release from their worldly or spiritual burdens. Psalm 21:1, Mark 15:41, Luke 8:2-3, Acts 9:36, Romans 16:1-2, 1 Corinthians 12:28

Administration – The ability to organize and coordinate people and other resources for the effective implementation of various ministries. Luke 14:28-30, Acts 6:1-7, Romans 12:8, 1 Corinthians 12:28

Teaching – The ability to analyze, communicate, and apply biblical truths and other Christian teachings in ways that help people grow in faith. 1 Corinthians 12:28, Ephesians 4:11, 1 Timothy 2:7, 2 Timothy 1:11, James 3:1

Leadership – The ability to share God's vision and will for the church and its people, then to inspire and direct them to accomplish God's will. Luke 10:16, Acts 7:10, Romans 12:8, 1 Corinthians 12:28

Intercession/prayer – The ability to sustain a prayer life that responds to emerging needs and recognizes the answers to those prayers. Luke 22:41-44, Acts 12:5, 16:25-26, Romans 8:26-27, James 5:14-16, 17-18

Music – The ability to worship God through vocal or instrumental music and to lead the congregation in worship. Psalm 150

Missionary – The ability to transcend race, culture, or nationality in order to serve the physical and spiritual needs of God's people. Matthew 25:37-40, 28:19-20, Acts 8:4-8, 13:2-12, Romans 10:14-17