



COLLABORATIVE DISCIPLESHIP

2 Cultivate

Our Spiritual Gifts

1 Connect

It's recommend you go through the Diversity in the Body of Christ lesson prior to this one.

One way to better understand what your spiritual gift(s) might be is to take an online assessment. [Try this one](http://sdrock.giftstest.com/test) and discuss it when you meet to go over the next lesson on spiritual gifts. <http://sdrock.giftstest.com/test>

Summary God has blessed every believer in Christ with at least one spiritual gift that empowers them to build up the Body of Christ. There are many spiritual gifts mentioned in the New Testament. What follows is a list with a brief definition of each gift. Each gift is also followed by a few questions you can use to process whether this gift may be one of yours or someone you know.

Administration (1 Corinthians 12:28): With this gift the Holy Spirit enables certain Christians to organize, direct, and implement plans to lead others in the various ministries of the body of Christ. Those with this gift help others accomplish their goals. Administrators are like the navigator who helps the captain get the ship where it needs to go successfully?

- 1 Do you have the ability to organize events, resources, time and people effectively?
- 2 Have you ever found yourself thinking through the specific steps needed to accomplish an objective?

Apostleship (1 Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 4:11): This gift is not to be confused with the office of an Apostle, which was held by Jesus' original disciples. Those with the spiritual gift of apostleship do things like start new ministries, go into places where the gospel has not been preached, reach across cultures to establish churches in challenging environments, and raise up and develop leaders.

- 1 Do you find yourself dreaming about how to begin new ministries or churches?
- 2 Do you have a strong desire to take the gospel to places it has never been heard?

Discernment (1 Corinthians 12:10) The person with the gift of discernment will be able to know with assurance whether certain behavior or teachings claimed to be of God are in reality divine, human or satanic. This person can sense the spiritual battle going on in an individual's life or on a team. They can discern when something is not of God.

- 1 Can you sense when someone's teaching is off Biblically?
- 2 Do alarms go off in your spirit when you sense a demonic presence at work in others lives?
- 3 Are you able to sense right and wrong clearly?

Beliefs and emphasis on spiritual gifts vary greatly between different groups of believers: some barely acknowledge them and others place great emphasis on them. Where are you on this spectrum? Do you believe you know what your spiritual gift(s) is/are? If so, which one(s)?

3 Care

Since we last met, what happened as a result of expressing Christ's love to others?

How can you, or we, express Christ's love to others this week?

Here are a few ideas:

Pray God would meet their deepest needs.

Help meet a felt need they have.

Encourage them with a text, note or verbally.

Give them a thoughtful gift or buy them coffee.

Invite them to do something fun or meaningful.

Listen to their story.

Explore their thoughts on the gospel.

Evangelism (Ephesians 4:11): Those with the gift of evangelism are given the unique ability by the Holy Spirit to clearly and effectively communicate the gospel of Jesus Christ to others. They are burdened in their hearts for the lost and will go out of their way to share the truth with them. They also have a passion to equip others to share their faith.

- 1 Do you like to talk about Jesus with those who don't know Him?
- 2 Have you found it enjoyable or easy to communicate the gospel clearly to non-believers?

Exhortation/Encouragement (Romans 12:8): The Spirit of God gives this gift to people in the church to strengthen and encourage those who are wavering in their faith. Those with the gift of exhortation can uplift and motivate others as well as challenge and rebuke them in order to foster spiritual growth and action. This gift functions more in one-on-one contexts, while the gift of prophecy usually operates in group contexts.

- 1 Does God use you to encourage others to live Christlike lives?
- 2 Do you have a natural tendency to encourage others?
- 3 Do others feel "strengthened in the Lord" when they are around you?

Faith (1 Corinthians 12:8-10): The Holy Spirit distributes the gift of faith to some to encourage and build up believers in their confidence in God. Those with this gift expect God to move and are not surprised when He answers a prayer or performs a miracle.

- 1 Do you find it easy to trust God in difficult situations?
- 2 Have you found yourself confidently believing God will work things out even in a dark time?

Giving (Romans 12:8): Those with this spiritual gift love to share with others out of the overflow of blessings God has given them, and they do so liberally and cheerfully. They are typically very hospitable and will seek out opportunities to help others.

- 1 Do you find great joy in giving to others?
- 2 Have you found great joy in meeting the needs of others through sharing your possessions?

Healing (1 Corinthians 12:9, 28, 30): Those who have this gift are compassionate toward the sick and pray for them regularly. They have great faith that God can and will heal some and are not deterred when He chooses not to do so. They are motivated knowing that God's revealed power will draw people to faith in Jesus.

- 1 Have you found yourself highly motivated to care for and pray for those who are sick?
- 2 Does your heart break for those with physical ailments and are you motivated to pray for them?

Helps (1 Corinthians 12:28): This spiritual gift is given to some believers to fill the many gaps in ministry, and to meet the needs of others who are then able to begin using their spiritual gifts to help fulfill the Great Commission.

- 1 Do you find yourself taking action to meet the physical & practical needs of others?
- 2 Are you sensitive to the needs of others?

Interpretation of tongues (1 Corinthians 12:10; 14:27-28): The spiritual gift of interpretation is given by the Holy Spirit to certain individuals to reveal messages spoken in an unknown language. Like the gift of prophecy, tongues which are interpreted have the effect of encouraging and blessing the church to love and serve God more deeply and effectively.

- 1 Has God used you to interpret something spoken in a language you did not previously know?

Knowledge (1 Corinthians 12:8): The Holy Spirit gives this spiritual gift to some believers to bring about understanding and to inform the church or individual believers. The person with this gift is usually well-versed in the Scriptures and can retain the truth and communicate it at the appropriate times. They enjoy examining topics and systematizing Scripture.

- 1 Do you gain insight or understanding about people and circumstances that could not have been naturally known?
- 2 Do you feel you are able to tell whether or not people are being honest about their spiritual experiences?
- 3 Do you enjoy learning Biblical facts and digging deep into Scripture?

Leadership (Romans 12:8): Those with the gift of leadership care for God's people and lead them into deeper relationship with Christ and one another. They base their success on how well they help others succeed and grow in their relationships with God. They are visionaries who inspire others to accomplish goals. They are like the captain of a ship who guides the whole crew to work together and get to the desired destination successfully.

- 1 Do you find others following you as you communicate your vision and ideas?
- 2 Have you found yourself influencing others to achieve their potential?

Mercy (Romans 12:8): Those with this gift have a great compassion for the suffering and troubles of others and will seek to help relieve their suffering. This is not just a feeling of pity, but it is action, coming along someone to help them feel encouraged and ease their suffering.

- 1 When you are around those who suffer, are you moved to take action to help them?
- 2 Do you have way or means to help alleviate suffering?
- 3 Do those who are hurting appreciate your help?

Miracles (1 Corinthians 12:10, 28): Those with the gift of miracles often have a heightened sensitivity to the presence and power of God through His Holy Spirit. They have a special measure of faith and desire for God to reveal Himself. They take care not to draw attention to themselves, but instead point others to Jesus.

- 1 Do you believe God will work through you to bring about miracles?
- 2 Do you believe miraculous healing happens in our day and age?

Pastor/Teacher (Ephesians 4:11): Pastors are called and gifted to care for the spiritual well-being of a local body of God's people. Those with this spiritual gift teach, guide, protect, and lead other believers in the mission that God has for His church, namely the Great Commission. They are able to effectively teach the Word of God to others.

- 1 Do you take the initiative to help other believers grow in their faith?
- 2 Have you sensed the need to help other people become more effective in their ministries?

Prophecy (Romans 12:6; 1 Corinthians 12:10; Ephesians 4:11): The Holy Spirit gives the gift of prophecy to some believers to make God's heart known and to edify the church. The messages they share can take the form of exhortation, correction, comfort, or inspiration, and are given to equip and edify the body of Christ. (1 Corinthians 14:3). This is similar to the gift of encouragement but it is used for larger groups of people.

- 1 Do you feel that God gives you messages that are directly for His people?
- 2 Have you given messages to others that you felt like came directly from God?

Service (Romans 12:7): The gift of service is the ability to make use of available resources to meet the needs of the body and help accomplish the desired goals. It differs from the gift of helps in that it ministers to many and provides an environment where spiritual growth happens corporately. The goal of service is to energize the church and free up others to use their gifts to the fullest to fulfill the Great Commission.

- 1 Do you get enjoyment from providing an environment or overseeing a ministry situation that affects many people in a positive way and helps them all grow spiritually?
- 2 Are you sensitive to the needs of the body as a whole? Do you enjoy helping to serve the body to meet needs?

Teaching (Romans 12:7; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 4:11): Those with this gift can teach, instruct, instill doctrine, explain, and expound God's Word. Those with the spiritual gift of teaching love to study the Word of God, and they experience great joy and satisfaction in seeing others learn and apply the truth of God's Word to their lives.

- 1 Do you find yourself motivated to study the Bible in order to teach it to others?
- 2 Are you able to explain Scripture in such a way that people can easily understand it?

Tongues (1 Corinthians 12:10; 14:27-28): The spiritual gift of tongues is more accurately called the gift of languages. Speaking in tongues is the utterance of a language that is unknown to the one speaking it. The Holy Spirit gives some believers this gift in order to glorify God and, with the help of an interpreter, to edify the church. Some believe that this gift ended when the New Testament books were established.

- 1 Do you pray in tongues often?
- 2 Is praying in the Spirit something that is important to you?

Wisdom (1 Corinthians 12:8): Those with the spiritual gift of wisdom speak to the lives of individuals or to specific situations with great understanding and a biblical perspective. They have as a goal to guide believers toward lives of holiness and worship. They are able to apply the Bible to a person's specific circumstance.

- 1 Are you usually able to analyze a situation correctly?
- 2 Do others seek you out when they are making difficult decisions?

Discuss Select one person at a time, and have everyone else in the group share what they think this person's spiritual gift(s) might be and why.

Bonus To know Cru's stance on speaking in tongues read the article [Theological Perspective on the Holy Spirit](#). (Go to Cru.org and search for "theological perspective on the Holy Spirit".)