

GIFTS THAT COMMUNICATE GOD'S WORD

(to both unbelievers and believers)

Prophecy

1 Cor. 14.3

The ability to publicly communicate God's Word in an inspired way that convinces unbelievers and both challenges and comforts believers. The ability to persuasively declare God's will.

Evangelism

Acts 8.26–40

The ability to communicate the Good News of Jesus Christ to unbelievers in a positive, non-threatening way. The ability to sense opportunities to share Christ and lead people to respond with faith.

Cross cultural missions

1 Cor. 9.19–23

The ability to adapt to a different culture in order to reach unbelievers and help believers from that culture.

'Apostle'

Rom. 15.20

The ability to start new churches and oversee their development.

GIFTS THAT EDUCATE GOD'S PEOPLE

Teaching

Eph. 4.12–13

The ability to educate God's people by clearly explaining and applying the Bible in a way that causes them to learn. The ability to equip and train other believers for ministry.

Counselling/Encouragement ("Exhortation")

Acts 14.22

The ability to motivate individual Christians to apply and act on biblical principles, especially when they are discouraged or wavering in their faith. The ability to bring out the best in others and challenge them to develop their potential.

Wisdom

1 Cor. 2.1, 6–16

The ability to understand God's perspective on life situations and share those insights in a simple, understandable way. The ability to explain what to do and how to do it.

Discernment

1 John 4.1–6

The ability to distinguish right from wrong, truth from error, and to give an immediate evaluation based on God's Word. The ability to discern whether the source of an experience is Satan, self, or God's Spirit.

Knowledge

Daniel 1.17

The ability to discover, collect, analyse, and organise information that is vital to individual believers or the entire church family. The ability to comprehend a large amount of information and provide it when needed for effective decision making.

GIFTS THAT DEMONSTRATE GOD'S LOVE

Service

Acts 6.1–7

The ability to recognise unmet needs in the church family, and take the initiative to provide practical assistance quickly, cheerfully, and without a need for recognition.

Mercy

Luke 10:30-37

The ability to detect hurt and empathise with those who are suffering in the church family. The ability to provide compassionate and cheerful support to those experiencing distress crisis, or pain.

Hospitality

1 Peter 4:9-10

The ability to make others, especially strangers, feel warmly welcomed, accepted, and comfortable in the church family. The ability to co-ordinate aspects that promote fellowship.

Pastoring (“Shepherding”)

1 Peter 5:2-4

The ability to care for the spiritual needs of a group of believers and equip them for ministry. The ability to nurture a small group in spiritual growth and assume responsibility for their welfare.

Giving

2 Cor 8:1-7

The ability to generously contribute material resources and/or money beyond the norm, so that the Body may grow and be strengthened. The ability to earn and manage money so it may be given to support the ministry of others.

CREATIVE ARTS MINISTRY

Music

Psalms 150

The ability to celebrate God's presence through music, either vocal or instrumental, and to lead the church family in worship.

Artistic creativity

Exodus 31:3-11

This gift focusses on the creative element, rather than the technical ability to put an idea into practice. It is the ability to use creative and interesting media to express ideas and feelings.

Arts and Crafts (“Craftsmanship”)

Exodus 30:22–31

The ability to build, maintain, or beautify the place of worship for God's glory. The ability to express worship through a variety of art forms.

PRAYER-RELATED GIFTS

Intercession (“Prayer”)

Col. 1:9-12

The ability to pray for the needs of others in the church family over extended periods of time on a regular basis. The ability to persist in prayer and not be discouraged until the answer arrives.

Healing

James 5:14-16

The ability to pray in faith specifically for people who need physical, emotional, or spiritual healing and see God answer. The ability to sense when God is prompting you to pray this kind of prayer.

Miracles

Mark 11:23-24

The ability to pray in faith specifically for God’s supernatural intervention into an impossible situation and see God answer. The ability to sense when God is prompting you to pray this kind of prayer.

Praying with my spirit (Tongues/Interpretation)

1 Cor.14:13-15

The ability to pray in a language understood only by God or one who is given the gift of interpretation at that time.

Why we do not encourage this gift in our services

This gift caused such a problem in the Corinthian church, Paul had to write an entire chapter (1 Cor. 14) of guidelines.

1. It is for personal edification, not for the whole church.
Those who speak in a tongue build up themselves, but those who prophesy build up the church.
1 Cor 14.4
2. We are to focus on building up others, not ourselves.
So with yourselves; if in a tongue you utter speech that is not intelligible, how will anyone know what is being said? For you will be speaking into the air ... So with yourselves; since you are eager for spiritual gifts, strive to excel in them for building up the church.
1 Cor 14.9 & 12
3. It confuses unbelievers in the service.
If, therefore, the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your mind?
1 Cor 14.23
4. Ideally, it is not meant to be used in the worship service.
Nevertheless, in church I would rather speak five words with my mind, in order to instruct others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue.
1 Cor 14.19-20

GIFTS THAT SUPPORT ALL PURPOSES

Leadership

Heb. 13.7 & 17

The ability to clarify and communicate the purpose and direction (“vision”) of a ministry in a way that attracts others to get involved. The ability to motivate others by example to work together in accomplishing a ministry goal.

Administration (“Organisation”)

1 Cor. 14:40

The ability to organise and manage people, resources, and time for effective ministry. The ability to co-ordinate many details and execute the plans of leadership.

Faith

Rom. 4:18-21

The ability to trust God for what cannot be seen and to act on God’s promise, regardless of what the circumstances indicate. The willingness to risk failure in pursuit of a God-given vision, expecting God to handle the obstacles.

Helps

1 Cor 12.28

The ability to help out in various ways in unspectacular areas, often to lighten the workload of Christians leaders, to make ministry go forward.