

How Many Spiritual Gifts are There?

1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 27-31

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1. Scripture **does not** limit the number of Gifts. (Not prescription).

How many unique gifts are listed in Scripture?

- 1 Cor. 12:8-10 9, (1-10) Word of Wisdom, Word of Knowledge, Faith, Healing, Miracles, Prophecy, Discernment, Tongues, Interpretation
 1 Cor. 12:28 4, (10-13) Apostleship, Teaching, Helps, Administrations
 Romans 12:6-8 4, (14-17) Encouragement, Giving, Leadership, Mercy,
 Eph. 4:11 2, (18-19) Evangelism, Shepherding
 1 Peter 4:9-10 1, (20) Hospitality Exodus 31:4-5 1, (21) Craftsmanship
 1 Timothy 2:1-2 1, (22) Intercession
 Psalm 150:3-5 1, (23) Creative Communication

The list below counts 24, but adds missionary, lists service separate from helps, and includes tongues and interpretation as one. Some faith traditions add: Voluntary Poverty, Celibacy, and Martydom.

2. Gifts are described as **service**, **works**, and manifestations.

- 1 Cor. 12:4, gifts--charisma χαρισμα
 1 Cor. 12:5, service (administrations in KJV, ministries NASB) διακονια diakonia
 1 Cor. 12:6, working (operations KJV, effects NASB) ενεργημα energema
 1 Cor. 12:7, manifestation, φανερωσις phanerosis

3. Gifts must be **confirmed** by the Body. As observed and experienced in ministry.

A LIST OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

(Mainly from 1 Cor. 12, Eph. 4, Rom. 12)

ADMINISTRATION: 1 Cor. 12:28 (This is sometimes called “**Organization**”) The ability to recognize the gifts of others and recruit them to a ministry. The ability to organize and manage people, resources, and time for effective ministry.

APOSTLE: 1 Cor. 12:28 The ability to start new churches/ventures and oversee their development.

CRAFTSMANSHIP: Exodus 30:22-25, 31:3, 2 Chron. 34:9-13, Acts 18:2-3 The ability to use one’s hands, thoughts and mind to further the kingdom of God through artistic, creative means. People with this gift may also serve to lead others in forming their abilities in this area.

CREATIVE COMMUNICATION: Deut. 31:22, 1 Sam. 16:16, 1 Chron. 16:41, 2 Chron. 5:12, 34:12, Psalm 150 (Sometimes narrowly defined as **Music**) The ability to communicate Gods’ truth through a variety of art forms.

DISCERNMENT: 1 Cor. 12:10 The ability to distinguish between the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. The ability to detect inconsistencies in another’s life and confront in love.

ENCOURAGEMENT: Rom. 12:8 (This is sometimes called “**Exhortation**”) The ability to motivate God’s people 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.

EVANGELISM: Eph. 4:11-14 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.

FAITH: 1 Cor. 12:9 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.

GIVING: Rom. 12:8 The ability to generously contribute material resources and/or money beyond the 10% tithe so that the Body may grow and be strengthened. The ability to manage money so it may be given to support the ministry of others.

HEALING: 1 Cor. 12:9, 28 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.

HOSPITALITY: Romans 12:9-13, 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 coordinate factors that promote fellowship.

INTERCESSION/PRAYER: Luke 22:41-44, Acts 12:12, Col. 1:9-12, 4:12-13, 1 Timothy 2:1-2, James 5:14-16 The ability to pray for extended periods of time on a regular basis and see frequent .and specific answers to prayer, to a degree much greater than that which is experienced by most Christians.

KNOWLEDGE (Word of Knowledge): 1 Cor. 12:8, Acts 5:1-11, 2 Cor. 11:6, Col. 2:2-3 The ability to bring truth to the body through revelation or biblical insight.

LEADERSHIP: Rom. 12:8 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.

MERCY: Rom. 12:8 The ability to manifest practical, compassionate, cheerful love toward suffering members of the Body of Christ.

MIRACLES: 1 Cor. 12:10, 28 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.

MISSIONARY: Acts 8:4, 13:2-3, 22:21, Romans 10:15, 1 Cor. 9:19-23 The ability to minister with whatever other spiritual gifts one has in a second culture.

PASTORING: Eph. 4:11-14 (This is sometimes called “**Shepherding**”) 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.

PREACHING: Rom. 12:6 (This is sometimes called “**Prophecy**”) 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.

SERVICE: Rom. 12:7 (Often described under **Helps**) The ability to recognize unmet needs in the church family, and take the initiative to provide practical assistance quickly, cheerfully, and without a need for recognition.

TEACHING: 1 Cor. 12:23, Eph. 4:11-14 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.

TONGUES/LANGUAGES (ALSO Interpretation): Mark 16:17, Acts 2:1-13, 10:44-46, 19:1-7 The ability to speak a spontaneous message from God in an unknown language that is then made known to the church through the gift of interpretation.

WISDOM: 1 Cor. 12:8 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.

My Top 3 or 4 Spiritual Gifts from Assessment

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

My Perceived Spiritual Gifts from definitions above

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Spiritual Gifts Observed in me by others

1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
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