

## SOP: The Nature of Spiritual Gifts

Spiritual gifts are a manifestation of the indwelling life of the Holy Spirit within a Christian. These gifts are distributed among believers

### I Corinthians 12:4-7

**Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. And there are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.**

### Varieties of gifts

- Ephesians 4:7—(CEV)—Christ has generously divided out his gifts to us.
- I Corinthians 12:11—These gifts are uniquely distributed among the Body according to His will and purposes.
- These gifts are given—not just naturally developed skills or talents

### They can fall into three categories:

Some gifts are for all believers—and are **the greatest motivation** for some believers: Through the motivational gifts, God makes you aware of needs He would like to accomplish through you.

### Motivational Gifts

#### Love:

This is usually categorized as a fruit of the Spirit—but it is one of the purest ways of recognizing the Holy Spirit at work in us and through us.

#### Wisdom:

Wisdom is not just for a few to experience as a supernatural endowment. It can be a cultivated way of experiencing life in the Spirit. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. It comes from a righteous response to the holiness of God.

#### Prophecy:

If we are to function as an extension of His Body, we will be speaking what we hear Him saying, and doing what we see Him doing. The more practiced we are at hearing His voice and obeying it, the more we are able to speak on His behalf into the life of the Body.

**Service:** ability to serve others selflessly and meet practical needs for others

Galatians 5:13—through love, we are called to serve one another. It is the divine ability to identify and meet practical needs (often behind the scenes) and beyond the space of the church gathering on Sunday.

**Encouragement/Exhortation:** ability to motivate others toward spiritual growth and maturity. It is the ability to uplift, comfort and inspire. It is one who is uniquely gifted to come alongside another and inspire growth and maturity.

**Teaching:** ability to transfer understanding to another; the ability to know, understand, and communicate biblical truths in a way that allows the learning to effect the heart as well as the head. In communicating spiritual truth, it inspire growth and maturity.

**Giving:** ability to give generously and cheerfully—contributing resources for the support and wellbeing of others in need. Often have a unique ability to create resource producing entities. It is the divine enablement to joyfully, sacrificially and often secretly share resources (time, talent, treasure) to advance God’s kingdom. When the gift is present, it inspires others to give as well. When it is absent, the church can struggle with limited resources and develop a poverty mentality.

**Administration:**

It is the ability to organize people and projects for the most kingdom minded outcome. There is often disorganization and inefficiency when it is absent.

**Mercy:**

The ability to express compassion and empathy of the Holy Spirit toward those who are suffering. Often carried in/by a sensitive/tender heart. Within the Church, it fosters love and care of the members. Outside the church—it partners with the gift of service to meet the local needs in a community.

**Leadership:**

Leaders are those who cast vision within a community and take the role of response-ability with all faithfulness. These are the ones who can motivate a community toward a corporate goal. Romans 12:5—indicate that this gift is to operate with diligence. Within the Body—allows the congregation to be organized and purpose driven. This gift also comes alongside others to help them develop and grow in their gifting.

**Hospitality:**

This is the ability to welcome and care for people. They are able to create an environment where others can grow, mature, and develop their own gifts. They create an atmosphere where the Spirit of God can be hosted—for nurturing, healing, and maturing the body. They have the heart to integrate the stranger.

**Ministry Gifts (Ephesians 4: 11-13)**

**Apostles:** Sent ones—those who are messengers with a specific commission. Pioneers—leaders—church planters. They often carry a measure of authority. They are uniquely gifted to pioneer new works, in new areas/territories. They given leadership to other spiritual gifts.

**Prophets:** Those who receive specific messages from the Lord for the building up of His Body. They speak what they hear Him saying, for the benefit of the whole of the Body. (1 Corinthians 14:1-3)

**Evangelists:** Uniquely gifted for presenting the gospel and equipping the Body to extend the Kingdom of God. Without evangelism , the church is limited in its ability to grown.

**Pastors:** Those who provide spiritual care and guidance for the Church. They have the ability to direct and correct a local congregation. They carry a deep concern and love for God’s people. They are able to cultivate a nurturing community for each individual member to grow in.

**Teachers:** Those who train and give insight into the Word of God. They have a unique talent for imparting wisdom /insight from the scriptures. They help deepen insight and understanding for the believer.

## **Supernatural Gifts/Manifestation Gifts**

**Word of wisdom:** a deeper understanding of God's truth and how it applies to life situations-bringing illumination and revelation to specific situations. This gift is often accompanied by peace and counsel.

**Word of Knowledge:** Specific understanding of God's will for a situation. It is the ability to know details of a situation that would otherwise be unknowable. It is to receive specific insight and supernatural wisdom in a detailed manner.

**Faith:** a supernatural ability to trust God and His promises for a given circumstance; able to encourage a growing faith in others. It is the ability to trust and believe God in the midst of impossible scenarios, where others are choosing to give up. This gift helps people stay focused on God and His abilities. When this gift is missing, doubt and fear tend to arise and dominate people's thinking.

**Healing:** Praying for and bearing witness to God's will for healing in a given situation, through divine intervention. It is the ability to pray for those who are sick and to see them recover. They create an atmosphere of hope and healing.

**Effecting of miracles:** A demonstration of God's power-that glorifies Him in a natural setting. These do not follow the normal laws of nature. It is the supernatural power to perform extraordinary acts that go beyond any human capacity. It marks God's intervention on behalf of His people. Strengthens faith. Often protects.

**Prophecy:** Speaking forth God's messages in order to edify, exhort and comfort. Saying what you hear the Spirit saying.

**Distinguishing of spirits:** Discernment concerning whether a spirit is from God, a human or evil. These can discern what another is being led by or seduced by. They can see what is taking place spiritually in any given situation. They have the ability to safeguard from false teaching, false teachers, and expose what is counterfeit.

**Tongues:** The ability to speak in an unknown language as a form of prayer

**Interpretation of tongues:** Ability to translate what has been spoken in tongues, and give the meaning to those who are listening.