

Understanding Spiritual Gifts

**Descriptions paraphrased, but taken from Enduring Word commentary, Understanding Spiritual Gifts by Sam Storms, and Power of the Spirit by Jack Deere, plus more.*

***Note: this is not an exhaustive list of Spiritual Gifts nor extensive descriptions. These are just the main gifts we find in scripture and plenty more can be said about each.*

Administration (1 Cor 12:28)	<i>Pilot a ship. Organize people to serve. Guide ministries. Coordinate the Church toward its divinely appointed mission. It includes the ability to plan, launch, and complete ministry-related projects to fulfill the needs of God's cause.</i>
Prophecy (Romans 12:6, Eph 4:11, 1 Cor 12:10)	<i>Telling-forth of God's message in a particular situation, always in accord with His word and His current work. Communication that has been revealed or disclosed to a person by the Holy Spirit.</i>
Miracles (1 Cor 12:10)	<i>Acts of power, overrides laws of nature. On the initiative of the Holy Spirit not the individual</i>
Helps	<i>Those who help or assist others in doing the work of the Lord.</i>
Word of Knowledge (1 Cor 12:8)	<i>Knowing something that only God would know. One may have supernatural knowledge, but not wisdom to apply that knowledge. Even if the word is true, make sure it is truly from God. (ex Jesus with the woman at the well)</i>
Word of Wisdom (1 Cor 12:8)	<i>Godly guidance in His direction. Offering skills in the practical matters of life.</i>
Faith (1 Cor 12:9)	<i>Unique ability to trust God against all circumstances.</i>
Healings (gift?) (1 Cor 12:9)	<i>God's healing power, given or received. Signs and wonders ministry of Jesus, Paul, Peter, Philip. Jesus sent out the 12 and 72 to heal.</i>
Discerning of spirits (1 Cor 12:10)	<i>Ability to tell difference between true and false doctrine, between what is the Holy Spirit and what isn't, between what is God and what is evil. (Paul & Elymas Acts 13:8-11)</i>
Tongues (1 Cor 12 and 1 Cor 14)	<i>Personal language of prayer given by God, whereby the believer can communicate with God beyond the limits of knowledge and understanding. At times, actual human language spoken somewhere in the world (Day of Pentecost Acts 2).</i>
Interpretation of tongues	<i>This gift allows the gift of tongues to be of benefit for those other than the speaker, and they are able to hear and understand the tongue-speaker's words</i>
Teaching (Romans 12:7, Ephesians 4:11)	<i>Always based on a text of scripture. Love to study. Can understand, articulate, and defend inroads of theological truth, and point out false teachings by others.</i>
Service (Romans 12:7)	<i>Common term for ministry that could reference all manner of giving of oneself for the benefit of others.</i>
Exhortation (Romans 12:6-8)	<i>Encouraging people to live out what they know to be true. Fill people with hope from the Holy Spirit.</i>
Giving (Romans 12:8)	<i>Goes beyond normal giving. They give generously and simply with no other motive than meeting the needs of others and pleasing God.</i>
Leads (Romans 12:8)	<i>Administrative oversight; Elders/shepherds/overseers.</i>
Mercy (Romans 12:8)	<i>Deeply compassionate and emphasize with those who are suffering.</i>
Apostles (gift?) (1 Cor 12:28; Ephesians 4:11)	<i>Not same authority as original apostles, but God still has special "ambassadors" in the church today. Truly hard to define. In Jesus' time, this was someone who witnessed resurrection and was commissioned by Jesus. Also meant messenger, someone who was "sent." Someone who is faithful to the mission they've been given. Groundbreakers, pioneers, entrepreneurial, visionaries beyond just salvation gospel but Kingdom Gospel. *Present would</i>

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	<i>be suffering, signs and wonders, insight into divine mysteries of Christ, blameless integrity, apostolic authority.</i>
Evangelist (Ephesians 4:11)	<i>Every believer should lead people to the Lord. Evangelists do it regularly.</i>
Pastor (Ephesians 4:11)	<i>Strengthen the weak, heal the sick, bind up the injured, bring back the strays, and search for the lost. The ability God gives to certain believers to shepherd other believers for their spiritual welfare, through counseling and encouraging believers to walk with Christ and discover and develop their spiritual gifts.</i>