

Spiritual Gift Definitions

From the Faith Leader curriculum (Chalice Press, 2009)

Administration: The ability to set goals on behalf of the group and to effectively direct resources, schedules, and activities in the process of fulfilling those goals.

Artistry: The creative ability to design and execute symbolic or representational expressions of spiritual truth that inspire the faith community.

Apostleship: The ability to build up churches beyond one's local congregation through serving as a messenger who can spiritually cultivate disciples.

Assistance: The ability to provide physical and emotional help in the context of a spiritual relationship.

Compassion: The ability to empathize with the sufferings of others and to respond with empathy in alleviating their mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual distress.

Craftsmanship: The ability to exercise skill in the practice of planning, making, or repairing buildings or objects through the manual arts.

Discernment: The intuitive ability to distinguish what is of God in people, events, and teachings.

Encouragement: The ability by word and deed to serve as a companion to others, inspiring them to a deeper faith and to greater action.

Evangelism: The ability to share the good news of God's love in Jesus Christ through word and deed so that individuals choose to confess Christ as Lord and become active disciples.

Faith: The ability to trust in God in the absence of tangible proof and to discern God's will for oneself and for the body of Christ.

Giving: The ability to share in a sacrificial manner of one's material resources with abundance and joy.

Healing: The ability to restore others to physical, mental, or spiritual health through natural or supernatural means by service as a conduit for God's restorative power.

Hospitality: The ability to welcome strangers into the body of Christ, often expressed through the provision of food and lodging.

Humor: The ability to perceive and share laughter and irony in situation so that tension is released and/or perspective restored.

Intercessory Prayer: The ability to perceive and catalog prayer needs and then to engage in disciplined prayer on behalf of those needs.

Interpretation of Tongues: The ability to translate the message of one who communicates in a transcendent language.

Knowledge: The ability to retain and understand systematic learning about God and God's will and to share this learning for the building up of individual believers and the body of Christ.

Leadership: The ability to provide vision and direction to the body of Christ in a trustworthy, persuasive, and faithful manner.

Miracles: The ability to serve as a conduit for God's powerful works that transcend human comprehension.

Music: The creative ability to compose and/or perform vocal and/or instrumental music that deepens the faith of self and others.

Pastoring: The ability to provide spiritual guidance and nurture over time to individuals and to the body of Christ as a whole.

Prophecy: The ability to receive and articulate God's message and to interpret it for one's situation and audience, particularly with regard to justice and righteousness within the community.

Service: The ability to take on a servant role, attending to details overlooked by leaders and working diligently without a desire for personal recognition.

Teaching: The ability to share the content and experience of the Christian faith so that learners mature spiritually.

Tongues: The ability to communicate with God and with others on God's behalf in a transcendent language.

Wisdom: The ability to apply knowledge to a question or situation in such a way that the application reveals God's truth or presence.

Writing: The ability to nurture, instruct, guide, or challenge individual believers and/or the body of Christ through the written word.