

## **SPIRITUAL GIFTS 101** | Starting to Understand Spiritual Gifts | January 2024, Westminster

Most of the definitions from the following list are summarized from Jon Thompson's book *Convergence: Why Jesus Needs to be More Than Our Lord and Savior for the Church to Thrive in a Post-Christian World*.

### **A) LOVE GIFTS (These manifest God's love in practical ways)**

**Administration:** "a capacity to manage details of service functions so as to support and free those in leadership to prioritize their efforts." -J Robert Clinton

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**Helps/Serving:** "the capacity to unselfishly meet the needs of others through very practical service." -J Robert Clinton

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**Mercy:** "to cheerfully and practically help those who are suffering or are in need." -Bruce Bugbee

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**Giving:** "the capacity to give liberally to meet the needs of others and yet to do so with a purity of motive which senses that the giving is a simple sharing of what God has given." -J Robert Clinton

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### **B) WORD GIFTS (These clarify the nature, action and purposes of God)**

**Teaching:** "the ability to instruct, explain, or expound biblical truth in such a way as to cause believers to understand the Biblical truth." -J Robert Clinton

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**Exhortation/Encouragement:** "the capacity to urge people to action in terms of applying Biblical truths, to encourage people generally with Biblical truths, or to comfort people through the application of Biblical truth to their needs." -J Robert Clinton

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**Apostleship:** "a pure leadership and expansion gift, pushing boundaries and overcoming obstacles as the Church continues its God-given work under the Great Commission." -Jon Thompson

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**Leadership:** "to cast vision, motivate, and direct people to harmoniously accomplish the purposes of God." -Bruce Bugbee

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**Shepherding/Pastoring:** -to spiritually care for a group of Christians over a long period of time

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**Evangelism:** "to communicate the Gospel message in relevant ways to unbelievers." -Leslie Flynn

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**C) POWER GIFTS (These demonstrate the power, presence and reality of God)**

**Prophecy:** "when someone, usually in a congregation or large gathering, delivers a truth of a predictive nature or a situational word from God... to exhort the community, edify or comfort believers, or convince non-believers of God's truth." -Jon Thompson

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**Tongues:** "to spontaneously respond to a giving of an authoritative message in tongues by interpreting this word and clearly communicating the message given." -J Robert Clinton

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**Interpretation:** "when someone speaks in tongues and another person understands what is being said and can interpret for the audience." -Jon Thompson

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**Intercession** (a gift of prayer): -to regularly pray for extended periods and see frequent and specific answers to prayers, more than what other Christians might observe.

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**Faith:** -exceptional confidence in God, his purposes, and his work

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**Discernment of Spirits:** "a God-given sensitivity to truth, error, or evil." -Jon Thompson  
(i.e. to tell when something is from God, humans, or Satan)

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**Words of Wisdom/Knowledge** (some think two categories, but may be one): knowledge about God or the Bible, but applied for living in a particular situation. -Jon Thompson

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**Healing:** -to be used by God to cure illness or give health in a way that can't be explained naturally

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**Miracles:** "the releasing of God's supernatural power so that the miraculous intervention of God is perceived and God receives recognition for the supernatural intervention." -J R Clinton

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# HOW DO I KNOW WHAT SPIRITUAL GIFT(S) I HAVE?

Summary Notes: Jan. 21, 2024

*This handout goes along with Part 2 in the mini-series about Spiritual Gifts at Westminster Church in Barrie.*

*The sermon was called: Spiritual Gifts 102: How do I know what gift(s) I have?*

Key verse: Romans 12:3: "For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned."

- Note: Taking online tests or inventories can sometimes be helpful, but are of limited value. Therefore...

1. Pray and ask the Lord to reveal your gifts to you.
2. Ask other people what gifts they think you have.
  - (a) Others can often see things you can't see.
  - (b) We discern our gifts in the context of a community, not in isolation. (This also helps with accountability.)
3. What makes you angry about other Christians?  
(We tend to be most passionate about what our gifts are, and sometimes we don't understand (or get frustrated) when others don't have that same level of passion. Does this reveal something about our own area of giftedness?)
4. When you put certain gifts into practice, ask yourself questions like:
  - Do I feel closer to Jesus when I do this?
  - Do I see God's kingdom at work?
5. What makes you feel God's pleasure?
6. Start trying the different gifts and take note of which ones clearly benefit others and are for the common good.

Expect opposition. Practice discernment.

*HOLY SPIRIT, I TRUST YOU. HOLY SPIRIT, I WELCOME YOU. HOLY SPIRIT, I COOPERATE WITH YOU.*