

UNWRAPPING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT



**A Resource for
The Pastor's Connection Class**

**Wayside Baptist Church
Miami, Florida**

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Taking Inventory of Your Spiritual Gifts

My Top Three Spiritual Gifts (Highest Scores) Are:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

My Lowest Scored Spiritual Gifts Are:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Your top three spiritual gifts are your “Gift Mix.” Think about how each of these strengths of yours relate to each other. This is how God has uniquely shaped you to serve Him.

Remember, God's plan is to "use you," where you are usable. When you know your gift, then place yourself at God's disposal to be used by Him.

How to Unwrap Your Spiritual Gift:

1. **REFLECT ON WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED:** What did this study show you about spiritual gifts? After taking your spiritual gifts inventory, go back into this study guide and research the strengths and weaknesses of your spiritual gifts.
2. **REALIZE WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN:** Based on the test and reading in this study, what spiritual gifts do you believe God has given you? Notice your 2 or 3 strongest gifts. This is your *Gift Mix*. Think about how one of your strong gifts relates to the other.
3. **RESPOND TO GOD IN FAITH:** Identify 2 action steps that you can take in the next month to unwrap your gifts and start using them for God's glory and the benefit of others. (Hint: start by serving those closest to you!)

It is so important to begin developing the gifts that God has given to us. Whatever gifts you have been given can be enlarged and developed through practice. For instance, no one gets the gift of teaching fully developed. But with study, feedback, and practice, a ‘good’ teacher can become a *better* teacher, and with time, grow to be a *master* teacher. Don't settle for a half-developed gift. Stretch yourself and learn all you can.

UNWRAPPING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

How to Unwrap Your God-Given Treasures

1 Corinthians 12:1, *“Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed.”*

Your spiritual gifts were not given for your own benefit but for the benefit of others.

If you are a believer then you have the Spirit living in you. If you have the Spirit living in you, then you have spiritual gifts to use for God’s glory and the benefit of others.

4 Passages Dealing with Spiritual Gifts in the New Testament:

- Romans 12:6-8, *“We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man’s gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.”*
- 1 Corinthians 12:7-10, *“A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.”*
- Ephesians 4:11-13, *“It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”*
- 1 Peter 4:9-10, *“Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.”*

When we serve in areas that best match our giftedness, we experience greater fulfillment and see greater fruitfulness for God. On the other hand, when we serve outside our giftedness, we usually end up frustrated and fatigued.

Now as we think of these seven gifts and knowing that one of these gifts will be our primary gift, how do we know which gift is ours? A great way to understand the gifts is to see how you would react in a “ministry” situation. Years ago Bill Gothard used an illustration in which a dessert platter was dropped during the evening meal. It was based on a family of seven with each member having a different one of the seven motivational gifts. As they are having dinner in the dining room the lady serving them comes into the dining room with the dessert plat-

ter. As she walked through the door she trips over a fire truck that had been left there by one of the boys. Just that quick, the desserts were flying through the air as the server came crashing down to the floor. It made a huge mess!! The chocolate pie was mixed in with the pecan pie. The coconut cake was smeared on the floor.

As you picture this in your mind, what is your first reaction? Based on your gift, this may be what you would have said:

- **The Gift of Prophecy** - *“That’s what happens when you’re not careful! And then a follow up – People should not leave their toys in the doorway!!!”*
- **The Gift of Serving** - *“Oh, let me help you clean it up.”*
- **The Gift of Teaching** - *“The reason she tripped is that toy fire truck was left in the doorway and she did not see it.”*
- **The Gift of Exhortation** - *“Next time let make sure there are no toys in the door way and that we watch where we are going. We can learn from this and be better because of it.”*
- **The Gift of Giving** - *“I’ll be happy to buy a new dessert.”*
- **The Gift of Administration**— *“Jim, would you get the mop, Sue please help pick it up, and Mary, help me fix some other dessert. Theresa, see if our server is OK.”*
- **The Gift of Mercy** - *“Don’t feel badly. It could have happened to anyone.”*

Our gift will cause us to react and respond differently to almost any situation. We have them because there are different needs in the body of Christ.

As we work through these spiritual gifts we need to think about the characteristics of each and prayerfully determine which one is characteristic of your own life. We encourage you to also begin to pray and ask God to show you how He can use this spiritual gift for His glory and to help bless the lives of those around you.

Let’s start by assessing the seven spiritual gifts. As we look at these gifts we will point out a working definition for the gift and give what we believe to be the main purpose of the it. We will then point out what would be some essential characteristics of the gift in action as well as some precautions one may take if they have this talent. We will also look at how the gift may be used in the church.

Spiritual Gifts Test Scorecard

Under each of the following spiritual gifts listed below, find your answer for that question # and record it here.

Then add up those numbers for a total score under each gift.

EXORTATION

4. _____
11. _____
18. _____
31. _____
32. _____
40. _____
44. _____

TOTAL: _____

GIVING

5. _____
12. _____
19. _____
26. _____
33. _____
37. _____
46. _____

TOTAL: _____

SHEPHERDING

42. _____
48. _____
52. _____
53. _____
59. _____
62. _____
63. _____

TOTAL: _____

LEADERSHIP

1. _____
6. _____
13. _____
20. _____
23. _____
27. _____
34. _____

TOTAL: _____

SERVICE

2. _____
9. _____
16. _____
30. _____
39. _____
55. _____
57. _____

TOTAL: _____

MERCY

7. _____
14. _____
21. _____
25. _____
28. _____
35. _____
47. _____

TOTAL: _____

TEACHING

3. _____
10. _____
17. _____
24. _____
49. _____
56. _____
60. _____

TOTAL: _____

PROPHECY

8. _____
15. _____
22. _____
29. _____
38. _____
43. _____
54. _____

TOTAL: _____

EVANGELISM

36. _____
41. _____
45. _____
50. _____
51. _____
58. _____
61. _____

TOTAL: _____

The Gift of Prophecy

Some working definitions for the gift of Prophecy:

The gift of prophecy is the distinctive ability to boldly declare the truth of God, regardless of the consequences, calling people to righteous living. (Dan Reiland)

The gift of prophecy is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to receive and communicate an immediate message of God to His people through a divinely anointed utterance.” (C. Peter Wagner)

A person with the gift of prophecy will use it to proclaim the Word of God boldly and with confidence. They have a keen sense of what is right and what is wrong. They help the body by fore warning members of the body of a possible pitfall.

The prophet points out the wrongs in the church and the community. He has sermons and campaigns against pornography, abortion, drinking, drugs, etc. (Ray Fulenwider)

The Spirit-given capacity and desire to serve God by proclaiming God’s truth. The hell-fire-brimstone preacher who points out sin. (Larry Gilbert)

The God-empowered ability and urgent need to communicate God’s truths with power and clarity in such a way that brings correction, repentance, edification, and comfort. (From the Servant Driven Church p. 256)

The gift of prophecy is the special attribute given by God’s Spirit to certain members of the Body of Christ to proclaim the Word of God boldly and with confidence. (Place Ministries)

2. The purpose for the gift of prophecy

The members of the body of Christ need someone to deliver the truth of God with divine insight and authority in order that people repent of sins and live for God. The person with the gift of prophecy is gifted to do just that. They are message oriented!!!!

When dealing with a person’s sin the prophet is on the front end where as the person showing mercy is on the back end. The prophet will many times say something to a person because they (the best way they can describe it) have a feeling and they issue a warning.

The prophet does not want someone to get into sin so they issue warnings. The prophet also wants someone to get out of sin so they proclaim judgment.

The prophet is motivated by seeing people live holy lives and they get the greatest joy when they hear or see someone repent of sin.

3. Characteristics to help you understand the gift of prophecy:

They feel compelled to express their thoughts, their feelings and their attitude verbally in regards to right and wrong. Again, they are message oriented.

They have a bold sense of confidence in speaking for God. This many times opens the door for them to have a public speaking ministry.

They are very discerning. They have the ability to identify character and motives of other people. More than just seeing an act of disobedience they are looking at a person's attitude and disposition. This does cause them to many times speak to a person's sin issue *before* the sin is committed outwardly.

They have a tremendous hatred for sin and especially despise any form of lying. Hypocrisy, insincerity and manipulation grieve the heart of this person.

Why does the prophet so despise lying? They have a low tolerance for someone lying to them because they know a person is not close to repenting when they are denying or seeking to cover up their sin.

They are very persuasive in defining what is right and what is wrong. They don't see gray areas. Most things are black and white to a person with this gift. As they use their gift they will be the one who gets to the root of the problem. The person with the gift of mercy may react to the consequences of the problem and the person with the gift of exhortation may give steps to correct the problem once a person has gotten right with God, but the person with the gift of prophecy is going to make sure you understand the root of the problem.

They have a great understanding of cause and effect. They see consequences before the fact. This motivates them to speak warnings to other believers. A person with this gift will not wait until a child has touched a hot stove, rather when they see the child come in the room where there is a hot stove, they will speak up and say, "stay away from the stove." The person may have never intended to touch the stove, but the prophet will still issue warning.

They have a deep reliance upon the Word of God to validate their convictions. You will here them say, "the Bible says."

They speak with a sense of urgency. They want decisions to be made now. They have a desire, yes, they even demand, to see a person's life change (this is what motivate them). They will make strong appeals for a decision and then for

_____ 53. I have a concern that *all* of the members in my church get to grow in Christ together.

_____ 54. When church members try to hide their sin, I feel that somebody ought to rebuke them.

_____ 55. When I serve the Lord, I don't care who gets the credit.

_____ 56. I spend extra time studying my Bible because I love to teach.

_____ 57. I am willing to volunteer in any way so the work of the ministry can go forward.

_____ 58. I get frustrated with Christians who have no desire to share their faith with the lost.

_____ 59. I am so concerned when people drop out of my group that I go after them.

_____ 60. One of my greatest satisfactions in life is to help people gain new insights from the Bible.

_____ 61. I am always looking for unsaved people that I can invite to church so they will be saved.

_____ 62. I enjoy getting a group together for fellowship or to serve Christ. People tell me their problems because I understand and support them.

- _____ 21. I tend to look out for those who are neglected and alienated.
- _____ 22. I believe in confronting a friend about a non-Christian attitude.
- _____ 23. I feel a sense of satisfaction in seeing a job through to completion.
- _____ 24. I am able to thoroughly study Scripture and share my findings with others.
- _____ 25. I make myself available to talk with others.
- _____ 26. I often give anonymously to those in need.
- _____ 27. If in a group where there is no leader, I will assume leadership.
- _____ 28. I empathize with those who are embarrassed and humiliated and seek to comfort them.
- _____ 29. I speak boldly and with conviction what I believe God wants people to know.
- _____ 30. I am very dependable for getting things done.
- _____ 31. I am able to make the Bible clear and relevant for others.
- _____ 32. I encourage others to go on with the Lord.
- _____ 33. I am never offended with the church asks for a love offering. I enjoy making a donation.
- _____ 34. I am a goal-setter.
- _____ 35. I like to spend time with those who are lonely and hurting to cheer them up.
- _____ 36. I have shared my faith with many nonbelievers at school or work.
- _____ 37. When I've increased my tithe, God has blessed me financially, so I constantly look for extra ways to give more money
- _____ 38. I believe the church would be stronger if preachers would boldly denounce sin by name from the pulpit.
- _____ 39. I enjoy doing the little jobs around church that others don't do.
- _____ 40. I think living an effective Christian life is more important than doctrine
- _____ 41. I find deep satisfaction when I lead someone to pray to receive Christ
- _____ 42. I feel bad for people who aren't involved in church because of what they're missing out on.
- _____ 43. If the church took a firmer stand on issues, society could be more righteous
- _____ 44. I study practical ways to help the spiritual life of others.
- _____ 45. I have led many to Christ in my lifetime.
- _____ 46. I enjoy being a good steward of the finances God has given me.
- _____ 47. I listen to people's problems so I can understand them better.
- _____ 48. I have a burden for the inactive or uninvolved members in the church
- _____ 49. I enjoy studying the meaning of words in the Bible
- _____ 50. I feel that outreach is the most important ministry in the church.
- _____ 51. I find it natural to turn my conversation with unbelievers toward the church or my Lord.
- _____ 52. I tend to notice and encourage people when they haven't been to church in a while.

an outward change. They know until a decision is made, things will remain the same. They also know that if there has been true repentance there will be a change. John the Baptist called for fruits of repentance.

While they will speak firmly about an issue and may cause a person living in sin to feel very uncomfortable, the person who has this gift becomes that person's number one supporter once the person repents of their sin.

They have a genuine concern for the reputation and the program of God. Their ability to discern heart motives causes them to detect when someone is blaming God and they will speak up for God.

They have a desire to give evidence of loyalty and total commitment to the Lord. They want others to know where they stand. Peter stated that he would never leave the Lord. He even cut off the ear of a soldier in the garden as they arrested Jesus.

They are open and honest about their own personal failures. They know that being deceptive will keep someone in bondage therefore, while they are hard on others to be clean before they Lord, they are very hard on themselves. People with this gift will stress the need for accountability, but also for personal discipline.

They tend to be impulsive. They make quick judgments. Sometimes this gets them in trouble. Peter, you may recall, rebuked the Lord. When the Lord told them about His coming crucifixion Peter spoke up quickly and stated that this event would never happen. Instead of pausing to think about what he had heard, he blurted out the first thing on his mind. On the other hand, he stepped out of a boat and walked on water.

They are willing to be broken in order that others may see the value in brokenness.

4. Biblical example: Peter

5. Some Misunderstandings, Problems and Precautions for the gift of prophecy:

Along with the gift of administration the person with the gift of prophecy is many times misunderstood. Notice some misunderstandings or problems they may have:

- Has a problem relating to people as individuals. Tends to group people together. Not very good one on one.
- Relating to people too harshly. Can come across very judgmental. Very of-

ten misunderstood because approach is critical, harsh and judgmental and the message is then rejected.

- A tendency to have poor listening skills. With their strong desire to proclaim truth they come across many times as disinterested in hearing the details of a problem. They don't seem to be concerned about a person's feelings.
- Lacking in flexibility. Comes across as "my way or the highway." No room for compromise. Resist the thought that there can be a gray area. Can be viewed as intolerant!!!
- Can be very impatient. They want to hear a decision now and see an immediate change.
- Their eagerness for a decision may cause people to feel undo pressure to agree with the person instead of making a genuine decision. Also their focus on decisions being made may cause people to feel they are number oriented.
- Can focus more on law than grace. A problem may be that they have a tendency to speak their minds as opposed to speaking for God.
- Another problem is that many times they lack organizational skills.
- Public boldness and strict standards may hinder having close relationships.
- When not walking in the Spirit and living a carnal life they are

Deceptive - will manipulate to get way. Will lie.

Disobedient – must have their own way - can be dictatorial and domineering

Hypocritical – Will still preach against sin, while living in it.

Involved in things that **Defile** – thought life is not clean – can become very impure

Fearful – afraid of people, afraid of tomorrow

Rejecting of people – not forgiving. Takes rejection personal as well. Becomes **Argumentative**

6. Places to serve

Evangelist with somewhat of a national ministry

Revival Speaker

Soul winning team - willing to confront.

A Deacon in the church.

Your Spiritual Gifts Test

Answer each question by responding with a number on a scale of 1-5.
(The number one meaning that this statement is typically NOT a characteristic of me and the number five meaning that this statement strongly represents who I am.)

1	2	3	4	5
<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Mildly Disagree</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Somewhat Agree</i>	<i>Strongly Agree</i>

- _____ 1. I am able to sense the direction God desires for His people to move and share it with others.
- _____ 2. I enjoy pitching in on service projects in the church.
- _____ 3. I am able to organize my thinking in such a way as to systematically present a Bible lesson to others.
- _____ 4. I think preaching should encourage listeners to healthy attitudes and practical living.
- _____ 5. I enjoy giving to those in serious financial need.
- _____ 6. People seem to respect me and follow my lead.
- _____ 7. I have a tender heart toward the needy and will often do what I can to help those who are in distress.
- _____ 8. I speak up for what is biblically right even when people think I am narrow-minded and oppose my principles.
- _____ 9. I usually volunteer to help with tasks that need to be done.
- _____ 10. I enjoy diligent study so as to accurately teach the Word.
- _____ 11. I enjoy encouraging those who are discouraged and down-hearted.
- _____ 12. I cheerfully give well above a tithe to the work of the Lord.
- _____ 13. I am good at setting goals and seeing the direction a group of people should take.
- _____ 14. I feel so deeply about cancer victims or those seriously ill that I that I want to be with them in their time of need.
- _____ 15. I feel confident telling others what to believe about the Bible and correcting their wrong views.
- _____ 16. I am willing to work at a task regardless of how simple or trivial it may seem.
- _____ 17. Others comment on how much they have enjoyed, learned, or grown under my teaching.
- _____ 18. I often challenge others to reach their potential in Christ.
- _____ 19. I am known for my generosity and sometimes sacrificial giving.
- _____ 20. I am able to guide and motivate people to join in the achievement of my goals.

The Gift of Service

Writer Philip Yancey notes that toward the end of his life, Albert Einstein removed the portraits of two scientists- Newton and Maxwell- from his wall. He replaced those with portraits of Gandhi and Schweitzer. Einstein explained that it was time to replace the image of success with the image of service. (Phillip Yancey, *Leadership Journal*)

1. Some working definitions for the gift of Service:

The gift of service is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to identify the unmet needs involved in a task related to God's work, and to make use of available resources to meet those needs and help accomplish the desired goals. (C. Peter Wagner)

The God-empowered ability to provide physical labor for the accomplishment of tasks within the body of Christ, thus enabling others to increase the effectiveness of their spiritual gifts. (From the *Servant Driven Church* p. 256)

The gift of service is the special attribute given by God's Spirit to certain members of the Body of Christ to identify, assist and support ministries within the Body thereby allowing those ministries to effectively accomplish their desired results. (Place Ministries)

The Spirit-given capacity and desire to serve God by rendering practical help in both physical and spiritual matters (Larry Gilbert)

The person who meets practical needs of fellow Christians and the church.

The server wants to get the job done. He is willing to do anything to help someone else. He just likes to serve. He believes we spend too much time talking about doing things and not enough time doing them. (*The Servant-Driven Church* p. 197 Ray Fulenwider)

The gift of service is the distinctive ability to identify and meet the practical needs of others. They support other ministry efforts. (Dan Reiland)

The ability to perform any task or responsibility with joy which benefits others and meets practical and materials needs that exist.

2. The purpose for the gift of service

The serving gift is the ability to assist and support others in a practical and behind the

scenes ways that cause public ministries to run smoothly and effortlessly.

The word for “ministry” in Romans and the word for “helps” in I Corinthians are both the same word. In most places it is translated “deacon” as the Greek word is “diakonia.” It simply means serving people with whatever they need—food, drink, clothing, shelter, jobs, care, love and a million other things. The person with the gift of service never runs out of ways to do loving things for others.

Key words on the server: they are very alert to meet needs. They make themselves available to help with a “can do” mindset and what ever needs to be done will be done.

Effective ministries will always have many people with the gift of serving. Ultimately, the server is project oriented.

3. Characteristics of someone with the gift of serving

They have a keen insight to needs – they are alert to detect a practical need.

They get great fulfillment out of seeing a need met, especially when they have freed up a person to do what they do best.

Usually they go about meeting those needs without being told and with little fanfare. Quite frankly they want to go unnoticed because they get nervous in the limelight.

They are hard workers, self starters and they hate to waste time. (many people think of their mother at this point and in many cases this is a true assessment of her).

Will help others regardless of cost or inconvenience to himself or herself. Willing to do tasks rather than get someone else to perform the service. Has a great concern for the comfort and well-being of others.

They have a really good memory when it comes to remembering a person’s likes and dislikes.

They are grieved when they are serving and the person they are helping starts wasting their time. They see their ministry as a set up person – I am doing this for you so you can fulfill your role. When they see you wasting time they get upset.

While the server does not want public attention they do have a need for appreciation that confirms that the service they are providing is necessary and has

The Gift of Evangelism

The God-given special ability to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by sharing the love of Christ with others in a way that draws them to respond by accepting God’s free gift of eternal life. People with this gift...

- Look for ways to build relational bridges with nonbelievers
- Sense when a person is open to Christ’s message.
- Have likely seen many people come to faith in Christ.
- Win others to Christ through the use of love over logic.
- Are deeply burdened for those who don’t know Jesus.

The Gift of Shepherding

The God-given special ability to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by taking spiritual responsibility for a group of believers and equipping them to live Christ-centered lives. Shepherding is another word used for this particular gift. You could have this gift if you...

- Are driven to help others reach their full potential in Christ.
- Enjoy serving others and look for opportunities to do this.
- Are good at developing personal, trust-based relationships with a small number of people.
- Have a propensity toward meeting the needs of others, willingly giving your time to help them with spiritual issues.
- Believe that people take precedence over projects.

in an appropriate way with comfort, aid, understanding, and cheerfulness. (From the Servant Driven Church p. 256)

The Spirit-given capacity and desire to serve God by identifying with and comforting those who are in distress. (Larry Gilbert)
The person who meets the practical needs of fellow Christians and the church.

"A person with the gift of mercy can sense genuine love, needs deep friendships, reacts harshly when intimate friends are rejected, has a tendency to attract emotionally distressed people, and measures acceptance by physical closeness and quality time together." Charles Stanley

The gift of mercy is the distinctive ability to feel sincere empathy and compassion in a way that results in practical relief for people's hurts, pain and suffering. (Dan Reiland)

The gift of mercy is the special attribute given by God's Spirit to members of the body to feel the hurt of others and genuinely express sympathy and provide comfort for those people. (Place Ministries)

Matt. 20-29 Mark 9:41 Luke 10:33-35 Rom. 12:8

The mercy shower likes to comfort others. He laughs and cries with people. (The Sevant-Driven Church p. 197 Ray Fulenwider)

The person with the gift of mercy desires to participate in the process of removing hurts and achieving healing. They will help those who need help, even if undeserving.

2. The purpose for the gift of mercy.

To bring relief, comfort, and hope to people who are hurting in order to help restore them to a place of peace and productivity.

To have mercy is to have compassion. Compassion goes beyond both natural sympathy and normal Christian caring. This gift comes from a special working of God's love deep within one's self. Most people feel pity for others in need, but the gift of mercy goes beyond pity. This gift bears the other person's burden. It feels the burden deeply, can't escape from it and does not want to escape from it. Mercy seeks to bring relief to the afflicted and help to the wretched. It manifests itself in acts, not words.

been done in a satisfactory manner. Their fulfillment again is in a job well done.

The person with the gift of serving likes to be around people because it provides opportunities to serve.

A person with the gift of serving will have an ability to see practical needs and a desire to meet them. He has a joy in serving when it frees others, has a tendency to disregard personal health and comfort when serving others, and has difficulty in saying no, resulting in a variety of involvement and a tendency to get sidetracked. (Bancroft, Systematic Theology, pp. 170-171)

The person with the gift of serving is great for short range goals. They have tendency to become frustrated with long term goals. They have a need to see results today.

They much prefer doing rather than planning.

They have a difficulty in saying no and will, if not careful, have a tendency to overwork and can put their health at risk.

They will many times tell the leaders of the church that they are unqualified for positions of leadership, even though these leaders see them doing a lot of the work. And if they are promoted to positions of leadership they struggle to succeed because they are very weak in delegation – Their gift tells them they should do it, not someone else.

When walking in the Spirit you will find that they are:

- very alert to needs.
- very hospitable and courteous.
- very generous.
- very joyful.
- very flexible.
- available and reliable with a "let's get this done attitude" people who endure.
- They have an enduring spirit that keeps on till the job is done.

4. Biblical example: In Philippians 2 we find a man by the name of Epaphroditus. Based on the things he was doing for the apostle Paul he had the gift of serving. Timothy may also have had this as his primary gift.

5. Some precautions and problems when it comes to the gift of service:

They are misunderstood at times because they appear to be pushy. Can be impatient.

The church misunderstands them because they many times are doing “servants work” and those in leadership may think they are not spiritual (after all you don’t ask a server to teach the Bible because we all know they aren’t always Bible scholars.)

Will have difficulty in saying no and can easily become involved in a lot of activities.

They may become resentful and bitter if not shown some appreciation.

They can, at times, think they have received a “lowly” gift because they are not a “public” ministry.

Can be critical of others who talk about ministry, but never do ministry.

They can fail to appreciate the value of a vision and a plan. They are not big picture oriented.

Will, at times, have a hard time being served but then complain that they have to do it all.

Because they make things happen and get things done, they are many times then asked to lead a project which they are not gifted for and it quickly fails. This brings about frustration and can cause them to feel bad about themselves.

Can get so involved helping someone they fail to get their own things done. Can become trapped by the urgent as opposed to doing the important.

When walking in the flesh you will find:

- they don’t recognize needs.
- they become lonely.
- they have self – pity parties.
- They become Resistant to change.
- They start stating verbally that they are going to quit.

6. Places to serve

- As a deacon, as an usher, as a parking lot attendant
- With the sound team or CD/Media ministry
- On committees like kitchen, social, or special functions, set up for services
- Youth or Children’s Ministry
- Visiting elderly, sick, needy – especial those who need
- Properties committee--cleans and fixes things
- Nursery
- Teacher assistant for a Sunday School class

The Gift of Mercy

One afternoon Katie asked her dad if she could play with her friend next door. Her dad replied it would be fine as long as she was home by 6:00 p.m. Well. 6:00 p.m. came and Katie was not home. 6:15 came and Katie was still not home. Her dad was becoming upset and finally decided to call the neighbor and ask for Katie to be sent home. When she got home at 6:30, her dad said, “Didn’t you hear me tell you to come home by 6:00 p.m.?” “Yes,” Katie replied, “But my friend’s doll broke.” Her dad mellowed a bit. “Oh, I see. And you stayed to help her fix it?” “No,” Katie whispered. “I stayed to help her cry.”

Members of the body of Christ will suffer and hurt. Pain is a real part of life. In God’s toolbox for building His Church He gives a gift to some people call mercy. This gift will be used to touch our lives at very critical times – times when we don’t need the prophet pointing out our sins and short comings, times when we don’t need someone to serve us outwardly as it is our inside that hurts, times when we don’t need the teacher to explain the meaning of some Greek word, times when we don’t need the exhorter to give seven steps to a new level of maturity, times when we don’t need the giver to give us a financial gift (money will not solve this hurt), and times when we don’t need the organizer scheduling our live so we can be more productive. We have times in our lives when we just need someone to hurt with us and God has provided such person by gifted some believers with the gift of mercy.

The person with the gift of mercy can sense people’s needs and embrace them with comfort, warmth and hope. They know how to say the right word and how to give the right touch the right way at the right time. They have great discernment, discerning when a person is facing trouble on the inside.

1. Various Definitions to explain the meaning of the gift of mercy.

The gift of mercy is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to feel genuine empathy and compassion for individuals, both Christian and non-Christian, who suffer distressing physical, mental or emotional problems, and to translate that compassion into cheerfully done deeds that reflect Christ’s love and alleviate the suffering. (C. Peter Wagner)

The God-empowered ability to identify with the hurting, causing you to respond

used. This can be handled by becoming better at casting their vision and reminding the people of what in it for them. The vast majority of the world is tuned into WIIFM! (What's In It For Me?)

They may appear at time to be more interested in the project than they are people. Because they want to finish they may become insensitive to the weariness and priorities of others. While they strive to stay orderly, they can cause others to get out of order. The person with the gift undoubtedly can bring more hurt to the body of Christ than any other gift if they are not walking in the spirit.

Characteristics when not walking in the Spirit:

- disorganized
- unaggressive - slothful and apathetic
- Unreliable
- Prideful – egotistical – will lead with intimidation as opposed to love
- Double-minded
- Fainthearted
- Unfaithful – both to those who they work for and to those who work for them.

6. Places where they serve the best:

- A pastor of a church
- Church Administrator
- Chairperson on a Ministry Team
- Organizational directors of various church programs – Bible Fellowship
- Director, Women of Wayside, Women on Mission, Greeting/Hospitality Team
- Director
- Deacon

While every gift is vital and no gift is more important than another, the gift of administration does play a distinct role as it will help the other gifts to get into action. Those who have this gift need to be diligent in using their gift for as they are the other gifts will be motivated to action.

The Gift of Teaching

Included in the “tool box” for building His Church, the Lord Jesus Christ has placed in His Body certain individuals who have the gift of teaching. These wonderful people live to give insights and instructions from the Word of God. Those with the gift of teaching are able to communicate the truth of God accurately, clearly and simply. The main goal of a teacher is declaring to the body what is truth. Because of their concern for truth they become defenders of the faith, resisting false teachers.

1. Some working definitions for the gift of Teaching:

The gift of teaching is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to communicate information relevant to the health and ministry of the Body and its members in such a way that others will learn. (C. Peter Wagner)

The God-empowered ability to understand, communicate and apply God’s Word in such a way that the teacher and the listener will learn and be motivated to have a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. (From the Servant Driven Church p. 256)

The Spirit-given capacity and desire to serve God by making clear the truth of the Word of God with accuracy and simplicity. (Larry Gilbert)
The scholar making clear the doctrines and teachings of the Bible

They are interested in in-depth Bible lessons and Bible study. (The Servant-Driven Church p. 197 Ray Fulenwider)

The gift of teaching is the distinctive ability to employ a logical, systematic approach to biblical study in preparation for clearly communicating practical truth to the body of Christ. (Dan Reiland)

The gift of teaching is the special attribute given by God’s spirit to members of the Body of Christ to communicate Biblical truths in a manner through which others can learn and understand these Biblical truths. (Place Ministries)

The person with the gift of teaching will have the desire and ability to study Scriptures and impart (present) them in a systematic and practical manner so that there is understanding and application.

2. The purpose for the gift of Teaching.

A teacher is a tremendous blessing to the body because they help others understand

God's Word. When the teacher is using their gift they are opening the eyes of fellow believers to understand God's truth so they can become more mature in Christ. They are complemented when they hear someone say, "Now I see it, or now I understand this passage." **The teacher is truth oriented.**

3. Characteristics about the gift of Teaching

Chuck Swindoll – who has this gift – says that the teacher will have four loves:

- They love the Body of Christ meaning they truly care about each Christian and they have a burning desire for every Christian to be well equipped with truth.
- The love studying the Bible- They love diving into the meanings of words. They love outlines. They love finding hidden treasure.
- The love delivering the truth. It is not enough to just find the truth, they want an avenue to share the truth. It is a passion for them.
- They love simplicity – they are gifted to take the complicated and make it simple. They know how to connect the dots so that a passage of Scripture can be understood.

Has a love for studying God's Word. They find delight in researching a subject and reporting back with as many details as possible.

Has an ability to **systematize** their notes. They want truth presented in a systematic sequence. Luke set out to write in "an orderly manner."

They are better at presenting material to a **group** than to individuals and many times are better writers than speakers.

It is interesting to note that teachers usually avoid illustration from non – biblical sources. They want a pastor to back up truth with truth.

Teachers are good for hard questions. They will listen to the various points of view and then you will usually hear them say – "let's compare."

They have an alertness for factual details. Hearing that a verse has been used out of context will greatly upset the teacher.

They are quick to detect error and are great to validate any so call new truth.

Some say they have a greater joy in researching truth than presenting it. A person with the gift of prophecy, a person with the gift of exhortation and a person with the gift of teaching can study the same passage for the same amount of time. At the conclusion of their study the prophet wants to get the message out so that people can have their lives changed. The exhorted has come up with

They have a tendency to assume responsibility if no structured leadership exist. They do not run to the front and just take charge but rather they watch to see how things are unfolding and then step in to give guidance.

They find great satisfaction and fulfillment as they see the project come together and as it is finished. They love knowing that others are satisfied with the completion of a project.

Throughout the project they will be driven to make sure the task is done orderly and as quickly as possible. They are grieved when others hold up a project or seem to be flying by the seat of their pants. They again think process. A comes before B and B before C. They strive for everything to be done decently and in order.

They have a desire for a new challenge when a previous project is complete.

When they are walking in the Spirit you will find these things happening:

- They are orderly
- They take initiative
- They are Responsible
- They are very Humble
- They are Decisive
- They are Determined
- They are Loyal

4. A biblical example would be Nehemiah

5. Some misunderstanding and problems that come with the gift of administration

The ability to delegate comes across to some as laziness and a tendency to avoid work.

Because they do endure the criticism and complaints of people they are at times viewed to be callous and insensitive. Nehemiah is a good example of being a leader who had criticism and complaints but staying positive and caring. In Neh. 4, he was willing to hear the concerns and addressed the concerns. Because he was caring and he listened, he was able to motivate his people to complete the task.

Those with this gift need to stay focused but also be realistic with a project. Part of their giftedness is to motivate people when they want to quit.

Many times they fail to explain why a task needs to be done and people feel

They have the ability to know what resources are needed and are presently available to reach a goal. As they hear the pastor sharing a vision for the church, their mind begins to think of what they have and what they need to get in order to launch this project. They are not discouraged by what they don't have and they are grieved when they start hearing negative comments about a vision. They are thinking process. Along the journey things will come together. They do not want to hear why something can't be done. They see potential.

They are strong in faith believing God will provide the resources. This keeps them positive.

They are good at decision making. It come natural and others will seek them out for direction.

They have the ability to delegate and they know what can and cannot be delegated. As they look at resources they will first look at people. They will see who is equipped, gifted, to do this project. They are looking to get the right person doing the right thing at the right time the right way.

They know how to remove themselves from detracting details in order to stay focused on the big picture. I tell my head ushers that head ushers do not usher. They are responsible for ushers and when they are ushering they cannot oversee the other ushers.

A willingness to endure critical reactions as they lead and organize. They will receive criticism. They will have to have tough skin. As they give out assignments they cannot be swayed by peoples feelings. The reason they are needed is most people are not doing what they need to do. They are motivating others to do what they ought to do. Moses is a good example here. If Moses had listen to the complaints of the people as he lead them out of Egypt, they would have immediately turned around and returned to slavery. Most people like to talk about going to the promise land, but very few are willing to pay the price to get to the promise land. The person with the gift of administration directs people to pay that price. They make people do what they don't want to do so they can become what they want to be.

They have the ability to motivate people who are discouraged in the work and keep them focused on the big picture. They not only enlist workers, they encourage workers. They will endure much pain to accomplish a project and they have the ability to motivate others to endure to the end.

They will speak of loyalty as they have a need for loyalty from those they are leading. They are grieved when they see and hear of disloyalty.

steps based on his study that will help you change your life. The teacher may be content that they have discovered the truth of the passage and may never share it.

Those with the gift of teaching will ponder what they hear in a class or from a sermon. They will not be the first to jump into a discussion. They will think, calculate and then respond. Look for them to use Scripture to back up what they are saying.

Because of their passion for Scripture to be presented as correctly and their ability to spot error many look to them as the defenders of the faith. They are quick to point out the faulty doctrines of the cults.

When they are walking in the Spirit you can expect:

- Self- control and self – discipline (They are studying to show themselves approved to God.
- Very reverent toward the Word of God and the things of God.
- Very thorough – they will leave no stone unturned to get to the truth.
- Very dependable.
- Very secure, knowing that they have done their homework.
- Very patient. They know they are searching for gold in a great mine.

4. Biblical example – Luke. **Luke 1:1-5 To set in order.**

*"Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which are most surely **believed** among us just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us it seems good to me having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first to write to you an **ORDERLY** account most excellent Theophilus that you may **KNOW** the certainty of those things which you were instructed."*

Luke 1:1-4

5. Some precautions and problems when it comes to the gift of teaching:

They may get "lost" in the details of study and get sidetracked from the ultimate purpose of the study.

They may fail to find an outlet to share what they have learned with other believers.

When teaching they may share too much information without enough application. Their facts consume their teaching so much that they forget or don't have time for application.

Many times, they have a resistance to any preacher using non-biblical illustrations.

"God never gave us His Word just for information, but for our transformation." D. L. Moody

Teachers response - that was a non biblical source so it is not valid to me.

The writer James says that "we are not to be just hearers but doers of the word."

Teachers response - you've got a point!

Can be tempted to become prideful because of being in front of people.

May be over-critical when they spot a factual error in a sermon. Can listen to a message for 39 minutes and disregard the entire message because the pastor may have said something non-precise for 10 seconds.

They can be boring as a speaker as they seek only to communicate facts. They need to grasp the teaching of Solomon who said he sought to find the right words to communicate truth so that the teaching would be like goads and nails.

They can come across as cold and indifferent – more interested in their notes than they are their pupils.

Can get so caught up in research that they do not rely on the Holy Spirit for enlightenment. They may find that they are never taking time to ask, "Lord, what do you want to say to my life?" or "How does this apply to my life?"

Some people begin to think that unless you are educated you can't have the gift of teaching. We need to realize that some of God's greatest teachers never attended any school and have no degrees – but they know the Word of God.

When walking in the flesh you will find the teacher to be:

- Incomplete with their facts
- Inconsistent
- Slothful in their study
- Disrespectful of things they hold dear
- Self-indulgent.

How does the gift of exhortation and the gift of teaching complement each other?

- The gift of teaching focuses it attention on what a person needs to know. The gift of exhortation focuses it attention on what a person needs to do.
- The gift of teaching gets us information. The gift of exhortation moves us to application.

Leadership in NEB; Organization in Phillips; He who gives aid in RSV; Those who get others to work together in LB; Administrative ability LB; Put you in charge of the work of others, LB; One who leads, Williams; Managers, Williams; Power to direct others GNMN; authority in Phillips.

In Romans 12:8 we find the Greek word to be "proistamenos" which is translated as "ruleth" in the KJV. The NKJV uses the word "leads." This word is also used in I Thess. 5:12 and translated as "those who stand in front of you".

Various translations of the New Testament have leadership (NEB), administration (Phillips), administrative ability (RSV), organization, authority (GNMM), one who leads (Williams), manager (Williams), guide (NEB), those who get others to work together (LB), and puts you in charge of work of others.

Based on the various translations of the two Greek words one has to conclude that the one who has the gift of administration will be leading. As the Greek word indicates, they will be out front, stirring the ship. They will be directing. They will be delegating. Therefore in this session we will look at the gift of administration as a gift of leadership.

2. Purpose for the gift

God has gifted this person to direct, influence, coordinate and organize people and projects according to the "big picture" in a positive way to ensure that God's dream for the church is realized.

3. Characteristics of someone with the gift of administration:

This person enjoys planning and goal setting. A daily planner is a constant companion.

They have the ability to see the big picture and see the final results of a major project before the first activity has begun.

They are gifted to break down the major goals into smaller achievable task. The size of a project does not discourage them. What makes them so valuable to the Body of Christ is the ability to see the big picture in small pieces.

They are quick to embrace a large project.

They are motivated to organize those areas in which they are responsible. They will be self-starters. A sense of fulfillment begins as they see the parts coming together.

achieve biblical goals and organizational objectives. (From the Servant Driven Church p. 256)

The God-empowered ability to set goals in accordance with God's purpose and to motivate others in the body of Christ to voluntarily and harmoniously work together to accomplish those goals for the glory of God. (From the Servant Driven Church p. 256)

The gift of leadership is the distinctive ability to influence others according to a "big picture" purpose, mission, or plan. (Dan Reiland)

The gift of administration is the distinctive ability to coordinate and organize people and projects. (Dan Reiland)

The gift of administration is the special attribute given by God's spirit to members of the Body of Christ to steer God's people into effective channels of service by understanding the resources needed to accomplish goals and plans. (Place Ministries)

The gift of leadership is the special attribute given by God's spirit to members of the Body of Christ to provide direction and goals and bring together resources and people that work together to accomplish those goals. (Place Ministries)

"One who is willing to receive or assume authority, responsibility, and accountability." — Charles Stanley

Biblical References

As we were working through the definition you may have noticed that there was a definition for the gift of leadership and the gift of administration. Some writers have separated these two gifts. I see them as one. My reasoning is based on the fact that the words that are used for them in Greek are so similar in meaning. In I Cor. 12:28 uses the Greek word "*huberneis*" is translated "government" in the KJV. This word also appears in Rev. 18:17 and Acts 27:11 where it is translated as helmsman or shipmaster. The word literally means to steer a ship. Dr. Frank Schmidt points out that the "helmsman" is not to be thought of just as a man who obeyed orders and kept his hands on the wheel, rather he is the one responsible for decision-making on the ship. This helmsman was usually not the owner, but was given complete charge of the vessel's activity in behalf of the owner. Virtually he is the captain of the ship.

Dr. Schmidt (Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary) also points out how the word is used from other translations:

- The gift of teaching tells us "what" about the Christian life. The gift of exhortation tells us the "how" of the Christian life.
- The gift of teaching communicates facts clearly and accurately. The gift of exhortation calls for actions.
- The gift of teaching is looking for someone to listen. The gift of exhortation is looking for someone to respond.
- The gift of teaching is excited when someone has learned the truth. The gift of exhortation is excited when someone is practicing the truth.

6. What are some places where the gift of teaching can serve?

- As a Sunday School teacher
- As a teacher in a Bible College
- As a teacher of teachers and pastors
- As a pastor. While not all teachers will be pastors, the gift of teaching is a great gift for a pastor to have in his gift-mix.
- A cult specialist
- A facilitator of a verse-by-verse Bible study

The Gift of Administration

God has gifted key individuals within the body of Christ with the ability to get things done. They are many times misunderstood as they take charge. They may hear from a critic, "Who died and put you in charge?" To that snide remark they simply reply: Jesus Christ. He is the one who has gifted them so that the body of Christ does more than talk about what they should be doing. Let's look some vital information to help us understand this gift.

1. A working definition for the gift of Administration

A person with the gift of administration has the ability to "visualize the final result of a major undertaking, breaks down major goals into smaller, achievable tasks, and knows what resources are available and needed to reach a goal. He can endure reaction and demands loyalty and confidence from those who are being served" (Walvoord, Holy Spirit, p. 169).

The gift of administration is the motivation to coordinate the activities of others for the achievement of "common goals". To preside over, to lead, to stand before, to distinguish major objectives and help those around him to visualize them. (Bill Gothard).

The gift of administration equips one to lead in matters of church organization and government. The person possessing this gift is enabled to direct and organize a larger group of Christians so that each one is released to perform his ministry without the hindrance of disorganization. (Kingham, Gifts of the Spirit, 85-87)

The administrator wants to organize all of these gifts to effectively work together for the glory of God as they meet the needs of the church and the community. (The Servant-Driven Church p. 198 Ray Fulenwider)

The Spirit-given capacity and desire to serve God by organizing, administering, promoting, and leading various affairs of the church. (Larry Gilbert)
The person who leads the church and its ministries.

The gift of leadership is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to set goals in accordance with God's purpose for the future and to communicate these goals to others in such a way that they voluntarily and harmoniously work together to accomplish those goals for the glory of God. (C. Peter Wagner)

The God-empowered ability to understand what makes an organization function and what is required to work with and through fellow disciples to plan and

The giver will want his or her gift to be of the highest quality. This is not however for prominence but they feel and believe their gift is being given to the Lord and the Lord deserves the best.

They do want to do more than just give. They want to feel apart of the work that they have given to. If they have given to a missionary project, they would love to be invited to see the completion.

4. **Biblical Example: Matthew.** He wrote more about giving than any of the other gospel writers dealing especially with the misuse of giving.

5. Some precautions and problems when it comes to the gift of giving:

May tend to judge people by their giving. While they don't not believe that one can judge a person's walk with God based on their giving (just because they gave a large amount to the church does not mean they are walking with God) they are tempted to judge others.

May try to control programs and projects with their gifts.

Giving with the wrong motives. Pride has a way of creeping into a person's life that has this gift.

Because they focus on money, they are many times misunderstood as people who are focused on the temporal as opposed to the eternal.

They can appear to be selfish, especially with family members, as family members will see them give large amounts of money away to others.

If they start walking in the flesh as opposed to walking in the spirit:

- They will spend money foolishly.
- They will go from simple to extravagance in their purchases. Instead of being frugal, they will be wasteful.
- Instead of being content a spirit of covetousness will rise.
- They will miss opportunities to give because they are not sensitive to needs
- They will become prejudice, cutting out groups that are not at their level
- A spirit of unthankfulness takes over. Their focus has moved from the Father in heaven to the finances on earth.

6. Places to serve

Building Committee Projects
Missionary boards and projects
Hospitality centers
Stewardship Ministry Team

The Gift of Exhortation

The **gift of exhortation** is where a person comes along side a person in the body or speaks to the whole body to encourage that person or the body to reach their potential for Christ. They are very people oriented as opposed to being project or program oriented. They are very growth oriented and they desire to see each believer become mature in Christ. For them discipleship is a key essential to the Christian life.

1. A working definition for the gift of exhortation

The gift of exhortation is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to minister words of comfort, consolation, encouragement and counsel to other members of the Body in such a way that they feel helped and healed. (C. Peter Wagner)

The God-empowered ability to comfort, reassure, strengthen, affirm, and challenge, doing it in such a way that spirits are lifted, helped and healed. (The Servant Driven Church p. 256)

The Spirit-given capacity and desire to serve God by motivating others to action by urging them to pursue a course of action. (Larry Gilbert). *The exhorter is the "how to" teacher, giving application of God's Word.*

The exhorter wants to encourage everyone and is not interested in a heavy, deep Bible lesson. He is a hugger and a feeler. (The Servant-Driven Church p. 197 Ray Fulenwider)

The gift of exhortation is the distinctive ability to appropriately communicate words of encouragement, challenge, or rebuke in the body of Christ.

There are three types of exhortation:

1. one encourages others. Acts 11:24
2. one challenges others. I Tim. 4:13
3. one rebukes others. (Dan Reiland)

The gift of exhortation/encouragement is the special attribute given by God's spirit to certain members of the Body of Christ to encourage and console the distressed and provide positive and practical steps for others to follow. (Place Ministries)

2. The purpose of the gift of exhortation:

The exhorter is used to bring health and wholeness to the body of Christ through well chosen and anointed words. Their motivation is for a believer to put into practice what the teacher has been teaching. The teacher gives us the what – the exhorter tells us how. The teacher is motivated that we know the truth – the exhorter is motivated that we apply the truth.

3. Characteristics of someone with the gift of exhortation:

A person with this gift is interested in where you are with Christ. They may ask “what has God been doing in your life lately?” They will want to know what steps you are taking to grow as they sense a responsibility to urge you to grow spiritually.

A person with the gift of exhortation urges people to achieve full spiritual maturity in Christ, discerns where a person is in his spiritual growth, and offers precise steps of action to achieve maturity. He has a ability to identify with people of different types and backgrounds in order to gain a wider hearing. He desires to explain truth with logical reasoning, seeks out face to face discussion, and welcomes personal tribulation as a motivator of personal growth. (Charles Ryrie).

While inquiring, they will seem to have a spiritual antenna that helps them to understand where you are spiritually and then they speak to you on your level.

The gift of discernment is usually part of their gift mix.

They are great for giving to you steps to growing. They are into the “How to” books and want everyone else to get into them. They understand that growth is a process so they want to know what you have done, what you are doing so they can tell you what you need to do now and tomorrow.

Encouragement comes easy and doing it brings great joy to your life.

When hearing a sermon, they are listening for the application. They are looking for the message to be practical. They want Scripture to be taught in ways that applies to daily living. Sermons that do not include a “how to” section will cause them to leave feeling let down by the sermon.

They have the ability to see potential and they even can visualize spiritual achievement for you down the road. They think about how God could use you if He had all of your life and what He could do through you if He has total access to

of appeals. Matter of fact, they are turned off when the pressure is turned up. For then to give they simply need information: time, need, how to give it, where to give it, amount needed, etc.

They are quick to support a project with their vote believing that God will provide the money. Part of their gift-mix is usually the gift of faith.

They do have a desire to use their giving to motivate others to give. They know that God blesses those who give and they want to see other members of the Body receiving God’s blessings.

"An individual with the gift of giving can discern wise investments, gives quietly, gives gifts of high quality, and tests faithfulness and wisdom by how people handle funds. He is alert to see financial needs and desires to use giving as a way to motivate others to give." (Charles Ryrie)

Those who can
see the invisible,
hear the inaudible,
think the unthinkable,
can do the impossible.

They have the ability to see financial needs that others may overlook.

They want to know that the money is being handled correctly. Sound financial principles and accountability are important to them.

They are sensitive to how others handle money believing that if you are unfaithful with something little you should not be giving more responsibilities.

Most givers have come to understand contentment and many would describe them as frugal in their spending habits.

Realizes a great joy when they find out their gift was an answer to prayer. Will many times involve their spouse in making decisions concerning giving and God will show the spouse the value of the need. This makes this gift different from other gifts.

The gift of giving is the distinctive ability to cheerfully and generously contribute of personal resources to God's work. (Dan Reiland)

The gift of giving is the special attribute given by God's spirit to members of the Body of Christ to give possessions and finances above a tithe to God's work with a cheerful and willing spirit. (Place Ministries)

The Spirit-given capacity and desire to serve God by giving of their material resources, far beyond the tithe, to further the work of God. (Larry Gilbert)

The person who meets the financial need of fellow Christians and church ministries.

The giver is interested in giving and wants more to be said about it from the pulpit. He does not understand why people do not give more. He wants to give to successful missions efforts and to significant ministries that successfully make a real difference in today's world. (The Servant-Driven Church p. 197 Ray Fulenwider)

2. The purpose of the gift of Giving

To discover and provide for the physical **needs** of the body of Christ in such a way that God is glorified, not the giver.

3. Characteristics of about the gift of giving

In telling you about the giver I would make a huge mistake today to ask for those who have the give to raise their hands. One of the most important things to know about the giver is they don't want people to know that they are givers. They watch for opportunities and then quietly meet the needs.

We must know that right up front that the gift is giving is not limited to people who have lots of money.

They have a keen ability to make wise purchases and investments in order to have more money to give away. When you think about most people, they want to save money in order to have more money, but the giver desires to save so that he will have more to give.

A desire to give quietly to effective projects or ministries without public notice. They are not motivated by praise or applause. They are not seeking public approval.

They receive tremendous enjoyment from meeting needs without the pressure

your life. They are great to have around when you are thinking about taking a step of faith.

They have the ability to point out how God is working in your life even when it seems He is not.

They can foresee the exciting things God can do with a trial that has come your way. They literally welcome trials into our lives because they know trials are tools that produce maturity.

As mentioned, they are very people oriented and are more one-on-one oriented. They desire face to face ministry. They will be analyzing you as they talk, seek to read if you are following them. This makes them good for the position of being a counselor.

They have strong people skills. Even talking with a stranger is somewhat easy for them.

Unlike the teacher they enjoy personal illustrations because to them it is a validation that the truth that has been applied works.

They stress the importance of discipleship. They firmly believe a person is to be growing and that growth takes place as you get around someone who can disciple you.

They are grieved when they see you making the same mistakes.

They will speak directly to you about a sin issue or what they perceive to be a lack of judgment in resisting a temptation. They understand that, at times, some of the best counsel they can give is a rebuke.

They usually have a very healthy self-image and are very confident when it comes to God, life, and people.

They are grieved over disunity in the body and when a disagreement happens they are one of the first to say "let me see if I can help solve this problem."

They get real excited when they see someone putting into action the steps they have laid out for them because they know life is going to get better.

4. Biblical Example: Paul and Barnabas

5. Some precautions and problems when it comes to the gift of exhortation:

They are misunderstood at times because they seem to make something that is very difficult in your life seem so small and simple. When a person is listening to

an exhorter they may find themselves thinking: "I have been struggling with this problem for years and now this person tell me that if I put into practice steps 1, 2, and 3 I will be set free. I don't believe this." They must be careful of over simplifying a very complex problem.

Can come across as uninterested in a person's feelings.

Can be viewed as uninterested in evangelism because they are so interested in discipleship.

Like the server, they can be viewed as too pushy.

They may rebuke without love. They must remember that truth is to be spoken with love.

May get overloaded with people demands. Everyone's problem becomes their problem.

May appear over-confident. For them the answers are simple and they come across as a know-it-all.

If they are not walking in the Spirit they can be very judgmental. They also can become apathetic because they get tired of people having problems. If they are not walking in the Spirit they will become selfish, not wanting to help anyone.

6. Areas of service for the exhorter

- serving in counseling
- Great as a small group teacher
- Great for one on one discipleship
- Great for a new members class
- Good to use with a group that is discouraged
- Facilitate a practical teaching Bible study

The Gift of Giving

When it comes to giving, every believer is to be involved, but God has also included in the "tool box" of His church a gift called *giving*. The gift of giving is the ability to contribute material resources to the Lord's work with generosity, frequency and cheerfulness. There are several verses of Scripture that should be looked at as we think about this gift.

"Give and it shall be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you." **Luke 6:38**

"But I say to you; He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver." **II Cor. 9:6-7**

"Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much. But one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which makes a quadrans (not worth a penny). So he called His disciples to Himself and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury for they all put in out of their abundance but she out of her poverty put in all the she had her whole livelihood." **Mark 12:41-44**

"No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave." ~ CALVIN COOLIDGE

"We make a living by what we make, but we make a life by what we give." ~ WINSTON CHURCHILL

1. A working definition of the gift of Giving:

The gift of giving is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to contribute their material resources to the work of the Lord with liberality and cheerfulness. (C. Peter Wagner)

The God-empowered ability to contribute yourself, money, time, and material resources to the work of the Lord with cheerfulness and liberality. (From the Servant Driven Church p. 256)