

Extended Gift Definitions – FACILITATOR

Administration Kybernêsis (Greek): to steer, pilot, or direct

What is the spiritual gift of Administration?

The gift of Administration is the divine enablement to understand what makes the Church of Christ function and the special ability to plan and execute procedures that accomplish the goals of the ministry. Individuals with the gift of Administration contribute organization.

Characteristics:

Adaptable, Communicator, Conscientious, Detail-Oriented, Effective, Efficient, Goal-Oriented, Objective, Organized, Reliable, Responsive, Supportive, Thorough, Vision-Building

How does the gift of Administration manifest itself?

Individuals with the gift of Administration see order in chaos. They don't get bogged down or overwhelmed with complex problems, but rather see opportunities to bring about order and discipline. Administrators are detail-oriented and may notice small nuances that others miss. This holds true for both tasks and people, and Administrators excel at organizing tasks, as well as bringing the right group of people together to achieve goals. Administrators don't need to be leaders, but are often those working behind the scenes to ensure that leaders are successful in implementing strategies and achieving group goals. The harvest of the gift of Administration is an atmosphere of peace, confidence, and sustainability.

What do people with the gift of Administration need to be aware of?

As those with the gift of Administration are focused on people and/or projects and processes, it is important they remember that individual spiritual growth – both for themselves and others – is critical. Since Administrators are often focused on details, they need to remember that small steps towards a greater goal have a divine purpose. Failure to appreciate small victories could lead Administrators to view their efforts as failed.

Biblical Example: Joseph

God, through Joseph, provided interpretation to Pharaoh's dream; namely, that there would be seven years of abundance and then seven years of famine. Joseph instructed Pharaoh to select a discerning and wise man to oversee all the land. Pharaoh decided that there was none as discerning and wise as Joseph and gave him administrative authority over all of Egypt. Joseph responsibly gathered the necessary supplies during the years of plenty and managed the storehouses well during the years of famine.

Bible References

1 Corinthians 12:28, Acts 6:1-7, Luke 14:28-30

Apostleship

Apóstolos (Greek): messenger, one sent on a mission

What is the spiritual gift of Apostleship?

The gift of Apostleship is the divine enablement to oversee the development of new serving opportunities and initiatives with spiritual clarity. In its simplest form, individuals with the gift of Apostleship have a missionary or pioneering spirit and contribute development. The gift of Apostleship is different and distinct from the ordained ministry of an Apostle. A man bearing the Apostle ministry may or may not be prominent in the gift of apostleship.

Characteristics:

Adaptable, Adventurous, Advocate, Cause-Driven, Champion, Confident in God, Culturally Sensitive, Entrepreneurial, Missionary, Persevering, Pioneer, Sees Big Picture

How does the gift of Apostleship manifest itself?

Christians with the divine gift of Apostleship are comfortable professing and growing the Kingdom of God in places it does not currently exist. Those with the gift of Apostleship have a missionary heart, which draws them across cultures. They may be active in the inner city, internationally, or elsewhere, and establish new beginnings, such as church planting. They are culturally aware and do not view different attitudes, cultures, or backgrounds as barriers to speaking about the gospel. They frequently find themselves in leadership positions and also raise up and develop others as leaders.

What do people with the gift of Apostleship need to be aware of?

By the nature of their gift and responsibilities, those with the gift of Apostleship often find themselves with authority over projects and groups. As one with influence, it is critical to remember that their gift, and the authority that stems from it, comes from God. They must be patient with those who are tasked with the day-to-day work of implementing changes and make provisions to sustain efforts before moving on to something new. Those with the gift of Apostleship need to guard against pessimism or burdening others with unrealistic demands and expectations. Mishandling this gift may suppress the Spirit in others.

Biblical Example: Timothy

Timothy was raised learning about the gospel of Jesus through his mother and grandmother. As he became a young adult, he set out on mission trips with Apostle Paul. We see the Holy Spirit working through Timothy as he testified of the Lord Jesus in various lands. Timothy strengthened the work in Macedonia, traveled with Apostle Paul to Athens, and was sent to the believers in Thessalonica to establish them in the gospel. The gift of Apostleship is prominent in his activity of establishing and strengthening congregations, in his travels, and in developing leaders for the congregations. Although he exhibits the gift of Apostleship, Timothy did not have the ministry of an Apostle.

Bible References

Acts 8:5-6, 26-40; Matthew 28:18-20

Craftsmanship

Technítês (Greek): an artisan, architect, or builder

What is the spiritual gift of Craftsmanship?

The gift of Craftsmanship is the divine enablement to use skill and creativity to design or build items to be used by those who are serving the Lord. Individuals with the gift of Craftsmanship contribute labor.

Characteristics:

Artistic, Behind-the-Scenes, Builder, Creative, Designer, Handy, Helpful, Imaginative, Inventive, Masterful, Practical, Resourceful, Skillful

How does the gift of Craftsmanship manifest itself?

Those with the gift of Craftsmanship love working with their hands. They see the value and potential in raw materials that others may not see, and apply their skill and knowledge to develop those raw materials into items that benefit others and glorify God. These souls are often practical and look to fix things that are not working right.

What do people with the gift of Craftsmanship need to be aware of?

Because they often work behind-the-scenes, those with the gift of Craftsmanship may not see themselves as an integral part of the Body of Christ. They must be mindful that their projects can bring about opportunities to personally minister to others. The Craftsman needs to remember that all works done for the purpose of glorifying God hold spiritual value and serve to build His Kingdom here on earth. Failure to recognize the eternal value of their works could lead the Craftsman to struggle in finding fulfillment.

Biblical Example: Noah

Using the directions which God gave him, Noah built the ark. While dimensions and even the types of materials were expressly given, Noah was resourceful in procuring the proper materials. He utilized the art of Craftsmanship in using the various tools needed to complete such a project. Noah needed to be practical and creative in designing rooms that would house all of the animals and the food needed to sustain them and his family. It is important to note that a Craftsman's project is a means toward a future goal and not the goal itself. Such was also the case with the ark.

Bible References

Exodus 28, Exodus 31:1-11, Exodus 35:31-35

Creative Communication

Techné (Greek): artistic or skillful expression

What is the spiritual gift of Creative Communication?

The gift of Creative Communication is the divine enablement to communicate God's truth through a variety of art forms. Individuals with the gift of Creative Communication contribute artistry.

Characteristics:

Artistic, Creative, Expressive, Idea-Oriented, Imaginative, Inspired, Musical, Passionate, Poetic, Sensitive, Skilled in Presentation, Unconventional, Worshipful

How does the gift of Creative Communication manifest itself?

Those with the gift of Creative Communication are often visual thinkers who find inviting ways to express God's Word meaningfully through art, media, language, photography, dance, music, drama, and more. They find pleasure in connecting people to the gospel with fresh perspectives. Creative Communicators are imaginative and unconventional. They have the artistic ability to translate beauty through design, speaking to the soul in a variety of ways. The harvest of the gift of Creative Communication is an engaging message of salvation, capable of connecting with all souls, despite diversity.

What do people with the gift of Creative Communication need to be aware of?

Those with the gift of Creative Communication must remember that the goal is not to draw attention to the art or the artist, but rather to God. Creative Communicators take pride in their work, which can lead to confrontation when that work is not accepted by everyone.

Biblical Example: David

Already from his youth, David exercised his gift of creative communication through music and writing. When the king was in distress, David provided soothing harp music to King Saul. David later commissioned most of the instruments and songs for the temple services. As the writer of most of the Psalms, David's written expressions have become a significant part of the most commonly read and longest book in the Bible.

Bible References

Deuteronomy 31:22, 1 Samuel 16:16, Exodus 31:3-11, 1 Chronicles 16:41-42, Acts 18:2-3, all of the Psalms

Discernment

Diakrisis (Greek): to distinguish, discern, judge or appraise

What is the spiritual gift of Discernment?

The gift of Discernment is the divine enablement to differentiate between good and evil, right and wrong, and distinguish the spirit of truth from the spirit of error. Individuals with the gift of Discernment contribute truth.

Characteristics:

Awareness, Challenging, Decisive, Insightful, Intuitive, Keenness, Perceptive, Recognize Authenticity, Spiritually Sensitive, Truthful, Wisdom

How does the gift of Discernment manifest itself?

Individuals with the gift of Discernment have an especially strong internal barometer allowing them to sense purity and sincerity, as well as impure motives, inconsistencies, and deception. Such believers can determine authenticity and intuitively recognize the source of influences. They are perceptive and may see dangers that others do not notice. Discerners can use their gift to help other believers recognize and devote themselves to truth.

What do people with the gift of Discernment need to be aware of?

Those with the gift of Discernment must be careful not to come across as judgmental. They should not criticize, but rather, speak the truth in love and humility. It is important to remember that discerners must not remain silent, as the gift has been given from God to help people find their way.

Biblical Example: Daniel

When King Nebuchadnezzar conquered Jerusalem, he brought some of the Israelites into his service, and among them was Daniel. They were assigned a daily allotment of royal food and wine, but Daniel resolved not to take of it, either because the meat was some food forbidden by Jewish law (like pork) or because accepting the king's food and drink was the first step toward depending on his gifts and favors. Even though he could've claimed that "everyone else was doing it" or that he had no choice, Daniel displayed the gift of discernment and knew what was right and true in the eyes of God. Though he only ate vegetables and drank water, he was healthier and better nourished than those who ate the royal food, and found favor with one of the king's guards. You can read this story in the book of Daniel, chapter 1.

Bible References

1 Corinthians 12:10, Philippians 1:9-10, 1 Thessalonians 5:20-22, 1 John 4:1-6

Encouragement

Parákêsis (Greek): a calling to one's side, exhortation, admonition, comfort

What is the spiritual gift of Encouragement?

The gift of Encouragement is the divine enablement to come to the side of others, comforting and strengthening those who are discouraged or struggling. Encouragers remind believers of the promises of God and exhort them to renew their relationship with Christ. Individuals with the gift of Encouragement contribute affirmation.

Characteristics:

Affirming, Building-up, Challenging, Comforting, Dependable, Inspiring, Motivating, Persuasion, Positive, Reassuring, Reminding, Renewing, Supportive, Trustworthy, Uplifting, Urging

How does the gift of Encouragement manifest itself?

The Encourager applies biblical knowledge and truth to reassure, affirm, and inspire people. They are focused on motivating others to have confidence in God's will, mature as believers, and find their place in the Body of Christ. In their loyalty, they are tireless in reassuring those who are wavering in their faith.

What do people with the gift of Encouragement need to be aware of?

Encouragers must always remember to apply biblical truth to their work because the goal is not to simply make people feel better, but to strengthen their relationship with God. Those with the gift of Encouragement need to listen and understand the other's needs before providing support. Approaching someone without understanding what motivates them can lead to confrontation.

Biblical Example: Barnabas

Barnabas was given his Aramaic name by the early believers after he sold his goods and gave the proceeds to the apostles. The name was not a random choice, but one which drew attention to Barnabas' special gift, as it translates to "son of encouragement." After John Mark deserted Paul and Barnabas during their first missionary journey, Paul was firm in not allowing him to accompany them on their second journey. Barnabas, however, desired to give John Mark a second chance. This differing of opinion led to Paul and Barnabas taking separate routes.

The gift of encouragement is clearly visible in Barnabas' ministry. He was patient and willing to give a second chance to a young believer. The impact of Barnabas' wise use of his gift is still felt by us today, as John Mark would go on to write the Gospel of Mark. You can read more about Barnabas on your own in Acts 4 through 15.

Bible References

Acts 14:22, Romans 12:6-8, Hebrews 10:25, Hebrews 13:7, 1 Thessalonians 2:11-12, 1 Timothy 4:6-16, Acts 27:20-26

Evangelism

Euangelistés (Greek): a preacher of the gospel, heralds of salvation

What is the spiritual gift of Evangelism?

The gift of Evangelism is the divine enablement to effectively communicate the gospel to unbelievers so they respond in faith and move toward discipleship in Christ. Individuals with the gift of Evangelism contribute testimony. The gift of Evangelism is different and distinct from the ordained ministry of an Evangelist. A man bearing the Evangelist ministry may or may not be prominent in the gift of Evangelism.

Characteristics:

Articulate, Candid, Commitment-oriented, Confident, Influential, Messenger, Persuader, Preacher, Respected, Sincere, Spiritually Passionate

How does the gift of Evangelism manifest itself?

Those with the gift of Evangelism are messengers that enthusiastically proclaim God's Word, which includes warning of sin, explaining God's solution (the gospel), and urging acceptance of His call to respond. Those with the gift of Evangelism seek the lost and see every interaction as an opportunity to testify. The gift of Evangelism enables people to understand the limitless nature of God's love and grace. They are not dismayed when others fail to believe. They love to share experiences of faith. The harvest of Evangelism is spreading the gospel of Christ according to His great commission.

What do people with the gift of Evangelism need to be aware of?

People with the gift of Evangelism must recognize that, if unbridled, they may approach fanaticism. Therefore, they must remember to let the Holy Spirit be their guide and let God do the convincing. Those with this gift must be careful to not turn people away with their overwhelming enthusiasm and to remember that their gift should be used in a way that makes a person want to develop a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Biblical Example: Samaritan woman at the well

Jesus approached the Samaritan woman at the well and spoke with her about deep spiritual truths. Once she realized that Jesus was the Messiah, she embraced His message with joy and went into the town to give testimony of Him. Many of the Samaritans in the town immediately came to the well to seek Jesus and learn more of Him. What makes this so remarkable is that in those days, a woman's word was not typically seen as very important – so, her testimony must have been very convincing. Through her zeal and love for God, she continued to bring witness to many in that area who also became Christians.

Note: Jesus tells His disciples that they are about to reap a harvest, but He also reminds them that they are reaping where others have sown. It is not their work alone; they may be completing what others have begun or planting a new seed. You can read about Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman in John 4.

Bible References

Luke 24:1-11, John 4:38-42, Acts 8:26-40, Acts 14:15-17, Ephesians 4:11-14, 2 Timothy 4:1-5

Faith Pistis (Greek): conviction of truth, belief, fidelity

What is the spiritual gift of Faith?

The gift of Faith is the divine enablement to live with untiring certainty in God's desire and ability to fulfill His promises. Individuals with the gift of Faith contribute confidence.

Characteristics:

Assured, Believing, Committed, Confident, Convicted, Dedicated, Devoted, Firm Persuader, Hopeful, Inspiring, Loyal, Optimistic, Positive, Prayerful, Reliant, Steady, Trusting

How does the gift of Faith manifest itself?

Those with the gift of Faith live boldly and place the full weight of their lives in God's hands. They are rooted in a close relationship with God and have absolute confidence in His will, trusting that He has a plan for their lives. Those with the gift of Faith are keenly aware of the spiritual, along with the natural. This enables them to inspire others in belief that God plays an active role in their lives through answered prayers. They build up the church in its confidence, advancing the cause of Christ.

What do people with the gift of Faith need to be aware of?

Those with the gift of Faith must exercise patience for new believers or those struggling with doubt. They should also be mindful that there are situations where their faith can be misplaced. Planning and organizing should never be viewed as a lack of faith. Faith alone is not sufficient; those with this gift must be ready to act upon it. Apostle James warns that faith without works is dead (James 2: 20).

Biblical Example: Abraham

Abraham is the first example we will use to describe and better understand the spiritual gift of Faith. He is often referred to as the Father of Faith. In the Bible, we find a number of prominent accounts of Abraham's faith. The first is when God asked him to leave his country, not knowing where he was going, to a land that God would only later show him. The second account of Abraham's faith is when God promised him a son, and furthermore, promised that he would be the father of great nations. Abraham's great faith is also exemplified when God asked him to sacrifice his long-awaited son, Isaac.

Bible References

Matthew 8:5-13, Matthew 15:21-28, Luke 1:26-38, Acts 11:22-24, Romans 4:18-21, 1 Corinthians 12:7-9

Giving

Metadídōmi (Greek): to impart or to give without motives

What is the spiritual gift of Giving?

The gift of Giving is the divine enablement to be charitable with money or resources without tying conditions or demands to generosity. Individuals with the gift of Giving contribute resources.

Characteristics:

Benevolent, Charitable, Contributor, Diligent, Disciplined, Generous, Practical, Resourceful, Responsible, Stewardship-oriented, Trust in God

How does the gift of Giving manifest itself?

The gift of Giving isn't limited to those with great means, but is manifest through the attitude of the giver – to give out of sincerity without any thought of return. Givers are happy to make sacrifices and dedicate a significant portion of what God has given them, in addition to their tithe, and acknowledge that Christ is their motivation for giving. Givers often shape their lifestyles to fit their discipleship, finding unique ways to be charitable. They don't limit themselves to only monetary contributions.

What do people with the gift of Giving need to be aware of?

Givers must be willing to give without attaching strings to the gift and should guard against using their generosity to shift a leader's direction. They must be aware that giving is not all that they are called to do. It is also necessary to be aware that some people may be prone to take advantage of their generosity. Those with the gift of Giving must remember that their material contribution supports the work of God's kingdom and that everything they have to give has ultimately come to them from God.

Biblical Example: Joseph of Arimathea

We often think of the gift of giving as only money, but we can see with this example that it can mean a variety of things. The Bible tells us that Joseph of Arimathea was a rich, prominent member of the Council, and was also a disciple. After Jesus died on the cross, Joseph used his influence to ask Pilate for the body of Jesus, which was then given to him. He bought a clean, linen cloth to wrap the body in and then placed Jesus in the tomb he had, which was close to the place of crucifixion. Joseph used his influence and resources to care for the body of Jesus. The story of Joseph can be found in all four of the Gospels.

Bible References

Mark 12:41-44, Luke 3:11, Acts 4:32-37, Acts 20:35, Romans 12:6-8, 2 Corinthians 8:1-7, 2 Corinthians 9:6-15, Luke 10:30-37, Matthew 6:1-4

Helps

Antílepsis (Greek): to provide relief, aid, or help

What is the spiritual gift of Helps?

The gift of Helps is the divine enablement to joyfully lend support and meet the needs of others, often through hands-on activities. Individuals with the gift of Helps contribute support.

Characteristics:

Aiding, Attending, Assisting, Available, Dependable, Helpful, Humility, Loyal, Practical, Providing, Reliable, Serving, Whatever-it-takes Attitude, Willing

How does the gift of Helps manifest itself?

Those who help have the ability to see missing pieces or gaps and fill them inconspicuously. Those with the gift of Helps gain enjoyment from serving others. Helpers not only see tasks that need to be done, but apply spiritual significance to those tasks, recognizing the value of freeing others up to focus on their giftedness. They often work behind-the-scenes, finding joy in doing the work that others might view as burdensome or particularly mundane. Helps is a gift where people contribute in often small, yet significant, ways so that activities and events can proceed to the glory of God seamlessly.

What do people with the gift of Helps need to be aware of?

Helpers need to be aware that their contributions may not be noticed or widely appreciated. They must be able to draw joy from the knowledge they are working for God, and not for man. Those with the gift of Helps should be careful not to be judgmental of others who need to be asked to help. Helpers are cautioned to be responsive to the priorities of leadership, instead of setting their own agenda. Being prone to over-extending themselves, those who help may be taken advantage of, so they must know when to say “no” or they risk burning out.

Biblical Example: Ruth

Since both Ruth and Naomi had become widows and had no sons to provide for them, Ruth took it upon herself, with a willing heart, to provide for her mother-in-law and herself by gleaning fields. As gleaning, collecting the bits of grain which are left after a crop is harvested, is a very tedious task, Ruth exhibited a “what-ever-it-takes” attitude. She proved to be very loyal and dependable.

Bible References

Luke 22:24-27, 1 Corinthians 12:28, Romans 12:6-7, Acts 6:1-7, Acts 9:36, Romans 16:1-2, Philippians 4:2-3

Hospitality

Philóxenia (Greek): fondness of guests, generous to strangers

What is the spiritual gift of Hospitality?

The gift of Hospitality is the divine enablement to deliver both natural care and soul care to people by providing fellowship, food, and shelter. The gift of Hospitality is needed to fulfill our Vision statement, "...a church where people feel at home." Individuals with the gift of Hospitality contribute comfort.

Characteristics:

Caring, Communicator, Enthusiastic, Friendly, Gracious, Inviting, Kind-Hearted, Outgoing, Peacemaking, Responsive, Sensitive, Sincere, Trustworthy, Warm

How does the gift of Hospitality manifest itself?

Those with the gift of Hospitality excel at creating environments of safety and trust where others feel welcome and at home. Understanding the needs of others, they help people feel valued and cared for. They are focused on building relationships and may even put the needs of others ahead of their own. Those with this gift don't view fellowship as a task, but rather as a lifestyle. They often include outsiders and can pin-point activities that encourage them to be engaged. Believers with this gift are often also comforters and peacemakers. The harvest of Hospitality is an atmosphere of acceptance and abundance.

What do people with the gift of Hospitality need to be aware of?

Hospitality isn't the same as entertaining. It is serving, and should always be viewed as such. While those with the gift of Hospitality may be drawn to invite others into their homes, it must not lead to a situation in which their own family feels neglected.

Biblical Example: Mary and Martha

When one thinks of the gift of Hospitality, perhaps one is drawn to the story of Mary and Martha. Martha, who was consumed with preparing a meal for her guests, became upset with her sister Mary, who chose to sit at the feet of Jesus rather than help with the preparations. Martha became so irritated with her sister's actions that she asked for Jesus' help. Jesus reprimands Martha for being so consumed with the preparations and commends Mary for choosing to listen. This is an example of Martha growing in her gift. Hospitality is very important to Martha, and all she could focus on was that Mary didn't want to help with serving the meal. In this example, Martha's actions were more self-serving, and she did not see value in how Mary was serving Jesus. She did not realize that in her strong desire to serve in hospitality, she was essentially neglecting her guest! You can read this experience with Martha and Mary in Luke 10:38-42.

Bible References:

John 12:2-8, Acts 16:11-15, Romans 12:13, Hebrews 13:1-2, 2 Corinthians 8:1-7, 1 Peter 4:9-10

Intercession

Énteuksis (Greek): a meeting with, prayer, petition, supplication

What is the spiritual gift of Intercession?

The gift of Intercession is the divine enablement to have an awareness of the needs of others and put the gift into action by praying on their behalf. Individuals with the gift of Intercession contribute prayer.

Characteristics:

Advocate, Burden-bearer, Caring, Confident in God, Dedicated, Disciplined, Empathetic, Giving, Kind, Loving, Open, Peacemaker, Pleading, Prayerful, Reliable, Sincere, Spiritually Sensitive, Trustworthy

How does the gift of Intercession manifest itself?

The ultimate expression of Intercession is fervent prayer for others. Those blessed with this gift feel regular impulses of the Holy Spirit, guiding them toward people or causes needing prayerful attention. Having a daily awareness of spiritual battles, the Intercessor feels honored when others ask for their prayers and pleads with great confidence. The upright life of an Intercessor is a means to touch the heart of God (James 5:16). A close, personal relationship with God opens the way for continual communication. They are convinced that God directly responds to prayer. Intercession can also take the form of speaking up for someone (John 8:1-7).

What do people with the gift of Intercession need to be aware of?

Intercessors must remain patient when anticipating answers to prayers and be prepared for the possibility that God may choose to answer in a way that either defies human logic or is not visible to them. They may feel a sense of emptiness if they do not see results. Extended times of prayer should not be used as an escape from fulfilling one's responsibilities. Spiritual intimacy with God, gained through prayer, should also never entice us to place ourselves above others.

Biblical Example: Abraham

When God was displeased with the activity in Sodom and Gomorrah, He sought to destroy the people and their cities. Abraham pleaded with God, interceding with God on their behalf. God's initial response to Abraham was that if He found fifty righteous people, He would not destroy the city. Abraham pleaded that if even forty-five were found righteous, the city would be spared. Abraham continued pleading to God, asking if forty righteous were found, could the city be spared, then thirty, then twenty, and finally ten. Abraham pleaded and interceded six times that the city should not be destroyed if righteous were found within.

Bible References

Luke 2:36-38, John 17:9-26, 1 Timothy 2:1-4, Colossians 1:9-12, James 5:16

Knowledge Gnôsis (Greek): understanding, moral intelligence of the faith

What is the spiritual gift of Knowledge?

The gift of Knowledge is the divine enablement that requires wisdom to pursue and realize biblical insights and to clarify these revelations for others. Individuals with the gift of Knowledge contribute understanding.

Characteristics:

Diligent, Informed, Inquisitive, Insightful, Intelligent, Learned, Observant, Reflective, Responsive, Sincere, Spiritually Sensitive, Studious, Truthful, Wise

How does the gift of Knowledge manifest itself?

Those blessed with the gift of Knowledge find it easy to apply modern examples to biblical teachings. They analyze information efficiently and illuminate these understandings, allowing others to apply them practically in their lives. Purposeful in their study, they read and reflect on Scripture, organizing information for teaching and practical use. However, not all of their knowledge is gained by natural observation or means, but can be inspired by the Holy Spirit. Their unique spiritual insights can be used as a tool to bridge the spiritual with the concerns of others. Sharing the gift of Knowledge is a great help unto teachers.

What do people with the gift of Knowledge need to be aware of?

Knowledge is not an end unto itself, but reaches its ultimate expression when shared with others. Those with the gift of Knowledge should be wary of becoming prideful, as knowledge puffs up (1 Corinthians 8:1). Remember that this gift is not a result of human intelligence and cannot be attained by study alone, but is revealed by God for the purpose of understanding Him, His Word, and His kingdom.

Biblical Examples: Paul

Being a Roman citizen, Paul was learned and also had privileges wherever he went. After experiencing the revelation of the Lord Jesus, Paul proclaimed Jesus Christ as Savior and taught the gospel. Though Paul was not present when Jesus walked amongst His disciples, he gained knowledge through the Holy Spirit and continued to teach and exhort others to believe in Jesus Christ and be baptized.

Bible References

Acts 8:26-40, Romans 15:14, 1 Corinthians 12:7-8, 2 Corinthians 11:6, Colossians 2:1-4

Leadership

Proístēmi (Greek): respected character providing a model for direction

What is the spiritual gift of Leadership?

The gift of Leadership is the divine enablement to clearly cast a vision, direct, and motivate people to work together toward a common goal. Those with this gift lead to Christ, not themselves. Individuals with the gift of Leadership contribute direction.

Characteristics:

Diligent, Energetic, Flexible, Goal-setter, Governing, Guide, Influential, Managing, Motivating, Orchestrating, Persuasive, Protector, Respected, Self-Aware, Trustworthy, Visionary

How does the gift of Leadership manifest itself?

Leaders see the big picture and are able to clearly convey the vision. They tend to be charismatic, with the intrinsic ability to instill enthusiasm and focus others in a common direction. Good Leaders model values that uphold the cause, taking responsibility for failures and crediting others for successes. They see the potential in others and help them mature in Christ by inspiring their spiritual giftedness. Effective Leaders know when to delegate and who to turn to, matching the need with the appropriate gift.

What do people with the gift of Leadership need to be aware of?

Leaders need to be patient because not everyone will see the vision immediately. They help others to understand that the end goal is worth short-term sacrifice. It is not necessary for someone with Leadership to hold an official title or an ordained ministry in order to utilize this gift. Failure to accept this could cause a Leader to struggle to find their place in the Body of Christ. Leaders must be diligent and consistent in their reliance on God. They don't draw people to themselves, but to God. Out of humility, good spiritual Leaders acknowledge their weaknesses and errors, seeking wise counsel and support. The best spiritual Leaders are servant-minded. The greatest Leader, Jesus, was a servant of all.

Biblical Example: Moses

God chose Moses to lead His people out of Egypt. Throughout the various plagues that God brought and rescinded through Moses, God made Moses great in the sight of all the people. Moses also chose able men as heads over the people, so that every matter could be tended to, with the exception of the difficult cases, which were still handled by Moses. For forty years, Moses continued to provide God's word to the people, leading them to the Promised Land.

Bible References

Luke 22:25-26, Romans 12:6-8, 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13, 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Hebrews 13:17

Mercy

Eleēō (Greek): to have compassion on, help the afflicted

What is the spiritual gift of Mercy?

The gift of Mercy is the divine enablement to perceive suffering and demonstrate compassion, thereby bringing help, relief, and comfort to those in need. Individuals with the gift of Mercy contribute dignity.

Characteristics:

Benevolent, Burden-Bearing, Caring, Comforting, Compassionate, Consoling, Empathetic, Gentle, Kind, Patient, Persistent, Responsive, Sensitive, Tender

How does the gift of Mercy manifest itself?

Those with the gift of Mercy act upon the compassion they feel towards those in pain; whether it be physical, mental, emotional or spiritual. They are drawn to those who are lonely, oppressed, or forgotten by others. They serve others by offering God's solutions with love, grace, and dignity - not pity - and do not shy away from the most difficult of circumstances. Individuals with Mercy envision potential in others and exhibit patience when providing relief to those with personal hardship or crisis. They graciously offer a shoulder to cry on and never show judgment towards those in pain. Because those with the gift of Mercy are empathetic, they may find it easier to forgive others as well.

What do people with the gift of Mercy need to be aware of?

Those with the gift of Mercy extend themselves and may become deeply and emotionally involved in the life of someone else, which can lead to disappointment or even anger when their efforts are not met with sufficient thanks. Caring for those in need is stressful, which can sometimes overwhelm the one providing care. Those with Mercy must be aware that rescuing people from, and carrying all of someone's pain, may not be appropriate and can sometimes also hinder God's work in them.

Biblical Example: Joseph

Joseph's brothers, in their extreme jealousy, sold him into slavery and lied to their father that Joseph was attacked by a wild animal and killed. Joseph eventually rose to great power in Egypt. During a great famine, Joseph's brothers came to Egypt for food. They were brought before Joseph, but did not recognize him. Joseph, however, knew very well that the men before him were his brothers. Joseph had every right to treat them poorly or to not give them food during their time of need. Although Joseph would have been justified due to all the wrongdoings of his brothers, he showed mercy unto them by forgiving them and sharing his prosperity. For in his wisdom, Joseph knew that it was God who sent him to Egypt for this purpose, not his brothers. You can read the story of Joseph and his brothers in Genesis 37 through 45.

Bible References

Matthew 5:7, Matthew 25:34-40, Mark 9:41, Luke 10:25-37, Acts 2:43-47, Acts 9:36, Romans 12:6-8, James 2:14-17

Shepherding

Poimén (Greek): tending and caring for the well-being of others

What is the spiritual gift of Shepherding?

The gift of Shepherding is the divine enablement to nurture, care for, and guide people toward ongoing spiritual maturity and becoming like Christ. Individuals with the gift of Shepherding contribute guidance.

Characteristics:

Caring, Compassionate, Disciple-maker, Guiding, Influencing, Mentoring, Nurturing, Propelling, Protective, Relational, Sacrificial, Steering, Supportive

How does the gift of Shepherding manifest itself?

Shepherds are protective and fully devoted. They care deeply about the spiritual development of others. They establish trust, loyalty, and confidence, providing long-term guidance and oversight as they gently encourage souls. Favoring strong relationships in a small group, Shepherds are patient yet persistent, understanding that not all believers mature at the same pace. Sometimes they even discipline in love. A Shepherd is concerned over and tends to needs in all aspects of one's life – spiritual, social, and emotional. The harvest of Shepherding is making souls secure and strong in Jesus Christ.

What do people with the gift of Shepherding need to be aware of?

Shepherding can quickly become enabling, therefore they must be aware of when to say “no.” Conversely, when followers grow beyond the scope of the Shepherd's care, they must be allowed to grow beyond their mentor. Shepherds must be diligent not to abuse the trust placed in them. They must also be careful not to neglect their own spiritual development and should find a Shepherd of their own who can nurture them. While Shepherds may see potential in others, they must be careful not to impose their vision on another. Instead, they should allow the Holy Spirit to enlighten. Shepherds can also become smothering and/or dominating if not careful.

Biblical Example: Eunice and Lois

Shepherds care for their flock by ensuring they have all they need to grow strong and healthy. Timothy's mother, Eunice, and grandmother, Lois, shepherded him during the early part of his life. In his second letter to Timothy, Paul notes their sincere faith, which he now sees alive within the young believer. Their kind, loving investment helped ensure Timothy would grow spiritually strong and healthy, and have the opportunity to realize his spiritual gifts (2 Timothy 1:5).

Bible References

John 10:1-18, Acts 18:18-28, Ephesians 4:11-12, 1 Timothy 4:6-16, Hebrews 13:7 & 17, 1 Peter 5:1-5

Teaching

Didáskalia (Greek): to instruct or bring understanding

What is the spiritual gift of Teaching?

The gift of Teaching is the divine enablement to comprehend, clearly communicate, and help others apply God's Word to their lives, bringing about spiritual maturity. Individuals with the gift of Teaching contribute enlightenment.

Characteristics:

Analytical, Articulate, Authoritative, Clarifying, Comprehensive, Demonstrating, Detailed, Disciplined, Enlightening, Explaining, Instilling, Perceptive, Practical, Reflective, Revealing, Systematic, Teachable

How does the gift of Teaching manifest itself?

Spiritual Teachers have a thirst for knowledge, always looking to understand God's Word at a deeper level. They excel at explaining complex ideas to others and effectively communicate across all ages and depths of understanding. For Teachers, opening the eyes of others is a joy, not a burden. Teachers are able to keep the attention of those they instruct and inspire others to fulfill their calling. Teachers are inspired by the Spirit and must have an understanding of the gospel, as well as the church's current doctrine and catechism.

What do people with the gift of Teaching need to be aware of?

The ability of Teachers to understand complex ideas does not stem from their own superiority, but comes as a divine gift from God's grace. Teachers must not become so detailed that they fail to translate their knowledge into life application. They should avoid pride, remembering that spirituality is not measured by knowledge. Teachers must draw their students to Christ and not to themselves.

Biblical Example: Philip

Acts 8 gives us two examples of Philip using the gift of teaching. First, we see him in the city of Samaria, teaching and speaking about the Messiah. Even Simon, a sorcerer, comes to believe after being enlightened by Philip's teachings. Then in verse 26, we come to the story of Philip and the eunuch. Philip is walking alongside the chariot when the eunuch asks Philip to explain the Book of Isaiah to him. Philip explains Isaiah through the lens of the gospel, bringing relevance to this ancient text and leading the eunuch to understanding and even to becoming baptized.

Bible References

Romans 12:6-7, 1 Corinthians 12:28-29, Acts 8:4-40, Acts 18: 24-28, Acts 20:20-21, 2 Timothy 1:5, 2 Timothy 2:2

Wisdom

Sophia (Greek): enlightenment, broad and full knowledge

What is the spiritual gift of Wisdom?

The gift of Wisdom is the divine enablement to practically and effectively apply a spiritual truth to meet a need in a specific situation. Believers with the gift of Wisdom contribute perspective.

Characteristics:

Common Sense, Disciplined, Experienced, Fair, Insightful, Learns from mistakes, Listener, Modest, Observant, Patient, Perceptive, Possess Self-Control, Practical, Prioritize, Reflective, Sensible

How does the gift of Wisdom manifest itself?

Those blessed with the divine gift of Wisdom find clarity in even the most difficult or paradoxical situations. They are able to reflect upon life experiences and find easy ways to explain divine truth through parables, analogies, and stories to assist others in applying this knowledge. The Wise understand causes of events and act as examples of courage in the face of adversity, knowing and trusting that God will provide. They have the ability to focus on unseen consequences and offer divine solutions during conflict or confusion. The harvest of Wisdom is an outlet for God's guidance.

What do people with the gift of Wisdom need to be aware of?

Those blessed with the divine gift of Wisdom must be careful not to be overbearing or patronizing with those who may not share the same insights. Failure to share their insights limits the benefits of the gift and does not allow it to reach its full expression. However, those with this gift must avoid giving advice for the sake of advice and allow others the benefit of experience. Thus, Wisdom requires balance. It is important that others do not develop a dependence upon them.

Biblical Example: Solomon

King David's prayer for his son, Solomon, was that the Lord give him wisdom and understanding that, as king, Solomon might fulfill God's statutes and judgments. God approached Solomon in a dream, and said, "Ask! What shall I give you?" Solomon asked for wisdom and an understanding heart. God was moved and provided not only what was requested, but also all things that Solomon did not ask for. The Bible states that King Solomon became greater than all the kings of the earth in riches and in wisdom.

A specific account of Solomon's wisdom was when two women each claimed to be the mother of a baby. Solomon instructed that the baby be cut in half, knowing that the actual mother would want to keep the child safe. When one woman cried out to keep the baby whole and give her to the other woman, Solomon declared this same woman the mother.

Bible References

1 Corinthians 2:1-14, 1 Corinthians 12:8, 1 Corinthians 13:8-13, James 1:5-8, James 3:13-18, 2 Peter 3:14-18