

# STEWARDS OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

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## SPIRITUAL GIFTS

The Scriptures speak about Christians possessing individual spiritual gifts. “Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant . . . eagerly desire spiritual gifts.” (1 Cor. 12:1 & 14:1) It is God’s will that Christian stewards be good managers of the individual spiritual gifts bestowed upon them by the Holy Spirit. Every Christian is blessed with at least one. Some possess more. The gifts are to be used for the benefit of the Church and in behalf of people in general. They should not be confused with “*talents*”, genetically created God-given special abilities (i.e., music, art, physical abilities, etc.). Furthermore, they are not “*Christian roles*” related to public ministries established by God for the benefit of the Church (apostles, evangelists, prophets, pastors, teachers ... Eph. 4:11; Titus 1:5; 2 Cor.12:29a). Neither should individual spiritual gifts be confused with “*general gifts*” such as the “fruits of the Spirit” listed in Gal. 5:22-23 ... love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Such are given to all Christians to a lesser or greater degree.

## INDIVIDUAL SPIRITUAL GIFTS

> **Proclamation** - A gift to properly understand and witness God’s Word to others or apply it effectively for given situations. (1 Cor. 14:1-5, 19-33, 37-40)

> **Teaching** - The gift of effective communication skills for the teaching of God’s Word to others individually or in classes. (Rom. 12:7; 1 Tim. 4:11-16; Heb. 5:12-14)

> **Exhortation** - The Holy Spirit gives this gift to certain Christians to convey counsel, encouragement and comfort to others. (Acts 11:23-24; 14:21-22; 1 Thess. 2:11)

> **Wisdom** - Understanding God’s will regarding proper decisions for daily living and solving problems. (James 3:13-17; Acts 6:1-6, 8-10; 1 Kings 3:16-28)



> **Knowledge** - A gift to understand God’s truths in an exceptional way and make them relevant in specific situations. (Eph. 3:14-19; 2 Kings 5:20-27; 6:8-12; 1 Cor. 2:11-16; 8:1-2)

> **Serving** - The spiritual gift to identify the needs of people and implement plans to meet those needs. (Gal. 6:1-2; 1 Peter 4:10-11; Rom. 12:7; Luke 22:24-27)

> **Helping** - This gift enables particular Christians to share the burdens of others, help them cope and accomplish tasks more easily. (Acts 6:2-4; 1 Cor. 12:29; Acts 20:34-35; Rom. 16:1-2)

> **Leadership** - Certain Christians are gifted to motivate, direct and inspire others to willingly accomplish things. (Heb. 13:7; Judges 3:10; Ex. 18:13-26; Rom. 12:8; 1 Thess. 5:12-13)

> **Administration** - The gift of managing, seeing solutions, establishing

proper goals and implementing them. (Acts 15:12-21; Ex. 18:17-18, 21-22; 1 Cor. 12:28)

> **Giving** - The special gift to generously share material wealth willingly and cheerfully. (2 Cor. 8:1-5; Rom. 12:8; Acts 4:32-37; 2 Cor. 9:6-15)

> **Mercy** - Exceptional sympathy for those suffering and the ability to lovingly alleviate hurts and concerns. (Rom. 12:8; 2 Tim. 1:16-18; Luke 10:30-37)

> **Discernment** - The ability to know clearly what is good or bad; beneficial or detrimental. (Acts 5:1-10; 16:16-18; 8:18-21; 1 John 4:1-6)

> **Extraordinary Faith** - An exceptional trust in God’s power, enabling great accomplishments and heroic stands. (Heb. 11; Matt. 21:18-22)

> **Other Gifts** . . . miracles; healing; exorcism; tongues; interpretation of tongues; celibacy; voluntary poverty; martyrdom.

## HELPS TO RECOGNIZE GIFTS

1. Pray to discern them.

2. Try out as many as possible.

3. Ask others if they see particular gifts in you.

“**Spiritual Gifts Identification**” has 65 statements to help you identify your personal gift(s). A Talent Form will help you put the gift(s) to use.

Contact: [www.selc.lcms.org](http://www.selc.lcms.org) (>Stewardship >Personal Stewardship) or call 1-440-582-6140.