THE GIFTS OF OTHERS

The Gifts of Others

Gifts can and should be recognizable within the Body. People ought to be able to see the gift of teaching or the generosity exhibited by giving or be convicted by the gift of prophecy. Take a moment now to see how easy it might be to identify someone's area(s) of giftedness:

Read Romans 16 where Paul lists some of his friends and co-workers. For many, he says one or two words that are a clue to their giftings.

Name	Gift or Role Mentioned	Benefit to Paul or the church (if mentioned)
Phoebe (v. 1-2)		
Priscilla and Aquila (v. 3-4)		
Mary (v. 6)		
Gaius (v. 23)		
Erastus (v. 23)		

As you may have noted, Phoebe's gifts may have been giving ("the benefactor of many people") and helps or leadership (deacon). Priscilla and Aquila hosted a house church—maybe that's leadership, possibly hospitality, potentially teaching or apostleship. Mary's hard work may indicate gifts of helps or administration. Gaius shows hospitality. Erastus' job as director of public works is mentioned, maybe a reflection of leadership or administration or knowledge.

In Acts 4, we see Joseph nicknamed Barnabas by the apostles—a name meaning "son of encouragement" (Acts 4:36)—likely because Barnabas had the gift of exhortation. In Acts 6, church needs were growing, but the apostles felt compelled to remain focused on prayer and teaching (part of their calling and gifting). So, they looked for people who were "known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom" (Acts 6:3-4). They chose seven, one of whom was Stephen, also described as "a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 6:5-6) who additionally was able, through God's power, to perform "great wonders and signs among the people" (Acts 6:8). Based on this information, Stephen may have had gifts of wisdom, faith, and miraculous powers.

Can you identify one or more other Biblical characters' gifts? List those here:

Identifying the Gifts of Others

Refer to the Gifts Chart below, and complete the following:

1. Read the brief definitions and descriptors for each of the gifts.
2. As you do so, does God bring to mind a person or persons who have exhibited that gift? Write those names in the space provided on each page.
3. Pick at least one person and make time to affirm and encourage them and their use of their gift(s) this week.

Spiritual Gifts Chart

Gift	Brief Definition: Those with gifts of _____...:	Descriptors:	Name Someone You Think Has This Gift:
Administration	...bring efficiency and order to the church and to other organizations. These are usually the planners, goal-setters, or managers. They look for new ways to help people and tasks be more effective.	Organizer Strategizer Developer	
Apostleship	...introduce new ministries to the church. They blaze new trails, pioneer new endeavors, and step out into uncharted territory. They may have a great desire to reach out to unreached peoples and to spread the vision of the mission of the church.	Starter Entrepreneur Pioneer	
Artistic Expression	...have a special ability to communicate God's message through the fine arts, including drama, creative writing, music, and drawing. Through their God-given creativity, they use their gifts to draw others in and focus on God, His creation, and His message to us.	Expressive Innovative Creative	
Craftsmanship	...are uniquely skilled at working with raw materials, helping to create things that are used for ministry or that help meet tangible needs. They can be found fixing, remodeling, and sprucing up buildings, and/or creating and stitching items–honoring God and benefitting His people in practical ways.	Creative Skilled Resourceful	
Discernment	...distinguish between good and evil, truth and error, right and wrong. These people provide much-needed insight, point out inconsistencies in teaching God's Word, challenge deceitfulness in others, help sort out impure motives from pure ones, and identify spiritual warfare.	Intuitive Perceptive Sensitive	

Gift	Brief Definition: Those with gifts of _____...:	Descriptors:	Name Someone You Think Has This Gift:
Evangelism	...seem to be always seeking to build meaningful relationships with non-believers and are often able to steer conversations with these people to spiritual things. They communicate the good news of Jesus to unbelievers in such a way that they see people believe and commit to following Christ.	Forthright Influential Heart for the lost	
Exhortation	...offer a word of hope combined with a gentle push to action to those who are discouraged, tentative, or needing direction. People with this gift come alongside to offer reassurance and affirmation, and, when needed, to challenge or confront, all with the goal of seeing others grow to greater maturity in their faith.	Affirming Motivator Heartening	
Faith	...have that extra measure of confidence in God and His promises, helping inspire others to greater belief. Those with this gift live constantly in the knowledge that God works all things for their good and the good of others who are called according to His purposes.	Believing Hopeful Secure	
Giving	...have an extra measure of the ability to be generous. People with this gift live as if everything they have belongs to God, knowing that God will provide for their needs. Giving may involve money as well as other resources like housing, food, clothing, etc.	Resourceful Sacrificial Steward	
Helps	...meet the practical needs of others and of the church/organizations in order to enhance, support, or accomplish ministry. Indicators of someone with the gift of helps are that he/she serves willingly, cheerfully, humbly, and wherever needed.	Humble Available Dependable	
Hospitality	...have the divine ability to make people feel welcome and accepted--anywhere at any time. People with this gift enjoy connecting people with each other and creating an atmosphere where relationships and community can flourish.	Accepting Welcoming Friendly	

Gift	Brief Definition: Those with gifts of _____...:	Descriptors:	Name Someone You Think Has This Gift:
Intercession	...feel compelled by God to pray on a daily basis for others. They are completely convinced of the awesome power and necessity of prayer. They pray as a first response to any given situation, during that situation, and afterwards.	Faithful Trusting Aware	
Knowledge	...bring Biblical truth and God-given insight to the church. They may also receive a word from God that is uniquely timed and tailored for a given situation. People with the gift of knowledge may also be those who have a keen desire to study and know God's Word, and God may use this understanding of Scripture to speak a word of knowledge to a person or group.	Aware Perceptive Student of Scripture	
Leadership	...are visionary, good motivators, and effective directors--helping inspire others to achieve God's purpose. Leadership involves not only having a vision of the preferred future for the church or an organization, but also having clarity on next steps to achieve that vision, the ability to communicate vision in a way that inspires others, and the ability to equip the rest of the team to pursue the same direction together.	Visionary Goal-oriented Credible	
Mercy	...provide comfort, support, and presence to those who are suffering, in crisis, or otherwise hurting. Those with this gift reach out to others who are broken, having themselves experienced God in their own brokenness. They show God's heart to those who need the empathy of a listening ear.	Caring Compassionate Kind	
Prophecy	...have the gift that God uses to convict His people of sin and their need for repentance. Prophecy brings warning, challenge, correction, and confrontation without compromise.	Exposes Challenges Bold	
Shepherding	...provide nurture and guidance to others so that they grow in spiritual maturity and Christ-like character. People with the shepherding gift seek to walk alongside someone for a long or short season and direct them to Jesus and His offer of life, hope, and peace.	Fosters health Guide Counselor	

Gift	Brief Definition: Those with gifts of _____...:	Descriptors:	Name Someone You Think Has This Gift:
Teaching	...study, understand, explain, and apply Scripture's truths in such a way that people grow in their own understanding, are challenged, and are inspired to apply what they've learned. This can be done in a church or other context, since God's truth is true everywhere.	Communicator Inspiring Applies learning	
Wisdom	...use their God-given insight and information by applying it to specific situations, providing guidance in the church. They see the right course of action in the midst of otherwise confusing or overwhelming circumstances. Input from those with wisdom can shift a group's direction or help guide someone toward greater clarity.	Guide Perceptive Good judgment	
Healing	...follow the pattern we see in the life and ministry of Jesus where healing was physical, mental, emotional, and/or spiritual. Often also used by God to authenticate a message or a ministry. Always it is to show God's grace and mercy and power.	Restorer Responsive Intercessor	
Miraculous Powers	...help authenticate a ministry, encourage a body of believers, and show the power of God. In the life and ministry of Jesus, His miracles included feeding the multitudes, turning water into wine, raising the dead and walking on water.	Responsive Courageous Alert	
Tongues	...may speak in other languages as the Spirit enables them (Acts 2); may speak in an unknown language (that of "angels"-1 Cor. 13); may speak to God in tongues (1 Cor. 13). It can also be a way of "uttering the mysteries of the Spirit," and "sounding a clear call" to God's people (1 Cor. 14). Usually accompanied Interpretation of Tongues gift.	Responsive Expressive Worshipful	
Interpretation of Tongues	...help the rest of the Body of Christ understand the message being spoken by those with the gift of Tongues. May be given concurrently to someone with Tongues.	Responsive Obedient Discerning	

Who do you know who has been given gifts different from your own? How can you appreciate their differences and what they, by God's grace, bring to the table?

UNITY AND SERVICE

Today is about love and unity and service. We do not just see these commands to love one another in isolation. We see them in the context of every discussion of spiritual gifts.

Paul's longest treatise on spiritual gifts is 1 Corinthians 12-14. Right in the middle of those eighty-four verses is 1 Corinthians 13—The Love Chapter. We tend to use this quite familiar passage in weddings, but the context is gifts.

Love

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-13.
List the gifts you see mentioned in the first three verses.

In these three verses, what value does Paul say these gifts have if done *without love* as the motivation?

In verses 4-8, Paul goes on to describe love. List at least 16 descriptors of love.
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3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
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11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.

Go back and circle the one descriptor that comes most easily to you. Underline the one that is currently a struggle.