

# THE BROADEST CATEGORIES OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS REQUIRING STEWARDSHIP<sup>1</sup>

<b><u>SPIRITUAL GIFT</u></b>	<b><u>PRACTICAL DEFINITION</u></b>	<b><u>BIBLICAL EXAMPLE</u></b>
Service <sup>2</sup>	Focuses on helping the leadership by doing tasks that would bog them down.	Acts 6 - the first deacons distributed food so that the apostles could focus on prayer and teaching God's word.
Leading	Focuses on overseeing a group or sub-group and directing it in a godly direction.	1Tim 5:17 – church elders oversaw house churches.
Teaching	Focuses on studying and explaining God's word in an understandable way.	Acts 18:26 – Priscilla & Aquilla explained the way of God to Apollos more accurately.
Counseling	Focuses on giving biblical guidance in a positive way to those who need it.	Acts 4:36 – Barnabas was known as the Son of Encouragement; he counseled John Mark through his troubles (Acts 15:37-39).
Giving	Focuses on sharing the material abundance to meet needs and advance God's work.	Col 4:15 – Nympha opened her home for the church to meet in.
Mercy	Focuses on ministering to the hurting by sharing in their emotions and helping them look to God.	Phil 2:25 – Epaphroditus ministered to Paul who was in prison.

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<sup>1</sup> The spiritual gifts of a spectacular nature are listed in 1Cor 12:8-10 and require no stewardship since the gifts are fully developed and are under the immediate absolute control of the Holy Spirit. For example, no one can work a miracle poorly or speak in tongues poorly. Some Christians in the Corinthian church desired the spiritual gift of tongues so much that they just imitated tongues by babbling. Paul had to correct this error. The spectacular gifts cannot be done poorly because the Holy Spirit is in absolute control. So, we are not going to focus on the spectacular gifts.

<sup>2</sup> Paul lists "helps" and "administrations" as spiritual gifts in 1Cor 12:28. These fit into the broader category of service.

## SOME NEEDS OF A CHURCH BODY

### Service

Maintaining the building & property	Kitchen help	Distributing bulletins
Serving through music	Technological functions	Preparing communion
Church finances	Beautification of building	Ushering
Nursery care	Missionary support (e.g. cooking)	Repair work
Assembling bulletins	Serve on committees	

### Leading

Overseeing the entire church body	Small group leader	Program leader
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### Teaching

Bible Study teacher	Children's church teacher	Disciple others
Substitute teacher	Conduct seminars	Pulpit supply

### Counseling

Mentor engaged couples	Guide people through crises	Mentor the troubled
Conduct counseling seminars	Pulpit supply	

### Giving

Provide refreshments	Serve on finance committee	Entertain in your home
Sharing your abundance		

### Mercy

Visit the homebound	Visit those in the hospital	Prayer warrior
Send out cards	Funeral support	

## CHARACTERISTICS THAT EVERY CHRISTIAN MUST DEVELOP

1. Help others (**service**) - ....*serve one another in love* (Gal 5:13).
2. Be a godly example to others (**leading**) – *Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ* (1Cor 11:1).
3. Discuss God's word with others (**teaching**) – *Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another* (Col 3:16).
4. Give godly advice (**counseling**) – *Where there is no guidance, the people fall. But in the abundance of counselors there is victory* (Prov 11:14).
5. Gladly support church ministries (**giving**) – *Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver* (2Cor 9:7).
6. Check up on those missing (**mercy**) – *the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; or again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ...members should have the same care for one another. Now you are Christ's body and individually members of it* (1Cor 12:21,25,27).