

# Gifted to Pray

## How spiritual gifts impact our prayer lives

You're a unique "living stone" in God's global house of prayer and no one else can have the prayer life you have. Your relationship with God is unique, and **He has given you spiritual gifts that impact how you pray.** There's power in praying to our strengths.

**Every born-again believer in Jesus has at least one spiritual gift.** 1 Corinthians 7:7 says, "Each one has his own gift from God, one in this manner and another in that."

One definition of spiritual gifts is: "Special abilities God gives believers to strengthen the body of Christ and advance His purposes." The common Greek word for spiritual gift is *charisma*, which comes from *charis* meaning "grace."

### Most spiritual gifts are listed in:

- 1 Corinthians 12:7-11
- 1 Corinthians 12:27-31
- Romans 12:6-8
- Ephesians 4:11-13.

**Leadership/administration:** The special abilities that God gives to execute effective plans to accomplish the goals of the community

People gifted this way tend to be masters at delegating to others and knowing the best way to get things done. They communicate goals in such a way that people voluntarily and harmoniously work together to accomplish goals.

*Prayer application:* People gifted this way may enjoy praying for the direction of the ministry or business, for teamwork, for harmony, for effective delegating, etc. They may have a burden to pray for the right human resources to fill the right positions and for effective workflows.

**Discernment (or discerning of spirits):** The special ability that God gives to know with assurance whether is something is of God, of the enemy, or of the soul (mind, will and emotions).

Believers with this gift can recognize when something is of God or not. They often can also identify the true motives of people and recognize when a person is distorting the truth or communicating error. They may also sense the activity of the demonic realm and know how to get victory over it.

*Prayer application:* People with this gift may be good at praying for victory in spiritual warfare, for the truth to set people free, for protection against false teachers, and for alignment with God's specific will in situations.



**Evangelism:** The special ability that God gives to share the gospel with unbelievers in such a way that men and women often become Jesus' disciples and responsible members of the Body of Christ.

People with this gift often have unusual sensitivity to when someone is ready to accept Christ and will generally have greater success in leading people to Christ than others.

*Prayer application:* They often have a burden to pray for people's salvation. They may keep a list of people who don't yet know Christ that they regularly pray over. They are also comfortable leading people through a prayer to acknowledge Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. They may also enjoy praying for people to become disciple-makers and to grow spiritually.

**Exhortation:** The special ability that God gives to minister words of encouragement, comfort and counsel to help people grow in Christ.

These are people who enjoy giving people encouragement and seeing God brighten their day. They are sensitive to when people need this.

*Prayer application:* They might ask God how to encourage and counsel people and will pray for them to be comforted and encouraged. When they pray over people using this gift, people are supernaturally encouraged and comforted.

**Faith:** The special ability that God gives to discern with extraordinary confidence the will and purposes of God in a situation.

People with this gift believe God for what others often think is impossible. They see God work in powerful ways.

*Prayer application:* They will pray for God to do what many other believers think is impossible. They pray with a confidence that God is who He says He is in different situations.

**Giving:** The special ability that God gives to contribute material resources to the work of the Lord with liberality and cheerfulness.

These people have an acute awareness that all they have belongs to the Lord and they are merely stewards. Therefore, they know that God will supply their needs and richly bless them in their giving.

*Prayer application:* They will pray for ways to bless people and will pray with confidence for God's provision when others see lack.

**Healing:** The special abilities that God gives to serve as human intermediaries through whom God cures illness and restores health.

People with this gift usually enjoy praying for sick people and seeing them recover—and they usually experience this happening more than the average believer. There are different gifts of healing, so they may have certain conditions or illnesses that God uses them for more than others.

*Prayer application:* They commonly see results when praying for people to be healed.

**Apostleship:** The word apostle comes from a Greek word that means “one who is sent out.”

Believers with this gift are ones who push into new territory for the kingdom and establish churches, ministries, networks, and movements. They are innovative with God-given ideas for advancing God’s purposes and aligning and unifying believers. Some biblical examples are Paul and Priscilla and Aquilla.

*Prayer application:* These leaders like to pray for the “big picture” and often pray for whole regions, territories and people groups. They like to pray for new kingdom initiatives and movements to be launched. They may have a calling to pray for other leaders and for Church unity.

**Prophecy:** The special revelatory gift God gives that can be both forthtelling and foretelling God’s truth in the moment.

Those with the gift of prophecy will often feel as though they have a direct word from God to comfort, encourage, guide, warn, exhort, or direct people. They act as a sort of “plumbline” in the body of Christ.

*Prayer application:* They may give voice to what they sense God saying in the moment through their prayers. The Bible says the spirit of prophecy is the testimony of Jesus—so they pray in a way that reflects Jesus. This type of prayer often has a way of breaking through things that get in the way of God’s purposes.

**Miracles:** The special ability that God gives to serve as human intermediaries through whom God performs powerful acts that are perceived to have altered the ordinary course of nature.

This gift shows itself through the supernatural intervention by God into specific circumstances in order to change the natural outcome for God’s glory.

*Prayer application:* When these people pray, miracles sometimes happen!

**Pastoring/Shepherding:** The special ability that God gives to care for the heart and soul and welfare of a group of believers.

This leadership gift often has a connotation of a specific position in the church, but in actuality some who have the title “pastor” have this gift and some don’t. It’s about giving of oneself sacrificially to other people over time in such a way that they are built up in their faith.

*Prayer application:* The prayers of people with this gift bring much comfort to the hearts and souls of people.

**Service/helps:** The special ability that God gives to certain believers to identify the unmet needs involved in God’s work, and to make use of available resources to meet those needs.

Those with the practical gift of service enjoy doing routine tasks around the church regardless of recognition.

*Prayer application:* They may pray for God to give them opportunities to serve and help others. They may enjoy praying for resources and practical needs to be met.

**Mercy:** The special ability God gives to certain believers to feel genuine empathy and compassion for Christians and non-Christians who suffer from distressing mental, emotional, or physical problems.

Those with a gift of mercy reflect Christ's love and help alleviate suffering.

*Prayer application:* People with this gift enjoy praying for troubled and vulnerable people. They express an unusual level of empathy and understanding and bring relief through their prayers.

**Teaching:** The special ability God gives to impart the truth of God's word and help people apply it to their lives.

People with the gift of teaching enjoy studying the Bible and related materials in order to communicate what they have learned to others.

*Prayer application:* People with this gift often like to pray Scripture verses and for the life application of verses.

**Wisdom:** The special ability God gives to know how knowledge may best be applied to specific needs arising in the Body of Christ.

Often people in the church naturally seek out people with this gift when they are facing complicated problems. When a person with this gift considers past experience, they realize that they often make good and correct decisions and judgments.

*Prayer application:* People with this gift may enjoy praying for complicated life situations and often will express God's solutions and strategies through their prayers.

**Words of Knowledge:** The special ability God gives to some believers to know information about a person or situation that is used for their spiritual growth.

An example is Jesus with the woman at the well and knowing she had had five husbands.

*Prayer application:* People with this gift may get a piece of information about someone they're praying for that is revealed by the Lord to build their faith.

**Tongues:** The special ability God gives to certain believers to speak to God in a language that they have never learned for their own edification and/or to communicate a message from God to his people through a divinely anointed utterance in a language they never learned.

**Interpretation of Tongues:** The special ability God gives to certain believers to make known the message of one who speaks in tongues in a corporate setting. If someone speaks in tongues in front of a group, an interpretation must take place or else the one speaking the tongue should remain silent.