

Spiritual Gifts

I am convinced that the key to long-term self-worth lies in the discovery, not of talents, but rather of spiritual gifts which God has given to every person who has chosen to follow Christ...There's a great difference between talents and gifts. I am certainly pleased that I once developed the talent the Lord gave me, but I'm even more delighted that the spiritual gifts the Lord gives to every believer have been developed in my life also. It is my own theory that while talents may diminish with age, gifts only seem to improve and deepen with the passing of the years. That's very important, and that's why I believe that women in leadership need to work hard at discovering and developing their gifts.

Gail MacDonald in High Call, High Privilege

You may find it helpful to read through the following brief definitions, asking the Lord to help you identify which of the gifts He has given to you for His service. When trying to determine the will of the Lord, gifting is a factor that should always be considered as part of the decision.

Gifts of Service

Generosity – special ability to contribute material resources to the work of the Lord with liberality and cheerfulness

Mercy – special ability to feel compassion for those who suffer, doing something to help alleviate their suffering

Hospitality – special ability to provide a warm welcome to those who need food and lodging

Serving – special ability to identify unmet physical and material needs and make use of available resources to meet those needs

Helps – special ability to invest one's time, talents, and gifts in the ministries of other believers in order that they become more effective servants

Faith – special ability to discern with confidence the will of God for the future of his church, believing it will come to pass

Administration – special ability to understand clearly God's goals for the church, elaborating plans to reach them, and organizing personnel to execute them

Leadership (presiding) – special ability to set goals for the future of the church and mobilize God's people to work together to accomplish those goals

Gifts of the Word

Exhortation/consolation – special ability to use God's word to minister words of comfort, counsel, and encouragement to those in times of spiritual need

Discernment – special ability to recognize whether the origin of certain people or teachings is divine, human, or satanic

Evangelism – special ability to share the gospel with such skill that many respond to the message, becoming responsible church members

Pastoring – special ability to assume long-term responsibility for the spiritual well-being of a group of believers

Teaching – special ability to clearly explain God's word, applying it to individuals in order that they grow in godliness

Preaching – special ability to proclaim with authority God's word in order that his people be convicted of sin and motivated to service

Word of Wisdom – special ability to know the will of God for the church, applying the word to difficult situations so that resolution occurs

Word of Knowledge – special ability to discover, analyze, and organize biblical information important for the growth and well-being of the church