

Ministry Gifts | The Five Gifts in Ephesians 4

Ephesians 4:11 lists 5 gifts which are Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor and Teacher. These 5 are unique – they are governing ministry gifts given to people who are called to ministry leadership within the global and local church. Their job is to build and equip the church for works of ministry so the church will be mature. People with these gifts ...

- Love the church
- Are sound in their approach to Biblical doctrine
- Will work as a team with others

Apostle: The God-given special calling and anointing to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by launching and leading new ministry ventures which advance God's purpose and expand His Kingdom, often in a geographical area. The original Greek meaning of the word is "sent one with orders" (literally, one sent with authority, or ambassador). An apostle may or may not be the lead authority in a local church. People with this gift...

- Are visionaries and see the "big picture"
- Have a unique calling to start new endeavors as directed by God, most often churches
- Willingly work hard to see churches mature and reach their full potential for God
- Often are called to over-see multiple churches or ministries
- Often have their sights on and travel to the nations
- Are known to welcome risky new challenges and encounter many hardships
- Are known to operate in the supernatural

Prophet: In contrast to the OT prophets, the NT prophet did not exist until Jesus ascended on high; making the OT model obsolete (Eph 4:8-11, Lu 16:16). One of the root words for prophet is "to make known one's thoughts, to declare"; therefore, the prophet makes known and declares the thoughts of God in both "forth telling" and "foretelling".

The NT prophet operates in the God-given special calling and anointing to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by offering messages from God that comfort, encourage, guide, warn, or reveal sin in a way that leads to repentance and spiritual growth. A prophet may or may not be the lead authority in a local church. People with this gift...

- Are recognized by the church for communicating God's Word through a variety of means.
- Have God-given spiritual vision for the church
- Share strong biblical convictions to challenge others
- Are able and willing to apply church discipline and correction for false teaching
- May have spiritual experiences such as audible voices, angelic visitations, visions, and dreams
- Will passionately desire others to hear God's Voice and know God's Heart

Evangelist: The God-given special calling and anointing to serve and strengthen the body of Christ toward evangelism. The Evangelist has a unique endowment to share the love of Christ in such a way that it draws people to respond by receiving God's free gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ. The evangelist may or may not be the lead authority in a local church. People with this gift...

- Look for ways to build relational bridges with nonbelievers
- Sense when a person or geographical region is open to Christ's message
- Frequently lead people to faith in Jesus
- Encourage the body of Christ to focus on, pray for, and have a heart for reaching the lost
- Equip the church how to share a coherent salvation message

Pastor-Shepherd: The God-given special calling and anointing to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by taking spiritual responsibility for a group of believers and equipping them to live Christ-centered lives. In the Strong's Concordance "pastor" has this definition: The tasks of a Near Eastern shepherd were: 1. to watch for enemies trying to attack the sheep, 2. to defend the sheep from attackers, 3. to heal the wounded and sick sheep, 4. to find and save lost or trapped sheep, 5. to love them, sharing their lives and so earning their trust. The shepherd-pastor may or may not be the lead authority in a local church. People with this gift...

- Are driven to help others reach their full maturity as believers in Christ
- Have a heart to lead and care for a community of believers
- Desire for people to walk in their calling and gifts
- Watch over the church as a shepherd watches over sheep, meeting the needs of others, and giving their time to help with spiritual issues
- Are diligent to know the state of the flock

Teacher: The God-given special calling and anointing to serve and strengthen the body of Christ toward the study of the scriptures and sound Biblical doctrine. The Teacher has a unique ability to share his love for the scriptures in a way that inspires Biblical knowledge and education. The Teacher has the ability to make difficult passages understandable and relevant to people/culture. The teacher may or may not be the lead authority in a local church. People with this gift...

- Are driven by a passion for Biblical truth
- Are given to hours in the study of Scripture in order to best apply its principles
- Use a variety of ways to effectively communicate the Word of God
- Desire to teach and equip the church how to study the Bible using sound exegesis
- Are capable teachers and enjoy making the Bible clear, relevant, and understandable to others

Motivation Gifts | The Seven Gifts in Romans 12

The seven gifts of Romans 12:6-8 are said to be gifts given at the time of conversion that motivate individual believers in ministry and service in the church, family, and community. "Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if **prophecy**, in proportion to our faith; ⁷if **service**, in our serving; the one who **teaches**, in his teaching; ⁸the one who **exhorts**, in his exhortation; the one who **contributes**, in generosity; the one who **leads**, with zeal; the one who does acts of **mercy**, with cheerfulness.

Prophecy: The God-given special anointing to serve and strengthen the body of Christ and others by speaking either foretelling or forth telling timely words from God. A person with the motivational gift of prophecy applies the Word of God to a situation so that sin is exposed and relationships are restored. He or she has a strong sense of right and wrong and speaks out against compromise and evil. People with this gift ...

- Are driven by a desire to adhere to God's revealed truth
- Are known for publicly communicating God's Word, using words, messages, or pictures that are specific to the spiritual, physical, or emotional health of the congregation
- Find it easy to confront others whose motives are not up to God's standards
- Have learned to hear the Holy Spirit and follow His leading
- Have a deep Fear of God and sense of justice

Serving/Helping: The God-given special anointing to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by offering others assistance in reaching goals that glorify God and strengthen the body of Christ. A person with the

motivational gift of service takes joy in helping others accomplish their goals. This aptitude is sometimes referred to as the gift of “helps” or “service.” People with this gift ...

- Are driven by a desire to assist others.
- Enjoy and seek out ways to serve behind the scenes.
- Rejoice in the success of others.
- Are often detail-oriented.
- Do not seek recognition for their efforts. “I just want to help.”

Teaching: The God-given special ability to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by teaching sound doctrine in relevant ways, empowering people to gain a sound and mature spiritual education. A person with the motivational gift of teaching is motivated by a desire for others to learn and grow. Individuals who have this gift ...

- Are driven by a desire to see others grow in knowledge, understanding, and wisdom.
- Enjoy making the Bible clear and understandable to others.
- Seek out opportunities to speak biblical insight into daily situations.
- Often use metaphor, illustration, imagery, story, or other creative means to teach.
- Recognize a variety of ways to effectively communicate the Word of God, including speaking.

Exhortation/ Encouragement: The God-given special anointing to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by helping others live God-centered lives through inspiration, encouragement, counseling, and empowerment. A person with the motivational gift of exhortation/encouragement is motivated by a desire to lift others up and inspire them to thrive. The Greek for these words is “paraklesis”. It has a broad definition ranging from an admonition to comfort to a persuasive discourse or a strong urging; the heart of this word is to “come along side, to aid”. People with this gift ...

- Are driven to inspire others and impact their lives positively for Christ
- Often desire to spur people to overcome difficult life situations.
- Desire to help coach people to reach their full potential in Christ.
- Usually are positive “you can do it” kind of people, who encourage with words and actions.
- Rejoice in others’ success

Giving/Contributing: The God-given special anointing to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by joyfully supporting and funding various kingdom initiatives through material contributions beyond the tithe. A person with the motivational gift of giving/contributing is motivated by a desire to equip others with tools and resources to accomplish their goals or initiatives. People with this gift ...

- Are driven to see others rejoice in God’s provision.
- Plan and purposely give over and above the 10 percent tithe, in order to see God’s kingdom advanced.
- Often prefer that their donations remain anonymous or low-profile.
- Strategically seek out ways to increase their resources, in order to contribute more for God’s use.
- See their resources as tools for God’s use.
- Recognize God’s ultimate ownership of everything.

Leading: The God-given special anointing to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by casting vision, stimulating spiritual growth, applying strategies, and achieving success where God’s purposes are concerned. A person with the motivational gift of leading is motivated by a desire to organize people and groups to work together to accomplish more than they could alone. People with this gift ...

- Are driven to motivate people – both individually and in teams – to work together in achieving goals for God’s kingdom.

- Exhibit a tendency toward huge visions for God and the ability to inspire others to work toward accomplishing those visions for his glory, and to bless others.
- Are naturally drawn into leadership roles.
- Naturally grasp the “big picture.”
- Are able to let go of responsibility and delegate it to others who are qualified.
- Identify the SHAPE of others and are able to mobilize them in teamwork.

Mercy: The God-given special anointing to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by ministering to those who suffer physically, emotionally, spiritually, or relationally. A person with the motivational gift of showing mercy is motivated by a desire to decrease suffering. Their actions are characterized by love, care, compassion, and kindness toward others. People with this gift ...

- Are drawn toward opportunities to practically meet the needs of others.
- Devote significant time in prayer for the needs of others.
- Tend to place the needs of others ahead of their own.
- Grieve with those who grieve.
- Are most fulfilled when visiting people in need – in hospitals, nursing homes, prisons, orphanages, villages, or wherever God directs them.

Manifestation Gifts | The Nine Gifts in 1 Corinthians 12

The nine Manifestation Gifts are gifts that are given in a moment of ministry that manifest in the life of the church, in a small group, in a family, or in the community. 1 Corinthians 12:7-10 list these nine, “⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

Word of Wisdom: God-given special anointing to serve and strengthen the body of Christ and others by supernaturally having God’s wisdom in a given circumstance. This supernatural God given wisdom gives clarity in counseling sessions, meetings, families, and anywhere wisdom is needed. A classic example of this gift is in 1 Kings 3 where Solomon through God’s wisdom was able to discern who the true mother was. Leaders often have this gift. Examples of this gift in scripture can be found in Mt 2:12, Acts 16:6-8, and Acts 27:30-32. People with this gift...

- Have a strong reliance on God for direction and wisdom.
- Often have a strong desire to counsel and give sound advice.
- Are sought after by others for advice, insight, wisdom.
- Are known for making wise decisions which cuts through natural decision making.
- Often tie their God-given wisdom to Scriptures.
- Recognize God as the primary source of wisdom and direction.

Word of Knowledge: God-given special anointing to serve and strengthen the body of Christ and others by Holy Spirit revealed unlearned knowledge in a given circumstance. The Word of Knowledge often precedes another gift or manifestation of the Holy Spirit. While prophecy can be described as “a pouring in and flowing out”, the word of knowledge is more like someone handing you a glass of water for you to describe. Care should be taken in how the word of knowledge is communicated. An example of this gift in use can be found in John 1:45-51, Mark 11:2-6, and Acts 5:1-14. People with this gift...

- May see Holy Spirit prompted pictures in their minds.

- Can be used to distill complicated situations and have knowledge about what decision should be made.
- Will suddenly have unlearned knowledge about the thoughts or needs of others.
- Are good listeners to the Holy Spirit.

Healing: The God-given special anointing to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by healing and restoring to health, beyond traditional and natural means, those who are sick, hurting, and suffering. People with this gift ...

- Believe firmly that people can be supernaturally healed.
- Pray specifically to be used by God to heal others.
- Fully realize that healing occurs only by God's divine permission.
- View medicine as a means God may choose for healing.
- Embrace their gift as from the hand of God, and as a specific way to bring him glory.

Miracles: The God-given special anointing to serve and strengthen the body of Christ and others by performing miracles by the power of the Holy Spirit; these miracles will always point back to Jesus Christ as Lord and will bring validity to God and His power. An example of this gift in use can be found in John 2:1-11 and John 6:16-21. People with this gift ...

- Render credit and thanks to God alone for supernatural works.
- Fully grasp the fact that miracles only occur when God wills them to happen.
- See themselves as instruments for God's use.
- Pray and look to supernatural results whenever they encounter impossible life situations.
- Recognize prayer as a supernatural vehicle through which God acts in the lives of people on earth.

Prophecy: The God-given special anointing to serve and strengthen the body of Christ and others by speaking either foretelling or forth telling timely words from God. These messages of prophecy are spoken in particular moments as directed by the Holy Spirit. People with this gift ...

- Have a clear idea of what God is saying
- Are known for publicly communicating God's Word, using words, messages, or pictures that are specific to the spiritual, physical, or emotional health of the congregation
- Find it easy to confront others whose motives are not up to God's standards
- Desire for people to know God, understand his Word, and submit to His will
- Have learned to hear the Holy Spirit and follow His leading

Discernment: The God-given special anointing to serve and strengthen the body of Christ and others by having the ability to distinguish whether something is of the Holy Spirit, the human spirit, a demon or an angel. An example of Paul operating in this gift is found in Acts 16:16-18. People with this gift can range from discerning an annoyance, sensing a change in the immediate atmosphere, a "check" in their spirit, all the way to seeing an open manifestation of a spirit. People with this gift must guard themselves not to become critical and judgmental but instead to love the church and desire to build her up. People with this gift...

- Are able to sense, hear and/or see the spiritual world
- Can hear other people's thoughts as the Holy Spirit reveals them
- Will suddenly sense a need to leave a situation or place
- Can identify the source of a sickness, need, or trial
- Can discern the spirit behind a message or speaker
- May see spirits whether angelic or demonic

Faith: The God-given special anointing to serve and strengthen the body of Christ and others with extraordinary faith given by the Holy Spirit at specific times and in special circumstances. This gift differs from general faith which Romans 12:3 states 'God has given to each one a measure of faith'. An example of this gift in use can be found in Mt 8:5-13. This gift is usually preceded by a word from the Lord so that your faith does not rest in the wisdom of man but in the power of God. People with this gift...

- Have extraordinary ability to believe what God has said
- Have great confidence even when circumstances look bleak
- Usually are characterized by a passionate prayer life
- Are often in leadership positions
- Are sometimes criticized for being over-confident

Tongues: The God-given special anointing to serve and strengthen the body of Christ and others by speaking in various languages unknown by the speaker, whether of men or angels. This is not the same gift as is given to all who are Baptized in the Holy Spirit, with the evidence of speaking in tongues, which is for private prayer and personal edification. An example of this gift in action can be found in Acts 2:1-8 where God Himself interpreted the tongue before it reached the ear of the hearer; instruction on the use of this gift is found in 1 Cor 14:27-28. This public use of Tongues is always followed by an interpretation of the tongue in order that hearers may be edified, comforted, encouraged, given direction or warned. People with this gift ...

- Have the personal prayer language of tongues
- Often speak in various tongues
- Believe God is prompting them to communicate his message, often through prayer, in a specific language unknown to them.
- Intercede for others in prayer using unknown words, sounds, and utterances.
- Desire opportunities to pray, using these unknown languages for God's glory.
- Are able to keep quiet if there is not an interpreter present
- May or may not know the theme of the interpretation of their tongue

Interpretation of Tongues: The God-given special anointing to serve and strengthen the body of Christ and others by understanding God's prophetic message spoken in tongues by another; this gift is always preceded by a tongue which needs to be interpreted. The interpretation of the tongue is either received by revelation from the Holy Spirit or by naturally knowing the language spoken in the tongue. The purpose of this gift, when coupled with the gift of tongues, is to edify, comfort, encourage, give direction and or warn the hearers. An example of this gift in action is found in Acts 2:1-8 where the Holy Spirit interpreted the tongue before it reached the ears of the hearers; instruction on the use of this gift is found in 1 Cor 14:27-28. People with this gift ...

- Have learned to hear the Holy Spirit and follow His leading
- Have a clear idea of what God is saying, even though the language used by the speaker is unknown to them at the specific time.
- Are able to translate words and messages of God in a way that edifies, comforts, and exhorts believers.
- Usually have a strong prayer life & may also prophecy