

Spiritual Gift Descriptions¹

Although some gifts may appear in multiple texts we will give a single description of the gift.

Ephesians 4:11

Apostle

To create new ministry/ies
church

Example Peter the Rock of the

“A person with a special leadership capacity to move with authority from God to create new ministry structures (churches and para-church) to meet needs and to develop and appoint leadership in these structures” (Clinton p 145).

Prophet

To bring a word from the Lord - in proportion to faith
prophetess

Example Anna the

A person who is a prophet [proclaims/announces a word from the Lord](#), most often related to the need for renewal. This word is not an addition to the canon of scripture. It is a contextualization of the Word. Renewal is a movement of returning to God after a period of forsaking, such that the covenant relationship of the person/people can be restored.

Evangelist

To preach the gospel
Evangelist

Example Philip the

A person who is an evangelist has “the capacity to challenge people through various communicative methods (persuasion) to receive the Gospel of salvation in Christ so as to see them respond by taking initial steps in Christian discipleship” (Clinton, p. 147).

Shepherd

To care for the flock
apostle

Example John the

¹ Due to the history of FOL, I am relying heavily at times on Robert Clinton's definitions, using his language for naming most of the gifts so that you will be familiar with it. However, a number of descriptions will be amended based on my own extensive work in this field. Quotes from Clinton are taken from *Unlocking Your Spiritual Giftedness: What Leaders need to Know To Develop Themselves and Others*.

A person who is a shepherd has “the capacity to exercise concern and care for members of a group so as to encourage them in their growth in Christ which involves modeling maturity, protecting them from error and disseminating truth” (Clinton, p. 146).

Teacher

To clarify truth - in keeping with grace to teach
Priscilla

Example

“A person who has the gift of teaching is one who has the ability to instruct, explain or expose biblical truth in such a way as to cause believers to understand the biblical truth” (Clinton p 142).

Romans 12:6-8

Exhortation

To apply biblical truth

Example Paul the apostle

“A person who has the gift of exhortation has the capacity to urge people to action in terms of applying biblical truths, to encourage people generally or to comfort people through the application of biblical truth to their needs”

Service

To provide practical aid

Example Onesiphorus

A person who is empowered by the Holy Spirit to selflessly serve others in practical ways.

Giving

To give beyond personal capacity - with simplicity
Barnabas

Example

A person who, prompted by the Holy Spirit, gives at such a level of generosity that the Spirit will need to renew their resources.

Supervising

To oversee with diligence
Timothy

Example

A person who provides Holy Spirit dependent leadership to the people and structures of a church or parachurch.

Compassion

To care for those in need - with cheerfulness

Example Dorcas

A person who is made sensitive by the Holy Spirit to the needs of others and responds with empathetic and practical care especially to those suffering affliction.

1 Corinthians 12:8-10

Word of Wisdom

To apply received revelation
Stephen

Example

A person who provides Holy Spirit feedback to a particular situation that will contextually lead to flourishing and fruitfulness.

Word of Knowledge

To receive a specific revelation

A person who is given Holy Spirit information that is not available through other sources related to a specific context or situation.

Faith

To confidently rely on God in response to challenging revelation
Elijah

Example

A person who responds to a revelation from God through scripture or otherwise, by believing God, earnestly praying, and acting accordingly. This is especially evident in Spirit-led risk taking.

Healing

To make well those who are ill

Example Peter & John

A person who is given power by the Holy Spirit to heal all forms of illness.

Miracles

To intervene in the natural by the power of the supernatural
deacon

Example Philip the

A person who is given power by the Holy Spirit to change something in the natural world - but not with natural means.

Distinguishing of Spirits

To differentiate between good and evil through revelation of the Holy Spirit
Jude

Example

A person is able to distinguish between that which is from God and that which is from Satan.

Tongues

To speak in an unknown language.

Example

Peter

A person is enabled by the Holy Spirit to speak in a tongue that they have no history with and have not learned.

Interpretation of Tongues

To interpret an unknown language

A person is enabled by the Holy Spirit to understand an unknown language being spoken.

1 Corinthians 12:28-30

Administering

To support organizational leadership.

Example Deacons

A person who supports the organizational systems and structures of a church or parachurch.