

## 7 Spiritual Gifts | Romans 12 | OVERFLOW CONFERENCE 2023

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Let's put our hands together for Noelle and show our appreciation for her. She really is a gift to the Body of Christ.

#### Romans 12:3-9

<sup>3</sup> For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup> For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function,

<sup>5</sup> so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. <sup>6</sup> Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; <sup>7</sup> if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; <sup>8</sup> the one who encourages in his encouragement; the one who contributes, in generosity;

the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. <sup>9</sup> Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. <sup>10</sup> Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup> Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord." ESV

#### 7 Motivational Gifts

This passage outlines seven motivational gifts. They are often called motivational gifts because These 7 Motivational Gifts tend to identify what most motivates the one who has the gift. They're uniquely motivated to serve in this particular way. I believe every Christians has one of these gifts as his or her primary Spiritual Gift or as I like to call them Grace Gifts. All the gifts mentioned in Ephesians and here in Romans 12 are grace gifts because they are given as an expression of God's grace.

But these 7 serve to narrow down how we are given the opportunity to serve one another in the Body of Christ. These 7 motivational gifts indicate what motivates the person in what way.

A Spirit-filled Christian will have different degrees of these gifts expressed at different times as we represent the fullness of Jesus to people. We all grow with the use and exercise of these gifts. BUT, we are each given spiritual gifts to compliment the rest of the body of Christ - to build them up in their faith in unique ways. We need each other. I need your gift of grace and there's a gift of grace in my life that is meant to serve you. There's a spiritual gift

**It takes ALL of us working TOGETHER to truly represent Jesus to the world.**

In the verses we read, let's outline the 7 gifts.

**1 Prophecy**

**2 Ministry/Serving**

**3 Teaching**

**4 Encouragement**

**5 Generosity**

**6 Leadership or Administration**

**7 Mercy**

Let's give just a brief description to each and it's going to be fun as we discover what gifts we may have so that we can serve one another better.

1. **Prophecy:** Reveals the motives or actions of a person through a word of knowledge or warning or a word of wisdom concerning their future - aiming to encourage the person to conform to God's Words and God's ways. Often they'll do one of three things: Confirm, Confront or Comfort
2. **Serving:** Meets practical needs - seeks to help another with something practical and often tangible
3. **Teaching:** Searches out and teaches Scriptural truths so that those listening can learn about God's Word and God's Ways and pattern their lives after it
4. **Encouragement:** Admonishes and encourages others. Gives people the courage to be brave and have faith; reminding them of who they are in Christ or what they have to offer. Noelle who preached the first 1/2 of the message today definitely has the gift of encouragement. She is so often right on time in her encouragement to people.
5. **Generosity:** Meeting material needs through the giving of finances
6. **Leadership or Administration:** Organizes and leads others; a natural bent to take charge, take risks and lead others towards common goals.
7. **Mercy:** Empathizes and shows compassion to others; a supernatural felt pain when others go through pain. Often associated with gifts of prayer and intercession.

Using simple math, it may be safe to assume that 15% of each church body has each of these gifts. Meaning, there's likely 15% of you who have the gift of mercy. Another 15% who have the gift of leadership. Another 15% who have the gift of generosity. And so forth...

The questions I have for you today then are:

A) **Do you know which gift you have** B) **Are you using that gift to bless others?**

You need to know that **You and I are have not only a joy but an obligation to use our gifts to build the church of Jesus Christ.**

In other words, you and I will stand before Jesus one day and give an account as to whether we used the talents and gifts God's given us. Jesus makes that clear in his numerous parables on the talents.

So I'm going to ask you some questions to maybe prod your thinking and get you consider which gifts you have of these 7.

**NEXT (LEADERSHIP / ADMINISTRATION)** Do you naturally take charge at work? Did you naturally take charge as a teen on the sports field - putting people on teams, instructing people what to do? Then you have the gift of leadership. So... now that you know you have that gift, the next question is... are you using that gift in the church? Are you **LEADING** a Life Group or leading a ministry or **LEADING** a Bible Study? You should be. You should somehow be using your gift of leadership to **LEAD** in God's church.

**NEXT (SERVICE)**

Do you naturally tend to help others? Do you naturally tend to not take charge but want someone to tell you what to do so that you can help? Then you've got the gift of serving. So... next question ... are you serving in the church?

Shayne Harnett has a ministry to take meals to hurting families. Maybe you could be one of her team members and take meals. We're starting a ministry called **FAM** for Foster Parents. Maybe you can help **SERVE** in that ministry?

**NEXT (GENEROSITY)**

Do you have a desire to give very often? Do you even try to find ways to make money so that you can give more? Do you naturally tend to make money? Do you have a natural gift for creating cash flow? Then God has given you the gift of Generosity. Obviously we can ALL be generous so don't misunderstand me. But scripture is making a point here - if you've been blessed financially, recognize that you've been blessed BY GOD so that you can bless God by building His church. Maybe you have the gift of generosity but haven't joined our 10 Cities Mission yet? Maybe you haven't made a commitment yet to give. My wife and I committed to give 5% of our income this year to our church-planting mission. Maybe you and your spouse can pray about what your role is in transforming trumbull county through your gift of generosity.

**NEXT (MERCY)**

Do you naturally feel empathy when someone is grieving? Where you're truly moved emotionally - you *feel* their grief - then you've likely got the gift of Mercy. Now what? Now it's time for you to figure out HOW to use that gift in the body of Christ. Maybe you can write cards and send prayers to people. Maybe you can work with someone who's administrative to create systems for people to be blessed.

**NEXT (PROPHECY)**

Do you often see someone and in a moment, you know things about them that you shouldn't otherwise know? Do you envision people's future and have a burning desire to tell them? Do you get a word of knowledge about someone - you wouldn't know otherwise. That's the gift of prophecy. Now the next question is... are you using that gift in the body of Christ? Are you humbly giving prophetic words to people? Are you being obedient when the Lord tells you to speak to someone? Are you reading books or watching videos on the prophetic to learn more? Do you have dreams about people then share them and realize you were being used in prophecy?

**NEXT (ENCOURAGEMENT)**

Do you love to give people a boost of courage by telling them what they're good at? Are you naturally giving people that add-a-boy they need lift their spirit? Then you have the gift of encouragement! Use it! Write that card, that email, that text and encourage people. Often the Spirit is nudging you because they are currently **discouraged** and sad or disappointed about something.

**NEXT (TEACHING)**

Do you love to search for truth and find layers of revelation in God's Word? Do you love to share what you've been learning with others so they too can understand? Do you want people to learn about God's Word and God's Ways and pattern their lives after it? Then you likely have a gift of teaching - especially people tell you that they easily learn from you.

We all should be learning and seeking to learn how to better use our gifts to build God's church - to point people to Jesus - to encourage people! You're here today so that already is pleasing God! VERY COOL!

**Romans 12:9-15 gives us some advice about each gift and how to use it; each verse correlates to each gift**

*<sup>9</sup>Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.*

That's what someone with the gift of prophesy does - they hate things that are evil. They cling to what's good. So that admonition from scripture is "let love be without

hypocrisy” in other words, love everyone - the good and the bad - even when you discern prophetically that they’re “bad” or out of line - still love them like God loves them. Don’t write them off but love them, pray for them, genuinely want God’s best for them, even if you discern something is off.

Vs. 10 provides instruction for those with the gift of Serving.

*<sup>10</sup> Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.*

That’s a great description of someone with the gift of Serving. They just want to show honor to others. They are always putting others first - why? They’re humble. They want to truly honor people because they genuinely feel they deserve honor.

Vs. 11 correlations with the gift of teaching...

*<sup>11</sup> Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.*

God is telling them to be fervent and passionate when they teach the Word of God

Vs. 12 offers instruction for those who have the the give of encouragement.

*<sup>12</sup> Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.*

People who are Encouragers know how to rejoice but they also know how to be patient with people. They want people to see that God is still good and that they can endure whatever tribulation or trouble they’re going through. Encouragers help you get through trials and tough times.

Vs. 13 correlates to the gift of Generosity or Giving.

*<sup>13</sup> Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.*

People with the motivational gift of Generosity love to take care of the financial needs of others. They look for people to bless. They find ways to meet the needs of people. Most of them are also very hospitable.

Vs. 14 correlates to the gift of Leadership

*<sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.*

Why would it tell that to the leaders? Because Leaders know all too well what it’s like to have people “curse” them or speak against them. Anyone who’s led for any amount of time is no stranger to criticism. So to us who lead, God would say “Bless those who complain against you and your leadership decisions.” In other words forgive them; don’t hold on to their words.

*<sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another.*

This of course, describes someone who has the gift of Mercy. You don’t have to tell people with the gift of mercy to *weep with those who weep* but sometimes they may need reminded to Rejoice with those who rejoice!



God's Word is so rich with teaching and illustrations of Spiritual Gifts being put to good use. I want to share just a few examples to hopefully inspire you to start using your spiritual gifts to serve others.

I LOVE HOW THIS PASSAGE ENDS "SERVE THE LORD"

ONE OF THE THINGS YOU'VE HEARD ME SAY OVER AND OVER HERE IS THAT ...  
**WE SERVE THE LORD BY SERVING ONE ANOTHER.**

Ephesians 6:5-8 tells us about HOW we serve.

<sup>5</sup>Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, <sup>6</sup>not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, <sup>7</sup>**rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man**, <sup>8</sup>**knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord**

When we serve people we are doing it as unto the Lord.  
 And that really is true.

Know that God cares most about your heart. So if you exercise any of these gifts but with a wrong motive, don't be deceived into thinking that God doesn't see or know. For example, I've seen people give something financially then want to control what was given. Whenever you give but only to have control - that's not called generosity that's called manipulation - that's not good. When you give it must be truly a gift - so the person can do whatever they want with what you've given them. To give so that you can control is NOT to give at all - it's to manipulate and it's actually quite evil.

For example if you teach or prophesy and in and your mind you're trying to impress people then you should stop immediately and realize that God needs to purify your heart. God cares most about your heart and He wants these things to flow naturally from a heart that's fully surrendered to Him. He wants it to flow so naturally that it's like it is HIM living through you. You become just the vessel through which He lives and shows His power and love.

**All of these gifts, are meant to express God's love.**

He loves people SO much and when you encourage them, you show them God's love. When you give money to someone to pay their overdue bills, you show them God's love. When you encourage someone who's down and out and facing a battle, you give them the strength that GOD is giving them - you show them God's love. When you cry with someone who's crying, pray with them in their grief, you show God's love. When you prophesy and confirm what God has put in their heart, you show them God's love. When you teach and reveal something new they hadn't seen before about God, you're showing His love!

You can use your Spiritual Gifts to express God's love to other your brothers and sisters in Christ - the family members AND you can use your Spiritual Gifts to express God's love to people who aren't yet in God's family, drawing them in.



## PROPHECY

1 Corinthians 14:20-40

“Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature. In the Law it is written, “By people of strange tongues and by the lips of foreigners will I speak to this people, and even then they will not listen to me, says the Lord.” Thus tongues are a sign not for believers but for unbelievers, while prophecy is a sign not for unbelievers but for believers. If, therefore, the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your minds? But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all, the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you. What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up. If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn, and let someone interpret. But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them keep silent in church and speak to himself and to God.

If a revelation is made to another sitting there, let the first be silent. For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged,

For God is not a God of confusion but of peace. Skip to Vs 28 So, my brothers, earnestly desire to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. But all things should be done decently and in order.”

1 Corinthians 14:20-28, 30-31, 33-40 ESV

<https://www.bible.com/59/1co.14.20-28,30-31,33-40.esv>



# Spiritual Gifts | Motivational Gifts Starting Point

If I had to pick out of these 7, I'd say the two spiritual gifts that I most likely have are:

SPIRITUAL GIFT	WHAT I'M DOING or WHAT I'LL START DOING TO USE THIS GIFT	IDEAS
PROPHECY		PRAYER TEAM / WORSHIP TEAM
SERVING		KITCHEN / TECH / USHER / RSK OR NURSERY
TEACHING		TEACHING LIFE GROUP BIBLE ST.
ENCOURAGEMENT		L.G.HOST / F.A.M. / CHURCH CAMPUS LAUNCH TEAM
GENEROSITY		10 CITIES GIFTS / COMPASSION FUND
LEADERSHIP		L.G. LEADER / BOARD MIN TEAM FOR CAMPUS
MERCY		COMPASSION MIN MISSIONS / F.A.M.

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