

The **SHAPE** of you

Your spiritual gifts







Rate these gifts according to your use and your need











Your use: How much has God used you for his kingdom purposes by giving you this gift which you have put into practice? Gifts are given by grace, not merit, but we develop as we use them.











Your need: How much do you feel that you need to ask God to give YOU this gift for his kingdom purposes? All the gifts are needed somewhere in a body of believers, but which ones stand out when you think about God using you with a spiritual gift?











What's the difference between our abilities and spiritual gifts from God? Our abilities are limited but we can have a higher expectation when God acts. A spiritual gift enables us to serve and strengthen others as well as God can directly, better than with only our expertise or insights. Consider who deserves thanks when something goes well. When you use your abilities well, you should get praised, but when God uses you with a spiritual gift, he should get praised!



Adapted from S.H.A.P.E. by Erik Rees, Zondervan Publishing

Spiritual gift and purpose	Your use	Your need
<p>Administration To serve and strengthen the body of Christ by organising resources and people to reach ministry goals efficiently. Examples of use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grouping people and materials in helpful ways • Organising projects and plans with specific goals • Delegating tasks to people with relevant skills • Taking care of practical details to support other people in the use of their different gifts • Providing methods to ensure that resources such as money are used efficiently and accounted for 		
<p>Apostleship To serve and strengthen the body of Christ by being sent with authority to launch and lead new ministry ventures, advance God's purposes and expand his kingdom. Examples of use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overseeing, supporting and challenging a number of Christian ministry leaders • Looking past what is currently done towards areas of need and potential growth • Bridging gaps between the church and the world as a recognised ambassador for Christ • Working to see a number of churches reach their full potential for God 		
<p>Discernment To serve and strengthen the body of Christ by recognising truth or error within a message, person or event. Examples of use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpreting correctly the underlying or unspoken meaning of a written or verbal communication • Recognising the spiritual source of a message - purely human, from God or from the enemy • Identifying people's true motives and agendas • Perceiving when errors or human biases have been mixed with truths and words from God 		

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<p>Encouragement To serve and strengthen the body of Christ by helping others to live God-centred lives through inspiration, counselling and empowerment. Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeking opportunities to share encouraging words and examples of good things seen • Sharing specific insight about the impact and importance of a person's actions • Drawing someone's attention to what their actions reveal about their character and potential • Rejoicing with people whose reliance on Christ has helped them overcome difficult situations 		
<p>Evangelism To serve and strengthen the body of Christ by sharing God's love with others, drawing them to respond and seek life in Christ. Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeking opportunities away from church to find people who might be interested in God and his love for them • Feeling and acting upon a sense of urgency to reach and share faith with people who don't know Jesus • Sensing when a person is open to the gospel and Jesus' call to follow him • Finding how to express the need for new life in God's kingdom in ways which make sense, show love and sound like good news to potential new believers 		
<p>Faith To serve and strengthen the body of Christ by taking risks and extraordinary steps of faith to see God's purposes accomplished, trusting in God to handle obstacles. Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a keen sense of "God-confidence" used in decision making more than self-confidence alone • Feeling and acting upon a desire to trust a promise from God more than other proof of a good outcome • Taking on a challenge that others see as impossible • Building a lifestyle which reflects God's kingdom principles put into practical actions 		
<p>Giving To serve and strengthen the body of Christ by joyfully and selflessly supporting and funding kingdom initiatives, meeting needs beyond any sense of obligation. Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wholeheartedly giving one's self to God for his purposes, expecting time and money to be included • Choosing to live modestly in order to save money for giving when needs may arise • Making choices to give more time or money than might seem comfortably affordable • Maintaining an attitude of humility in repeatedly giving from what God has given so that he gets the glory 		
<p>Healing To serve and strengthen the body of Christ by using the authority Jesus gave to heal, cleanse and restore people in his name. Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcoming a sick, hurting or suffering person to receive prayer, believing (even if they don't) that they can be healed under Jesus' authority • Addressing people who need healing with sensitivity and love, while addressing their ailments with authority • Maintaining faith that God is active in healing beyond what we can observe, especially over a short time • Providing people who receive healing prayer with an undeniable sense of God's love for them in any event 		

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<p>Helping To serve and strengthen the body of Christ by assisting others to reach kingdom goals which are important to them, putting their needs above one's own. Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeking and finding ways to serve behind the scenes • Looking for the success of others, and looking out for the details needed to deliver that success • Showing a flexibility to adapt to changing situations and needs with extraordinary goodwill and grace • Maintaining a readiness to be used by God in unexpected ways, giving him the glory when he does 		
<p>Hospitality To serve and strengthen the body of Christ by providing others with a warm and welcoming environment for fellowship. Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growing an awareness of God's provision in life as an example to follow, with resources from God to share • Considering the physical and emotional needs of people who need a place to relax and be themselves • Providing time, space and materials (e.g. food) which meet people's needs and make them feel comfortable, valued and loved • Looking out for the needs of individuals who may be different from the majority or feel lost in a crowd 		
<p>Interpretation To serve and strengthen the body of Christ by sharing the meaning of a word given by God to someone else in a language that others do not understand. Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolving to seek the meaning of a given word from God rather than rely on experience alone • Receiving from God an interpretation of sounds, words and utterances which may not make sense otherwise • Conveying this interpretation with love, intending it to strengthen, encourage and comfort believers • Holding interpretations lightly and humbly, resisting any temptation be proud of how well they are received 		
<p>Knowledge To serve and strengthen the body of Christ by understanding and communicating truth from God, linking what we can see with deeper insight from God. Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regularly feeding a desire to understand God better by spending time reading and studying the Bible • Lovingly sharing God-given insights which come to mind when observing people and situations • Seeking and finding wisdom from God to help people when they have difficult questions or problems • Maintaining and growing an awareness of how much we don't know by ourselves but can know with God's help 		
<p>Leadership To serve and strengthen the body of Christ by casting vision, stimulating spiritual growth and enabling people to live changed lives in Christ. Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeking God for visions and goals to work towards and strength from him to serve so people can reach them • Demonstrating the ability to get the best from people by finding their strengths and enabling them to be used • Motivating followers of Jesus to work as a united body • Building a culture which seeks and celebrates God's kingdom coming and resists enemy threats and attacks 		

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<p>Mercy To serve and strengthen the body of Christ by ministering to people suffering physically, emotionally, spiritually or relationally, with love and compassion. Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Praying consistently for God’s kingdom, love and mercy to prevail and overturn suffering, locally and globally • Seeking and finding opportunities to meet the needs of suffering people in practical, loving ways • Visiting and spending time with people in difficult situations, such as hospitals or prisons, as God directs • Growing a servant-hearted attitude of willingness to be used by God in small ways even when the big picture of difficulties looks overwhelming 		
<p>Miracles To serve and strengthen the body of Christ by allowing God to do remarkable and unexpected things through them which reveal his love and power. Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistently seeking for God’s power to be revealed in ways that others can see, feel, hear or touch • Believing that God can do more than we imagine • Actively and openly asking for God’s intervention in situations we seem powerless to fix by ourselves • Crediting God openly and drawing attention to him when recognising his power at work in the world 		
<p>Pastoring To serve and strengthen the body of Christ by taking spiritual responsibility for a group of believers and equipping them to live Christ-centred lives. Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeking ability from God to build a heart attitude of loving, serving and self-sacrificing for the sake of others • Building relationships and trust with (at least) a small group of people over time • Ensuring there is a safe space for people to grow and thrive, involving people with other gifts when needed • Leading people consistently to Jesus for their personal development rather than being the expert themselves 		
<p>Prophecy To serve and strengthen the body of Christ by offering messages from God that strengthen, encourage, comfort, warn or guide believers for their benefit. Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readying to be used by God by spending time in prayer and reading the Bible, learning to recognise God’s voice • Growing an alignment of spiritual worldview with that of God, including learning about unseen powers • Speaking simply and faithfully when given a word or picture from God to share for someone’s strengthening • Developing a prophetic gift with practice along with relationships of trust in which challenge can be shared 		
<p>Teaching To serve and strengthen the body of Christ by understanding and sharing stories and principles from scripture in relevant, insightful and helpful ways. Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studying, in depth, scripture and how it has been interpreted by others who have studied and applied it • Seeking understanding from God in order to grasp his word and its principles as a whole, not just highlights • Practising making the Bible clear, understandable and relevant to life for people who have not studied it • Communicating truth from scripture in ways that are effective for different people to change their lives, recognising their styles of and barriers to learning 		

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<p>Tongues To serve and strengthen the body of Christ by communicating messages from God in special languages unknown to the speaker. Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spending time in intimacy with God, allowing him to shape spoken expressions of worship and prayer beyond words that one understands • Allowing God to shape spoken expressions of prayer, particularly intercession for people, in the same way when others are present • Growing a desire to be used by God for his glory • Maintaining an attitude of humility when used by God, and relying on the Spirit to provide interpretation when other believers are present 		
<p>Wisdom To serve and strengthen the body of Christ by interpreting information and kingdom principles well enough to make decisions and offer advice within God's will. Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognising God as the primary source of wisdom and direction, and being willing to give everything as the cost of gaining these from God • Devoting time to growing in wisdom, testing understanding of God's word and its application to life • Learning to make difficult decisions in a way which reveals God's character, love, justice and mercy • Being willing to offer advice or help in decision making, crediting God when it reveals God's wisdom and character, and learning with humility when it does not 	