

# SPIRITUAL GIFTS & CHURCH POSITIONS

**Definition:** Spiritual gifts are abilities empowered by the Holy Spirit and used in the ministries of the church.<sup>1</sup>

**Purpose:** Spiritual gifts are given for the equipping of the church to carry out its ministry until Christ returns.<sup>2</sup>

**Texts:** (A) Romans 12:4-8, (B) 1Corinthians 7:7, (C) 12:4-11, (D) 12:28-30, (E) Ephesians 4:11, 1Peter 4:10-11

1PETER 4:10-11			
WHOEVER SPEAKS		WHOEVER MINISTERS	
Prophecy	(A, C, D, E)	(C)	Faith
Teaching	(A, D)	(D)	Helps
Exhorting	(A)	(A)	Giving
Leadership	(A)	(A)	Mercy
Evangelism	(E)	(A)	Serving
Shepherding	(E)	(D)	Administration
Words of Wisdom	(C)	(C, D)	Gifts of Healings
Words of Knowledge	(C)	(C, D)	Performing Miracles
Interpreting Tongues	(C)	(C)	Discernment of Spirits
Types of Tongues	(C, D)	(B)	Celibacy or Marriage

**NOTE:** This chart includes gifts that are derived from a church position.

- ✪ The chart above displays the biblical listing of spiritual gifts according to their two scriptural categories.
- ✪ The chart below displays the natural and supernatural spiritual gifts alongside positions in the Church.

NATURAL	CHURCH POSITION <sup>3</sup>	*SUPERNATURAL
Gifts of Healings →	APOSTLE <sup>4</sup>	→ *Performing Miracles
Mercy		Faith
Administration	PROPHET <sup>5</sup>	*Prophecy
Leadership		Discernment of Spirits
Teaching ←	TEACHER	← Words of Knowledge
Exhorting ←		← Words of Wisdom
Shepherding	PASTOR	← *Interpreting Tongues
Serving		
Evangelism	EVANGELIST	← *Types of Tongues
Giving		
Helps	↑ CELIBATE/HUSBAND/WIFE <sup>6</sup>	
Celibacy or Marriage		

\* The Continuationism–Cessationism Debate: Do [these] supernatural gifts still operate in Christians today?  
 →→| Gifts of Healings are classified as natural gifts, but healing can also be the result of Performing Miracles.  
 ←←| Words of Knowledge/Wisdom can be supernatural manifestations for application as Teaching/Exhorting.  
 ← | Interpreting/Types of Tongues are gifts supernaturally given to some and naturally learned by others.

**NOTE:** This chart is studious but subjective to its maker. Theologians differ in how to categorize spiritual gifts.

<sup>1</sup> W.A. Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2009), 1016.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, 1019. Matt. 22:30, 1Cor. 1:7-8, 1Cor. 13:8-10, and Eph. 4:11-13 seem to also affirm that spiritual gifts cease at Christ's return.

<sup>3</sup> Although there are five official positions within a church, not every position needs to be occupied for the church to be operational.

<sup>4</sup> Within Christendom, there is debate about the office of Apostle. Some believe it to still exist and others believe it to be obsolete.

<sup>5</sup> Within Christendom, there is debate about the office of Prophet. Some believe it to still exist and others believe it to be obsolete.

<sup>6</sup> Celibate/Husband/Wife has been integrated into the fivefold ministry as natural positions in the church held by each of the members.

STRONG	GIFT / POSITION	DESCRIPTION OF GIFT OR POSITION
<a href="#">G2941</a>	Administration	The ability to effectively organize people (leaders, teams, staff, etc.) or things (organizations, events, documents, etc.) while unsupervised by other people
<a href="#">G652</a>	Apostle	An evangelical leader who has been sent to found, teach, and oversee multiple churches through shepherding the appointed elders of each church with guidance
<a href="#">G1253</a> + <a href="#">G4151</a>	Discernment of Spirits	The ability to differentiate and identify the various spiritual forces (Holy Spirit, heavenly hosts, demons) that influence others (actions, attitudes, decisions, etc.)
<a href="#">G2099</a>	Evangelism <sup>7</sup> / Evangelist	A person who is part of the local church but often sent into the world to preach the Gospel of Christ for the purpose of converting those who have not believed
<a href="#">G3870</a>	Exhorting	The ability to speak in impactful ways (encouraging, admonishing, declaring, etc.) about how to practically live in accordance with the Christian worldview
<a href="#">G4102</a>	Faith	The adjustable capacity for beliefs in unseen divine acts to be truthful, despite not having irrefutable evidence to absolutely prove the unseen belief in question
<a href="#">G3330</a>	Giving	The willingness to self-sacrificially share resources (money, food, clothes, etc.) that contribute to the needs of the local church and various ministries therein
<a href="#">G5486</a> + <a href="#">G2386</a>	Gifts of Healings	The various abilities of Christians (doctors, psychologists, therapists/counselors, etc.) that help mend the physical and/or emotional ailment(s) of another person
<a href="#">G484</a>	Helps	The willingness to make oneself available to serve, realize where help is needed, and assist in manually supportive ways with the current task of the local church
<a href="#">G4291</a>	Leadership	The ability to effectively direct and manage other people in a persuasive way in order to accomplish goals, maintain steadfastness, and act with moral integrity
<a href="#">G1653</a>	Mercy	The ability to be empathetic towards another by sharing in their emotional pains or pleasures, thereby expressing lovingkindness to them through unmerited favor
<a href="#">G1755</a> + <a href="#">G1411</a>	Performing Miracles	Bringing about inimitable acts of power that cause mighty changes in physical and spiritual ways, thereby signaling divine intervention as the source of power
<a href="#">G4166</a>	Shepherding <sup>8</sup> / Pastor	A leader who cares for their specific group of Christians (the local church) in a variety of ways, similar to how a shepherd would care for their flock of sheep
<a href="#">G4394</a> / <a href="#">G4396</a>	Prophecy <sup>9</sup> / Prophet <sup>10</sup>	Spontaneous and otherwise unknowable insight about a specific matter given to a Christian by God for the purpose of revelation to the local church or a person
<a href="#">G1248</a>	Serving	The ability to aid local church leaders in the ministry and the willingness to be attentive to the needs of other church members as their intercessor and liaison
<a href="#">G1319</a> / <a href="#">G1320</a>	Teaching <sup>11</sup> / Teacher	The ability to effectively instruct others in learning the doctrinal precepts of the Bible for a particular purpose (education, pastoral training, personal growth, etc.)
<a href="#">G2058</a> + <a href="#">G1100</a>	Interpreting Tongues	The ability to interpret (hear and decode) another language (intelligent speech) then translate what was heard into the common vernacular of the local church
<a href="#">G1085</a> + <a href="#">G1100</a>	Types of Tongues	The ability to speak in another language (intelligent speech) that is not able to be understood by people who speak the common vernacular of the local church
<a href="#">G3056</a> + <a href="#">G1108</a>	Words of Knowledge	1. The ability to speak to another person with knowledge about their own affairs 2. A personal teaching indirectly made through a Christian by the Holy Spirit
<a href="#">G3056</a> + <a href="#">G4678</a>	Words of Wisdom	1. The ability to speak to another person with wisdom about their own affairs 2. A personal exhortation indirectly made through a Christian by the Holy Spirit
N/A <sup>12</sup>	Celibacy Marriage	The decision to sacrificially love and serve the Lord or someone of the opposite sex as lifelong partners, intentionally mirroring Christ's own love for the Church

**NOTE:** This chart is a biblical listing of spiritual gifts and church positions. It is not an exhaustive list of them.

<sup>7</sup> Evangelism is a spiritual gift derived from the word, Evangelist. This gift may also be given to people who do not hold the office.

<sup>8</sup> Shepherding is a spiritual gift derived from the word, Pastor. This gift may also be given to people who do not hold the office.

<sup>9</sup> Prophecy is a spiritual gift not restricted to the position of Prophet. Someone does not need to hold the office of Prophet to prophesy.

<sup>10</sup> Prophetess may possibly be a parallel position therefore enabling the office to be held by women. See [Luke 2:36-37](#) and [Acts 21:8-9](#).

<sup>11</sup> Teaching is a spiritual gift not restricted to the position of Teacher. Someone does not need to hold the office of Teacher to teach.

<sup>12</sup> In [1Cor. 7:1-9](#), Celibacy is the kind of gift that Paul has ([vv.7-8](#)). Marriage is understood as the other kind of gift he mentions ([v.7](#)).