

SPIRITUAL GIFTS FOUND IN SCRIPTURE AND HOW TO PUT THEM TO USE

There is no lack of spiritual gifts, they are innumerable. Here are 32 of them as listed by Charles V. Bryant in his book *Rediscovering Our Spiritual Gifts* (page number shown with each gift).

Administration. The extraordinary ability to sort out resources and persons for effective church ministries and to organize and implement them into ministry projects until completion with eventful results (p. 180).

Luke 14:28-30, Acts 6:1-7, Romans 12:8, 1 Corinthians 12:28

How to use: Board member; Committee Chair; Homemaker; Office manager; Take part in the organization of a project: community or parish: family day; Sunday School picnic; conference; advertising campaign; neighborhood canvassing blitz.

Apostle. The extraordinary ability to adhere to the personality of Jesus Christ and his tradition of missionary itinerancy so that one may wield effective spiritual oversight of new people in new places for the purpose of extending Christian ministries for spiritual, just, and righteous living (p. 181).

Acts 15:1-2, Galatians 2:1-10, 1 Corinthians 12:28, Ephesians 3:1-13; 4:11 2, Corinthians 12:12.

How to use: Moderator; conference minister; leader; president; executive secretary; peace-maker; trouble-shooter; problem solver.

Battle. The extraordinary ability to use spiritual, physical, and/or psychological energies with righteous force enough to confront and overcome evil that hinders the church's mission to do God's will (p. 182).

Deuteronomy 31:6, Joshua 1:6-9, 2 Samuel 10:12, Daniel 10:19, Acts 23:11, 1 Corinthians 16:13, Ephesians 6:10-17, 1 Thessalonians 2:2, 1 Timothy 6:12

How to use: Social justice activist/minister; influential religious/spiritual figure; leader of counter-cultural group/organization; worker priest.

Craftsmanship. The extraordinary ability to use physical materials and artistic skills to create, mold, carve, sculpt, draw, design, paint, repair, or photograph items necessary for spiritual nurture, faith development, and caring ministries (homemaking, cooking, gardening) (p. 182).

Exodus 35:20-35; 36:1-3

How to use: Artist or artisan; creative homemaker; cook; handyman; calligrapher or illustrator; interior design; landscape designer or gardener; icon painter, woodworker.

Discerning Spirits. The extraordinary ability to differentiate between good and evil, right and wrong, and what is God, human nature, or evil, and to use this knowledge for the protection and health of the body of Christ (p. 178).

Matthew 7:6, Acts 5:1-11; 8:22-23, 1 Corinthians 12:10, 2 Peter 2:1-3, 1 John 4:1-6

How to use: Spiritual direction; counseling; healing ministry; intercessory prayer; leadership.

Evangelism. The extraordinary ability to give such a persuasive witness to the love of God as expressed in Jesus Christ that it moves others to accept that love and to become disciples of Christ (p. 179).

Acts 8:5-6; 21:8, 1 Corinthians 3:5-6, Ephesians 4:11, 1 Timothy 2:7, 2 Timothy 4:5

How to use: Apologetics; lector; religious writing; lifestyle or friendship; evangelism; missionary; political, social or cultural change agent; Church as ministry to a rescue mission, jail, nursing homes; After school clubs; daily vocation Bible school; other areas for experimentation; Weekly visitation programs of your parish. At work or with family and/or friends.

Exorcism. The extraordinary ability to use faith, prayers, spirit-music, or other spiritual gifts to liberate persons from debilitating and hindering forces and evil circumstances to free them to use their gifts effectively to serve the body of Christ and others through the church (p. 182).

*1 Samuel 16:14-23, Matthew 8:16-17; 12:43-45, Mark 1:24; 16:17,
Luke 9:1, 49-50; 10:17; 11:25, Acts 5:16; 8:6-8; 16:16; 19:11-12,
1 Corinthians 2:6-8; 10:20-21, Ephesians 6:10-18,
Colossians 1:13-15; 2:20*

How to use: Priest; religious sister/brother; intercessory prayer minister; healing minister.

Exhortation. The extraordinary ability to counsel, inspire, motivate, encourage, and strengthen others in and through their efforts to live out God's will and calling as Christians in pain or pleasure, want or plenty (p. 178).

*Acts 4:36; 11:19-26; 14:22, Romans 12:8, 1 Thessalonians 2:11,
1 Timothy 4:13, Hebrews 10:25*

How to use: Counseling (bereaved, depressed, sick, oppressed); spiritual direction; mentoring; parenting; small group facilitator; Deacon-care programs: nursing home, hospital visitation ministries.

Faith. The extraordinary ability to extend one's basic or saving faith to serve corporate and individual needs specifically related to the life and ministry of the church, the body of Christ (p. 179).

*Matthew 17:19-21, Mark 9:23, Acts 11:22-24, Romans 4:18-21,
1 Corinthians 12:9, Hebrews 11*

How to use: In conjunction with a planning or building committee; Prayer ministry structured to test this gift: regular & consistent prayer time, specific agenda: projects & needs, accurate journal with specific requests & dates & answers; Exceptionally generous giver, fundraiser, entrepreneur, founder, innovator, visionary, intercessory prayer, healing, prayer team, parenting, leader of cutting edge organization or group.

Giving. The extraordinary ability to manage one's resources of income, time, energy, and skills to exceed what is considered to be a reasonable standard for giving to the church, an amount that brings joy and power to do more for further service (p. 178).

*1 Kings 17:8-16, Mark 12:41-44, Luke 8:1-3; 21:1-4,
Acts 4:32-37, Romans 12:8, 2 Corinthians 8:1-7*

How to use: Exposure to the needy members of the family of God: Deacon-care programs: senior citizen ministry, widows, shut-ins; Period where you trust God to supply a certain amount above and beyond your regular giving to meet a particular need; Fund-raising; Board member of charitable organizations; exceptionally generous giver; philanthropist; financial expert; creative worker for social and economic justice, hospitality.

Healings. The extraordinary ability to cure or to be cured of ill conditions that hinder effective ministries for Christ, the Church, or individuals (p. 180).

*Luke 5:17; 6:19; 9:2, 11, 42, Acts 3:1-10; 5:12-16,
1 Corinthians 12:9, 28, 1 Peter 2:24*

How to use: Healing prayer ministry; medical professional; counseling; intercessory prayer; helping professional; Eucharistic minister to the sick; care-giver; spiritual director; pastoral staff.

Helps. The extraordinary ability and eagerness to aid and assist others in need to such an extent that the helper receives as much as the persons helped (p. 178).

*Psalms 21:1, Mark 15:41, Luke 8:2-3, Acts 9:36,
Romans 16:1-2, 1 Corinthians 12:28*

How to use: Jobs to be done to free people with other gifts: photocopies; running off the bulletin; filing; cataloging, telephoning, preparing a mailing, setting up chairs; preparing crafts for children's activities; driving the van for seniors; Administrative assistant secretary; support staff; volunteer; ghost writer/editor; mentor; pastoral staff; teaching; parenting; spiritual direction.

Hospitality. The extraordinary ability to extend caring and sharing to persons (strangers) beyond one's intimate circle to demonstrate and establish the unlimited and inclusive companionship of Christ (p. 179).

*Matthew 25:35, Acts 16:14-16, Romans 12:13,
1 Timothy 3:2, Titus 1:8, 1 Peter 4:9-10*

How to use: Hospitality industry; hospitality committee/usher; refugee resettlement; small Christian Communities; hospitality in your home; receptionist; organizing conference/retreat; work with homeless/poor; RCIA/returning Catholic program.

Humor. The extraordinary ability to bring laughter and joy to situations and relationships to relieve tension, anxiety, or conflicts and to heal and free emotions and energies needed for effective ministries (p. 182).

John 13:6-15, 1 Corinthians 12:12-24, Galatians 5:12

How to use: Board or committee member; Leader; Teacher/preacher; parent; trouble-shooter; visiting the sick, shut-ins.

Intercessory Prayer. The extraordinary ability to know when, and for whom or what to pray with effective results (p. 181).

*Luke 22:41-44, Acts 12:5, 12; 16:25-26, Romans 8:26-27,
Colossians 1:9-12; 4:12-13, 1 Timothy 2:1; 4:5,
James 5:14-16, 16-18*

How to use: Group intercession; healing prayer team; prayer walking; spiritual direction; returning Catholics team; parent; personal intercessor for leader; prayer chain or prayer group; counseling; RCIA; leader; community activity.

Interpretation. The extraordinary ability to hear, comprehend, and translate spiritual messages given to others in wordless phrases or utterances unfamiliar as a known language or to decipher and translate spiritual messages from another who speaks in a known language but not recognized by the interpreter (p. 181).

Luke 24:27, Acts 2:14-21, 1 Corinthians 12:10, 30; 14:5, 13, 27

How to use: Prayer groups; intercessory prayer; healing ministry/counseling/spiritual direction.

Knowledge. The extraordinary ability to ascertain and to understand the universal and timeless truths of God and to link them with the church in its mission through Christ for justice and righteousness in the world (p. 178).

*Acts 5:1-11, Romans 11:33, 1 Corinthians 12:8,
2 Corinthians 11:6, Ephesians 3:19, Colossians 2:3*

How to use: Teaching; preaching; scholarship; philosophy; technology and science; educational conferences, retreats; apologetics; writing; home schooling; RCIA religious education; parish council; leadership (especially education or high-tech organization).

Leadership. The extraordinary ability to envision God's will and purpose for the church and to demonstrate compelling skills in capturing the imaginations, energies, skills, and spiritual gifts of others to pursue and accomplish God's will (p. 180).

*Luke 10:16, Acts 7:10, Romans 12:8, 1 Timothy 3:4; 5:17,
Titus 3:8, 14, Hebrews 13:17*

How to use: Pastor of a large parish; leader of community activities; head of organization/ group; chairperson of any board/committee; founder of a new movement/organization/group; innovator; small group leader; teaching/preaching; family life; plan youth outings, social events or program; visitation.

Martyrdom. The extraordinary ability to stand firm on divinely inspired convictions and divinely directed ministries without equivocation or ulterior motives (p. 181).

*Acts 6:10, 15; 7:54-60, 1 Corinthians 13:3,
1 Thessalonians 2:2, 1 Timothy 6:12*

How to use: Any activity where person disregard personal reputation and physical well-being to do God's will and accept persecution and even death.

Mercy. The extraordinary ability to identify with and actually feel the physical, mental, spiritual, and emotional pain or distress of others and to feel the absolute necessity to do something to relieve them (p. 179).

*Matthew 20:29-34, Mark 9:41, Luke 10:33-35,
Acts 11:28-30; 16:33-34, Romans 12:8*

How to use: Death in a family; illness; calamity; hospital visitation; nursing homes visitation; visitation of shut-ins; medical professional; prison ministry; pastoral work; social justice activist; volunteer for chores or service; social work; Eucharistic minister to the sick; work with the poor or homeless; missionary; voluntary poverty.

Miracles. The extraordinary ability to do powerful works that transcend our perception of natural laws and means to free the church or individuals from conditions that restrict needed ministries (p. 182).

*Genesis 18:14, Mark 9:38-40; 16:17-18, Luke 1:37,
Acts 4:30; 5:1-10; 5:12; 13:11, 1 Corinthians 2:4; 12:10, 28*

How to use: Healing ministry; intercessory prayer.

Missionary. The extraordinary ability to go beyond race, culture, subculture, creeds, nationality, or life-style to serve the basic human and spiritual needs of certain neglected peoples (p. 179).

*Matthew 25:37-40; 28:19-20, Acts 8:4-8; 13:2-12,
Romans 10:14-17, 1 Corinthians 9:19-23*

How to use: Missionary/lay volunteer; work with foreign students/refugees/immigrants; work with racial/cultural/linguistic minority groups; inner city work; racial justice; reconciliation/peace-making; pastoral work; teaching; preaching; evangelism; social justice activist.

Pastor. The extraordinary ability to carry varieties of spiritual, physical, and social concerns for groups and individuals and to persist over long periods of time and circumstances with effective caring (p. 177).

*Matthew 18:12-14, John 10:1-30, Acts 20:28,
Ephesians 4:11-14, 1 Timothy 3:1-7, 1 Peter 5:2-4*

How to use: Priesthood; leader of small faith-centered organization or group; pastoral staff; prayer group leader; facilitator of small Christian community; parenting; teacher cell leaders and small group leaders who will "pastor" small groups of people in large parish; widows; shut-ins; elderly; Sunday school class; Bible study; neighborhood cell group; nursing home visitation team; disciple; new converts; one on one group; marriage preparation; life as a couple.

Prayer-Praise Language. The extraordinary ability to pray to or praise God with beneficial wordless phrases or utterances not familiar as a known language, and with such a joy-filled intimacy with Christ that faith is strengthened and ministries become effective (p. 180).

*Acts 2:1-13; 10:44-46; 19:1-7, Romans 8:26-27,
1 Corinthians 12:10, 28; 13:1; 14:4-5, 22, Ephesians 6:18*

How to use: Prayer groups; charismatic masses; intercession, healing teams.

Prophecy. The extraordinary ability to link biblical truths and God's will for today's living and to be an instrument for revealing or interpreting historic or current messages from God for righteous and just living in today's world (p. 177).

*Acts 2:14-36; 11:28; 15:32; 21:10ff.; 21:9-11, Romans 12:6,
1 Corinthians 12:10; 14:3, 6, 24ff.,
Ephesians 3:1-6; 4:11-14*

How to use: Prayer group; charismatic Mass; intercessory, healing prayer teams; counseling; spiritual direction; social justice activist/ministry; teaching/preaching; writing; influential religious/spiritual figure; leader of counter-cultural group/organization. Most consistent concentrated opportunity: Short series of

prayer meeting; short-term youth workers; Sunday School class; local rescue mission.

Service. The extraordinary ability to elevate any deed or service that aids the church or another person to a form of worship without concern or desire for rank, popularity, position, or recognition (p. 181).

Matthew 4:11, Mark 1:31, Luke 10:40, John 12:2, Acts 6:1,

Romans 12:7, Galatians 6:2, 10, Titus 3:4

How to use: Exceptional volunteer; handyman/woman; administrative assistant; trouble-shooter; critical committee member; homemaker; community/parish activist; support staff; service worker; ombudsman/woman; eager implementer; short-term projects.

Singleness. The extraordinary ability to offer God and the church a life free from marriage, family responsibilities, and sexual frustrations to spend time and energies necessary for certain Christian ministries (p. 181).

Isaiah 56:3-5, Matthew 19:10-12; 22:27-30,

1 Corinthians 7:7, 27-28, 32-35

How to use: Priesthood; religious sister or brother; lay missionary; work with the poor; ministry to single adults; frees person for total dedication to any work or calling.

Spirit-Music. The extraordinary ability to create or performs lyrics and musical tunes as messages from God to inspire others to Christian service, to win others to Christ, or to tell the story of God's love and grace (p. 182).

2 Chronicles 5:11-14, Psalm 57:7-9,

1 Corinthians 14:15, Ephesians 5:19

How to use: Choral/instrumental performance; professional musicians; music therapy/music education; media work; worship/music ministry in a parish/prayer group.

Suffering. The extraordinary ability to endure hardship, pain, and distress with an amount of joy and fortitude to inspire others to endure their suffering and to lead others to accept God's offer of salvation made possible in Christ's suffering (p. 180).

Matthew 16:24, Mark 8:34, John 18:11, Romans 8:17,

2 Corinthians 11:23-27; 12:1-10, Philippians 1:29ff., 1 Peter 4:12-14

How to use: Sick; shut-ins; offer your suffering in union with Christ's in reparation for the conversion of sinners and sanctity of yourself and others.

Teaching. The extraordinary ability to discern, analyze, and deliver biblical and other spiritual truths to help others to comprehend and accept the clear calling of God to live justly and righteously (p. 177).

Acts 13:1; 18:24-28; 20:20-21, 1 Corinthians 12:28, Ephesians 4:11,

1 Timothy 2:7, 2 Timothy 1:11, James 3:11

How to use: Public school/adult education teacher; tutoring/volunteer teaching; creating curriculum; educational leadership; home-schooling/parenting; writing; apologetics; counseling/spiritual direction; Sunday School classes; children's church program; youth programs; nursery programs; after-school clubs; prayer meeting; disciple new converts.

Voluntary Poverty. The extraordinary ability to live a simple, conservative, and unencumbered life free of material responsibilities in order to devote large amounts of time, energy, and skills to essential ministries (182).

Mark 1:18, 20; 10:21, Acts 2:45; 4:34-35,

1 Corinthians 13:3, 2 Corinthians 8:9

How to use: Religious sister or brother; member of a 3rd order or lay institute; social justice minister/activist; missionary; relief and development worker; exceptional giver; contemplative; prophetic vocation; intercessory prayer.

Wisdom. The extraordinary ability to make concrete, practical, and specific applications of divine knowledge received directly from God, from one's spiritual gift of knowledge, or from another's shared gift or gifts (p. 177).

Acts 6:3, 10; 7:10,

1 Corinthians 1:18-25, 26-27; 3:18-19; 12:18,

Colossians 1:28; 3:16, 2 Peter 3:15

How to use: Leadership; pastor/pastoral staff; parish council; administration; teaching/preaching; writing; spiritual direction; counseling; helping profession; developing technology; practical innovator; fund-raising; parenting.

Parish Ministry and Organization Information Booklets could help you find a mentor in parish activities. In the community at large, you can get information in the Official Catholic Directory of the Archdiocese of San Antonio by contacting Today's Catholic at 210-734-2620, in Non-profit Associations, etc. You can also use your spiritual gifts within your family and your environment - friends, place of work, schools, everywhere for the common good.

Adapted from the Diocese of Honolulu at <http://www.catholichawaii.org/gifts/index.html>.