

GIFTS

PART 1:

MINISTRY GIFTS



It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers,

(Eph 4:11 NIV)

Not everyone has a ministry-gift as described in Ephesians 4:11, since God only gave “some” to be apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors or teachers. But in First Corinthians 12:28 the New Testament adds some other ministries to the list of ascension gift ministries.

And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.

(1 Cor 12:28 NKJV)

Some scholars regard First Corinthians 12:28 as a symposium of three gift categories. But this is no clear from the text. We will therefore group these two ministry-gift lists into the following descriptions:

<p>Apostle / Leader</p>	<p>Some commentators have oversimplified the ministry of an apostle to “one who starts new churches”. The problem with this is that not all the apostles mentioned in the New Testament actually started new churches! (eg. James, Acts 12, 15) What is consistently clear about the ministry of an apostle from the New Testament is that it is a <i>fathering</i> ministry (1Cor. 4:15). In this sense then, <i>it is a relational oversight ministry appointed by Christ, binding an apostle with a minister or church.</i> Just because a person is recognised as an apostle by one ministry or church, does not necessarily mean that they are to be recognised by another ministry or church as an apostle (1Cor. 9:2). Because it is a <i>fathering ministry</i>, the likelihood of having spiritual children (either ministries/leaders or churches) is great. That’s why some have simplified the ministry of an apostle to simply starting churches.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What personality type do you think an apostle is more likely to have? <p style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Initiator <input type="checkbox"/> Influencer <input type="checkbox"/> Industrious <input type="checkbox"/> Informal </p>
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<p>Prophet</p>	<p>The Old Testament prophet brought God’s judgment. The New Testament prophet brings God’s grace usually in the form of encouragement. New Testament prophecy “edifies”, “builds up”, “strengthens”, and “encourages”. A prophet is called simultaneously to intercession, since they are “watchmen”. They can deliver personal words of prophecy to individuals, or to churches. They can bring forth predictive words, but their primary ministry is to speak and pray. They will have a keen spiritual ear to hear the voice of God, and may often be called upon by God to perform curious acts of obedience. As such, those with a prophetic ministry are often misunderstood by many people. Because of this, prophets may not relate very well socially to others.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What personality type do you think a prophet is likely to have? <input type="checkbox"/> Initiator <input type="checkbox"/> Influencer <input type="checkbox"/> Industrious <input type="checkbox"/> Informal
<p>Teacher</p>	<p>Bible teachers are passionate about the Bible (to state the obvious). They are concerned about the truth of God’s Word, and desire to see people living it. They realise, and try to convey, the importance of words. They enjoy studying God’s Word and sharing with others what they themselves have learned. They may have a flair for writing, or sharing illustrations that unfold God’s Word.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What personality type do you think a teacher is likely to have? <input type="checkbox"/> Initiator <input type="checkbox"/> Influencer <input type="checkbox"/> Industrious <input type="checkbox"/> Informal
<p>Evangelist/ Miracles/ Gifts of healings</p>	<p>Forget big crusades. Forget the TV shows. Forget about prolonged appeals for money. The New Testament evangelist was not an aloof itinerant preacher who had no place to call home. The New Testament evangelist was deeply committed to a local church, and hardly ever ministered beyond the bounds of his community. The evangelist has a deep love and burden for people, and a concern for their eternal destiny. She will seek to build relationship bridges with people in order to share the Good News with them. They may not be fussed about the theology of salvation, but they know God and want to make Him and His forgiveness known to everyone in the simplest way. They often see God answer their prayers for healings and the miraculous so as to confirm His Word when sharing with a non-Christian.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What personality type do you think an evangelist is likely to have? <input type="checkbox"/> Initiator <input type="checkbox"/> Influencer <input type="checkbox"/> Industrious <input type="checkbox"/> Informal

Pastor/Elder	<p>A pastor shepherds people by caring for them and guiding them to a more fully devoted walk with Christ. A pastor/elder genuinely cares for people and is moved by their joys and heartaches. They tend to listen well to others.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What personality type do you think a pastor/elder is likely to have? <input type="checkbox"/> Initiator <input type="checkbox"/> Influencer <input type="checkbox"/> Industrious <input type="checkbox"/> Informal
Helps/Deacon	<p>This person sees the practical needs of others and desires to help. They are prepared to help those already serving and ministering for the Lord, and as such are not always necessarily the initiators of a ministry. They are known as faithful, behind-the-scenes people. They are prepared to use their natural abilities to help out those trying to serve the Lord who might not have those abilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What personality type do you think a helper is likely to have? <input type="checkbox"/> Initiator <input type="checkbox"/> Influencer <input type="checkbox"/> Industrious <input type="checkbox"/> Informal
Administration / Facilitator	<p>The person with the ministry of administration has an ability to organise and match people and resources to needs. They know how to work <i>through</i> others to get things done. Their ministry is one of management, rather than <i>leadership</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What personality type do you think a facilitator is likely to have? <input type="checkbox"/> Initiator <input type="checkbox"/> Influencer <input type="checkbox"/> Industrious <input type="checkbox"/> Informal
Varieties of Tongues	<p>We can only speculate what this ministry is. We know that <i>tongues</i> can be either the languages of “men or angels” and perhaps this is a ministry of prophetic intercession using the prayer language of tongues. It could also involve speaking to various language groups by use of a supernatural tongue.</p>

The following survey evaluates where you are at now. You may be called to be an apostle, but right now you’re a teacher or whatever else. You might be called to be an evangelist, but haven’t started evangelising yet. Answer the questions truthfully for where you’re at now.

IDENTIFIER	YES	NO
1. I bring unchurched people to Christian meetings quite often		
2. I help people to find answers in God's Word		
3. I often have people share their problems with me.		
4. I have started a ministry and handed it over to someone else in a good and right spirit.		
5. I often think about others who are having a hard time and even become very concerned about them.		
6. I am always doing favours for those in some form of ministry who don't have the same talents as me.		
7. I frequently encourage people with words from God or Scripture passages to help them grow stronger		
8. I am often asked by people what we should do in order to accomplish some task.		
9. I mostly eat out at McDonalds for their highly nutritional food		
10. I am often moved to tears when I am praying since I feel such a strong burden for what I am praying for.		
11. I have an established relationship with several church leaders who look to me as a spiritual father		
12. I frequently visit people to talk with them and listen to where they're at.		
13. Sick people often ask me to pray for them since God has used me to heal the sick before.		
14. I usually always help those who ask me for help.		

	YES	NO
15. It seems that I read my Bible more than the average Christian, which saddens me that people don't read more of the Bible since it is so important to Christian growth.		
16. I seem to know who would be the best person for a job and then have an ability to match them to that task.		
17. I feel I have a capacity for doing a variety of ministries and training up people to take over those ministries		
18. I pray a lot in tongues.		
19. I rarely take on a big ministry project without the help of others that have the gifts that match certain aspects of the project.		
20. I often watch television for ministry purposes to know how the Lord would lead me in intercession. I particularly find the Simpsons, and Wheel of Fortune helpful.		
21. I find myself regularly spending dedicated time in prayer where the Lord often moves upon me in a way that I pray in a different prayer language (tongue) to my usual prayer language.		
22. I have many notes about things I have studied from the Scriptures and have even put Bible studies together to help others to study God's Word		
23. I often sense that something is going to happen and share these insights with others.		
24. I am happiest to serve the Lord behind-the-scenes and feel very little desire to be up the front.		
25. I think that the Lord is going to use me in a big way.		
26. I have had several prophetic words from people confirming my own prophetic calling		

27. I like to talk spiritual in front of people because it makes up for my obvious lack of personal prayer time.		
28. I often bring a prophetic word in tongues during a time of worship among other believers.		
29. I constantly feel concerned for the eternal destiny of my friends and colleagues.		
30. I think diets are a waste of time and people should eat in a more self disciplined way.		
31. I think that its important for Christians to visit Israel at least once in their lifetime.		
32. I have received prophecies from others confirming my call as a teacher		
33. I feel I am fully submitted to my leadership		
34. I like to make sure that things are done properly and that everyone in my team knows what needs to be done, when it needs to be done, and how it is to be done.		
35. I am very confident that God is going to use me to accomplish something that will be for His glory.		
36. I realise that the church needs a lot of practical things done to make it successful that are equally important as the “spiritual” things.		
37. I have received personal prophecies confirming my apostolic calling		
38. I try not to attend Church too much.		
39. I have a caring nature.		
40. I know that my ministry will take me overseas		
41. I am often so deeply burdened in prayer that I don’t know how to pray except in tongues		
42. I frequently encourage others to pray for the lost, and even try to encourage them to witness for Christ		

APOSTLE // LEADER	PROPHET	EVANGELIST // WORKER OF MIRACLES	TEACHER	PASTOR // ELDER	DEACON // HELPS ADMINISTRATOR //	FACILITATOR VARIETY OF TONGUES	
Q 4.=	Q 7.=	Q 1.=	Q 2.=	Q 3.=	Q 6.=	Q 8.=	Q18.=
Q11.=	Q10.=	Q13.=	Q15.=	Q. 5.=	Q14.=	Q16.=	Q21.=
Q17.=	Q23.=	Q29.=	Q22.=	Q12.=	Q24.=	Q19.=	Q28.=
Q37.=	Q26.=	Q42.=	Q32.=	Q39.=	Q36.=	Q34.=	Q41.=
TOTAL:							

You may have one or more of these ministry gifts. If you know, which Ministry gift do you feel God *has* given you?

Which ministry gift *might* you have, although at times your not sure?

Which ministry gift do you definitely *not* have?

Ministry gifts can develop through various phases. God may prepare an evangelist by giving him or her an appreciation of what a pastor goes through. Many prophets commence their ministry as an evangelist or pastor. And so on.

Does your Ministry Gift selection match your personality type?

Do your previous experiences support the Ministry Gift God has given you? If so, how?

To summarise then this analysis of your possible ministry gifts, note in order the three highest ministry gifts that God has called you to be:

1.

2.

3.
