

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

By

J. Paul Reno

Pastor and Author

Published by
Blessed Hope Publishers
Hagerstown, Md.

All Scripture quotations in this book are taken
from the *King James Version* of the Bible.

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I Cor. 12:1

1. There are such things as spiritual gifts (perhaps as many as 21 named in the Bible).
2. God does not want Christians ignorant in this area.

I Cor. 12:2, 3

1. Gentiles are more likely to be led into idolatry on this subject.
2. There is a false leading in this area that carries people away from the truth.
3. The person, name, and position of Christ must remain central in our evaluation of wrong movements of our day. The issue is not the speech or speaker that sways, but Jesus and what is said of Him. There are three options:
 - a. Speaking wrongly about the Jesus of the Bible.
 - b. Speaking correctly about the Jesus of the Bible.

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c. Avoiding the Jesus of the Bible.

Only those who speak correctly of Jesus are doing so by the Holy Ghost.

I Cor. 12:4-6

1. One of the keys to the gifts from the Holy Ghost is that there is great variety.
 - a. Variety of gifts (perhaps up to 21).
 - b. Each gift with differences of administrations.
 - c. Each administration with diversities of operations.
2. If there were 20 gifts, each with 20 administrations, and each of those with 20 operations, then we would have 8,000 possibilities. If we decrease the gifts but increase administrations and operations, the number could greatly increase. The likelihood of two similar gifted people being in the same church is most unlikely.

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I Cor. 12:7

1. This may be the best Biblical definition of a spiritual gift.
2. Gifts are how the Spirit manifests Himself to others through us.
3. Gifts are given to all the saved.
4. We are expected to profit, or expand or develop on our gifts. Consider Christ's teaching on such (**Matt. 25:14-30; Luke 19:11-26**).
5. This is something different from talents. Talents are abilities we are born with and which can be developed.
6. These gifts are given; not earned, deserved, begged, etc.

I Cor. 12:11, 18

1. Gifts are given by the third member of the triune Godhead, the Holy Ghost (**vs. 11**).
2. They are given according to the will of the Spirit – not the will of man (**vs. 11**).

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3. The Holy Spirit gives several (severally) gifts to every believer, not just one. We should know our gifts or areas and ways the Holy Spirit works through us. We certainly should not be ignorant of how we are best used by God (**vs. 11, 1**).
4. This is the basis of our functioning in the body of Christ (**vs. 18**).

I Cor. 12:8-10

1. The gifts are scattered among different believers.
2. No one gift is given to all Christians.

I Cor. 12:28

1. God clearly declares the order, ranking, rating, or valuing of the gifts.
2. "First" is the first and highest.
"Secondarily" is the second level and next highest.

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“Thirdly” is the third level. If these three are a grouping as **Eph. 4** suggests, they are laid out carefully in order of importance.

“After that” drops to another level of operation.

“Then” drops to the lowest level with priority given in order.

I Cor. 13:1-3

1. Gifts without charity (practical love) are worthless.
2. We profit (**12:7**) nothing and are nothing in the Kingdom without love.

I Cor. 12:29-30

1. Not all gifts are given to any one person.
2. Thus we need others to minister to us and others need us to minister to them.

I Pet. 4:10, 11

1. We are to be stewards of our gift(s). (*“It is*

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required in stewards, that a man be found faithful" (1 Cor. 4:2).

2. Speaking gifts to be exercised with authority.
3. Ministry gifts to be exercised to the full *"ability which God giveth"*.
4. All exercise of gifts is for God's glory and never man's.

1 Cor. 12:31

1. Some gifts are better than others, and some are called *"best"*.
2. We are not to covet the lesser gifts but rather the *"best"* gifts.
3. There is something even better than coveting gifts – a *"way"* of life or behavior tied to our gifts...love.

1 Cor. 13:4-7

1. Gifts exercised without love are worthless.

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2. Gifts exercised with love will have definite evidences.
 - long suffering
 - kind
 - no envy
 - no boasting (vaunting)
 - no pride
 - well behaved
 - unselfish
 - not easily provoked
 - thinketh no evil
 - not happy over sin
 - rejoices in truth
 - carries burdens
 - full of faith
 - full of hope
 - endures time and trials

Eph. 4:7-16

1. The ascended Lord has given gifted people to the Church.
2. Ministers are gifts from God of gifted people and to be recognized as such.
3. Five areas are mentioned in **verse 11**.
4. These are given to accomplish ministries in the Church as stated in **verses 12-16**.

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5. The evidence of gifted ministers being gifted of God is what is produced in the Church.
6. The issue is quality rated rather than quantity rated.
7. Their ministry perfects or makes complete (well rounded) saints who then minister to the world and edify one another (the body of Christ).
8. These men are needed until:
 - *"we all come to the unity of the faith"*
 - we all come to a full knowledge of Jesus as the Son of God.
 - we all come to mature, complete, well rounded (perfect) lives.
 - we all come to measure up to full conformity with Jesus (in all His fullness).
9. These ministers are needed that:
 - all grow up and are no longer spiritual children
 - there be stability of doctrine

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- believers not be carried away, fooled, or deceived; but rather consistent.
10. These ministers are needed and will produce Christians:
- speaking the truth in love
 - growing up
 - the Church working together
 - the Church growing and ministering to herself

Ex. 35:30-35

1. The Holy Spirit gifts some men to produce items physically of beauty to assist in worship.
2. They were also gifted to teach each other these skills. Here is a case of skills coming from God and the ability to pass them on to others!

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Wrong Attitudes about Spiritual Gifts

1) Spiritual gifts make us spiritual

I Cor. 1:7

1. The Church of Corinth was second to none in the matter of gifts.
2. They were also in one of the poorest conditions of any Church named in the New Testament (**1:11; 3:3; 4:18; 5:1; 6:1; 8:4, 9, 12; 11:18, 19, 21; 16:22**).
3. Their sins did not hinder their gifting even as their gifting was no evidence of spirituality.

2) I only need to minister in the areas of my gift(s).

II Tim. 4:5

1. Timothy was a much gifted man (**I Tim. 1:18; 4:14; II Tim. 1:6**).

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2. He was commanded to operate as an evangelist – ***“do the work of”*** – even though he was not gifted to ***“be an evangelist”***.

3) Gifts are for personal use and enjoyment.

I Cor. 14:12

1. Emphasis is not on gifts but others.
2. Our value is determined by what we do for others, especially the Church.

4) Spiritual gifts replace the authority of God's Word.

I Cor. 14:37, 38

1. The Word of God is the sole source of God's commands.
2. Gifts are never to replace or supercede it.
3. Denial of Scriptural authority over gifts is ignorance.

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Gifts and the Body of Christ

Rom. 12:4-6

1. Believers each have different offices and functions.
2. Together we make one body.
3. Gifts are given for functioning in the body.

I Cor. 12:11-18

1. Holy Spirit distributes the gifts according to the needs of the body.
2. Our difference is our basis of helping others.
3. Other's difference is their basis of helping us.

I Cor. 12:19-24

1. If we were alike, we would not be a body.
2. We need each other with our differences of gifts.

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3. The more feeble (seemingly) are the most needed.
4. Those less honored are the most essential.

I Cor. 12:25-28

1. This stops divisions.
2. This promotes caring for each other.
3. This creates unity, empathy, and appreciation.

I Cor. 12:7-11

1. The division of the gifts is for the good of the body.
2. The gift(s) of the individual are not their choice but the Holy Spirit's according to the need as they are (not necessarily as we see them).

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Specific Gifts Given

1) Word of Wisdom

I Cor. 12:8

--- The ability to have insight into people and situations that is not obvious to the average person; combined with an understanding of what to do and how to do it.

Gen. 41:46, 37-39

Ex. 36:1, 2

Deut. 34:9

I Kings 3:5-12, 28

Prov. 2:6, 7

II Pet. 3:15, 16

James 3:13-18

1:5

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2) Word of Knowledge

I Cor. 12:8

--- The ability to understand things which others do not know and cannot comprehend on their own.

I Cor. 13:2

13:8-10

2:9-14

8:1

II Cor. 12:7

Matt. 16:13-17

Dan. 1:17, 20

2:19-23

Luke 8:10

II Tim. 2:7

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3) Faith

I Cor. 12:9

Eph. 2:8-10

Rom. 1:17

I Cor. 13:2

--- The ability to see what others cannot see and to trust God in difficult situations.

--- The ability to see beyond the obstacles – to know the God who delights in the impossible.

Heb. 11:8-19

Rom. 4:18-21

Acts 6:5, 8

7:54-60

Mark 4:35-41

Heb. 11:1

11:33

11:1-40

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4) Gifts of Healing (s)

I Cor. 12:9

12:28

12:30

--- The ability to cause a complete and instantaneous physical healing by direct command and/or touch.

Matt. 8:8, 13

Mark 5:28, 29

Mark 16:18

Luke 9:1-6

Acts 3:1-8

5:15, 16

9:41, 42

28:8, 9

James 5:14-20

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5) Working of Miracles

1 Cor. 12:10

12:28

12:29

--- The ability to perform supernatural acts that clearly demonstrate that God's power is greater than that of Satan. Most commonly seen today in the casting out of demons.

Luke 4:33-36

9:1

Mark 16:15-18

Acts 6:8

8:5-8

19:11, 12

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6) Prophecy (prophets)

I Cor. 12:10

1. This is a gift and prophets are gifted in this area (great shortage).
2. The ministry is primarily in the reviving of believers.

Eph. 4:7-11

1. Jesus gives prophets to men, to the Church.
2. Probably the most rejected of all ministers (ex. Elijah, Jeremiah, Jonah, John the Baptist, etc.).

I Cor. 12:28, 29

1. An obvious area of ministry.
2. Ranked as second highest in this grouping.

Psm. 105:15

1. Special warning given for treatment of prophets.

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2. Ministry deals particularly with exposing sin and demanding repentance (ex. Nathan, Elijah, Isaiah, Jonah, John the Baptist).

Eph. 2:19-22

1. Apostles and Prophets make up the foundation of the Church.
2. Prophets call people back to Jesus the Chief Cornerstone.

Eph. 3:5

1. Receive special revelation (not inspiration) to give to others.
2. Revelation has to do with the local Church functioning in victory and to God's glory.

Function:

Deut. 18:18, 19

1. Jesus the great example.
2. Speak under the control of God.

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3. To speak God's Word (revelation) as already received by them.

II Kings 17:13

1. Ministry is to call for turning back to God from sin.
2. Their ministry will match with other prophets of God.
3. Consider **II Chron. 24:19; Jer. 23:21, 22; 35:15**

Acts 13:1

1. Has a ministry in the local Church.
2. Co-operates with other ministers as a partner.

Acts 15:32-33

- Confirms believers in the faith.

I Cor. 14:3

- To edify, exhort, and comfort.

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Num. 11:25-29

- Must know of Spirit's anointing.

II Pet. 1:20, 21

1. Must be holy men.
2. Must speak only at the moving of the Holy Ghost.

I Cor. 14:24, 25

1. Exposes sin in the lost also.
2. Produces worship to God by others.

Additional Notes:

Amos 3:7

- Secrets revealed

Jer. 27:18

- Prayer

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Jer. 25:4, 5

- Turn

I Sam. 3:19, 20

- Let none of their words fall.

Much warning of false prophets in the N.T. and O.T. and of those who claim the office falsely and/or counterfeit it.

7) Discerning of spirits

--- Recognition of source behind words, action, and/or individuals:

- a) God's Holy Spirit
- b) Satan's demon spirits
- c) Man's human spirit

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--- Different from opinion, guess, experience, or testing.

I Cor. 12:10

- A gift.

I John 4:1-6

1. Using scripture to test.
2. All saints should test but discerning goes beyond this.

Acts 16:16-18

1. Appearance of a helper to the Gospel.
2. Discernment revealed it was demonically energized.

Matt. 16:22, 23

1. Peter had just made a great pronouncement of God revealed truth (vss. 16, 17).
2. Now he speaks in defense of Jesus.

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3. Discernment uncovers the second statement to be given by Satan thru Peter.

I Cor. 14:29

- Often given to discern whether prophets are speaking by God's direction or not.

I Cor. 6:1-8

1. Helps sort out difficult problems between believers in the Church.
2. May be given to those least esteemed in the Church.

8 & 9) Speaking in Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues

These seem to be the most abused gifts, practiced in the most unbiblical fashion, and most counterfeited of all gifts.

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On Speaking in Tongues

The following material is not to be taken as either a recommendation or a condemnation of speaking in tongues (**I Cor. 14:39b**). The purpose is simple. If speaking in tongues is of God, then it must conform to God's rules. However, conforming to these rules does not guarantee that it is of God. If speaking in tongues breaks the rules of God, then it is not of God. If it keeps the rules, then we should try the spirit to see if it is the Holy Spirit (**I John 4:1-4**).

If you are spiritual, you will accept the authority of God's Word on this subject of His rules on the tongues issue (I Cor. 14:37). If you desire to be ignorant in this area, you will succeed! (I Cor. 14:38).

The term "tongues" will be used to refer only to that which is a true gift of the Holy Spirit. In that tongues are being counterfeited by demons and/or the flesh, these rules apply only to that

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which is of God.

Rules on Tongues Speaking

1. Do not covet or seek to speak in tongues (**I Cor. 12:31a, 28**)
2. Tongues are worthless if you don't have true love (**I Cor. 13:1**).
3. True tongues will not cause divisions in the Church, but rather will establish unity (**I Cor. 12:25**) ... There will be no confusion caused by the tongues, but the result will be peace (**I Cor. 14:33**) ... All things, tongues included, are to be done decently and in order (**I Cor. 14:40**).
4. Not all saved will be able to speak in tongues (**I Cor. 12:30, 10, 11**).

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5. Tongues are the least important and least valuable of all gifts (**I Cor. 12:28, 30**), and therefore would not usurp the most important gifts of the Holy Spirit.
6. Five (5) words spoken with understanding are more important than 10,000 words in an unknown tongue (**I Cor. 14:19**), and therefore tongues will not replace teaching and preaching.
7. Tongues are not to be used unless they edify others (**I Cor. 14:26, 23**).
8. There must be at least two, but no more than three speaking when the tongues are used (**I Cor. 14:27**).
9. These two or three are to take turns (**I Cor. 14:27**).

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10. There is to be one interpreter – no more, no less (**I Cor. 14:27**).
11. If there is no interpreter, there is to be no speaking (**I Cor. 14:28**).
12. Women are not permitted to speak (either in tongues or interpreting) (**I Cor. 14:34**).

10) Apostles

I Cor. 12:28, 29

- There is such a gift

Eph. 4:7-11

- Those who have the gift and exercise it are given to men and the Church.

--- Apostle comes from a Greek word.

Missionary comes from the Latin translation of that same word.

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Apostle = Missionary = Sent One
(Greek) (Latin) (English)

--- Three Kinds or Levels of Apostles

- a) **Heb. 3:1** - Jesus
- b) **Luke 22:14** - The twelve apostles
- c) **Acts 14:4, 14** - Paul and Barnabas
(**I Cor. 9:1, 2, 6**)
Rom. 16:7 - Andronicus and Junia
I Cor. 4:6, 9 - Apollos and Sosthenes (**1:1**)
- Timothy (**:17**)

Eph. 2:19, 20

1. Foundational to the Church.
2. Point people to Jesus.
3. Lay the foundation of the local Church.

Eph. 3:1-7

1. Have special understanding of a Biblical local Church.

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2. God works through them in a special power and way in establishing Churches among the heathen.

Function:

Acts 14:4

- Separate out those who will respond to the Gospel.

Acts 14:21, 22

1. Preach the Gospel.
2. Instruct the converts.
3. Solidify the believers.
4. Prepare believers for persecution.

Acts 14:23-28

1. Ordain elders.
2. Work in starting several churches.
3. Report back to the Church who sent them.

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Calling:

Gal. 1:1

1. Not chosen by man.
2. Selected by God.

Acts 13:1-4

1. First active and needed in the local Church.
2. Called by God.
3. Leaders of Church informed by God of the call.
4. Sent by the Church as well as by the Holy Spirit.

Rom. 15:20

- Desiring to open new territory for Jesus.

11) Evangelists

Eph. 4:7-11

1. God gifted men.

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2. Given to Churches

I Cor. 12:28, 29

1. Not listed with some of the other areas of the ministry.
2. Not in list of "are all _____"?
3. Not set aside as area only for some to minister in.

Acts 21:8

1. Phillip is the only man clearly identified as "an evangelist".
2. His life and ministry should shed much light on a Biblical description of this position. (Differs from a commercialized professional Hollywood style of our day).
3. Examine **Acts 6:3-7; 8:4-40**.

II Tim. 4:5

1. Not all are gifted in evangelism.
2. All should do the work of an evangelist.

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12) Pastors

Eph. 4:7-11

1. God gifts men in this area.
2. God gives the gifted men to the Churches (Jer. 3:15; 23:4).

I Cor. 12:28, 29

1. Not listed with some areas of the ministry.
2. Clearly defined in Scriptures (see notes on Doctrine of the Church).

Acts 14:23

1. Elders were ordained in the Churches.
2. **Titus 1:5-11** gives the qualifications of elders.
3. These are the same as for the Bishop (**vs. 7**).
4. **I Tim. 3:1-7** gives the qualifications of the Pastor.

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5. A Church may have several elders but only one Pastor. All pastors are elders but not all elders serve as pastors.
6. The qualifications are high for the office is heavy and lesser qualified men will break under the load and hurt the Church.

Acts 20:28-32

1. Pastors (and elders) are to watch over the flock/church – protect, instruct, feed, oversee, and warn.
2. The health and safety of the local Church is in the hand of the pastor.
(John 10:10-15; I Pet. 5:1-4).

13) Teachers

I Cor. 12:28, 29

- A highly esteemed gift.

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Eph. 4:7-11

- Gift given by God to men.
- These gifted men are given to Churches.
- They work very closely with Pastors.

Eph. 4:12-16

- Their teaching lays the foundation for growth of the Church spiritually and numerically.

I Tim. 3:2

- Pastors are to be gifted in this area also.

Titus 1:9-11

- All elders are to have this gift.

Acts 13:1-4

1. This is one of the gifts exercised by the men in leadership at the Church in Antioch.
2. It was from this group that the first two missionaries were selected by God.

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II Tim. 2:2

1. Teachers are to first learn and then teach others (**2:15**).
2. Their teaching is to be thorough enough that the learners become teachers of others, etc.

II Tim. 2:24-26

1. Teaching should be gentle and with patience.
2. Teachers must know how to meekly instruct those who oppose (them) and themselves with unrepented sin in their lives.

I Tim. 2:12

1. Women are not to teach over a man – from a position of authority.
2. Women are to act under authority and not usurp it.

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Titus 2:3-5

1. Women are to teach other women.
2. There are some subjects only women should teach women.

14) Gift of Helps

- Often overlooked and undervalued
- One of the most essential in the Church
- Absolute necessity for proper function of other gifts.

--- The relieving of burdens and/or responsibilities of others by providing immediate support and/or help.

- See a need or opportunity and plunge in and do it.

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- Willing to work in the background assisting others.

I Cor. 12:1, 7, 11, 18

12:28

Ex. 18:22

Num. 11:14-17

Acts 20:35

15) Showing Mercy

Rom. 12:8

--- The ability to have immediate compassion for those suffering physically, combined with great joy in meeting those needs.

Matt. 9:27

15:22

17:15

20:30-34

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Luke 10:30-37

17:13

Acts 9:39, 40

16) Gifts of "Giving"

- All Christians are to give yet some are gifted in this area.

I Chron. 29:1-19

Rom. 12:3-8

John 12:2-8

II Cor. 8:1

:2

:3

:4

:5

:6

:7-8

:9

9:6-8

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Phil. 4:15-19

17) Exhortation

- Closest to Biblical counseling (pastor, apostle).

- All Christians have some ability yet some are gifted in this area.

- To advise, counsel, encourage, persuade, caution, urge earnestly, comfort, or recommend.

- 2 ideas
 - a) One along side of
 - b) Always from authority (Scriptures)

Rom. 12:8

1. Gifted need to dwell on this ministry as teach and teaching.

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2. Will require much Bible study.

Acts 11:19-23

- Example of Barnabas.

Acts 14:21, 22

- Example of Paul and Barnabas.

Acts 15:31, 32

- Example of Silas and Jonas – resulted in establishing (confirming).

I Tim. 4:13

- Don't forget to minister in this area – give attention to it.

I Tim. 6:2

- Encourage to put facts into action – employers.

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Subjects are varied:

Titus 1:9

- ** Always use God's Word – correction

II Thess. 3:12

- Put commands into action – work and eating

I Tim. 2:1

- Issue of prayers, etc.

I Pet. 5:1, 2

- Issue of ministers

Manner of exhorting:

I Thess. 2:11

- As father to child.

I Thess. 5:14

- Patient toward all.

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II Tim. 4:2

- With doctrine – suffering to do it.

Titus 2:15

- With authority and honor.

18) Ruling

--- To oversee, give leadership, be at the head.

- Always with consideration of needs of others.
- Always with an eye on goals.

Rom. 12:8

- Rule with diligence.

I Tim. 3:4, 5, 12

1. Requirement for pastors/deacons.
2. Picture – as a father
 - as an elder (I Tim. 5:17)

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- Test is seeing needs met in the lives of those you lead and proper goals accomplished.

I Thess. 5:12

- Over you

Heb. 13:7, 17, 24

1. Rule over you.
2. Follow/honor/judgment and accounting.

19) Governments

--- To administrate, give direction, translate goals into practice, make decisions on process, to organize.

I Cor. 12:28

Titus 1:5

- Titus an example.

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II Tim. 2:2

1. Timothy an example.
2. Work out the details.

I Tim. 1:3

- Timothy

- Test is the smooth and efficient operation of work involving many details.

20) Ministry

- To put into practice, implement, care for the details, serve.

- Similar to Helps (helping others) but serving others may be doing it all yourself.

- Pattern of Jesus ministering to us (term also refers to general of all gifts ministering).

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Rom. 12:7

- Stick with your work

Col. 1:7, 23, 25

1. Servant
2. Gospel
3. Church

II Tim. 1:16-18

- To individual Christians.

Heb. 6:10

- To the saints.

Acts 6:1-4

- Needs of widows
- Put out the Word to needs of people

Matt. 20:26-28

1. Humility
2. Example of Jesus

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I Pet. 4:10, 11

- As God makes us able

Philemon 13

- To Paul in prison

II Cor. 11:15

- Counterfeits

I Cor. 16:15

1. Addicted to the ministry.
2. Given over to sacrifice, suffering, loss, expense, - one factor in life.

21) Hospitality

--- Ability to entertain guests in your home with joy and show the goodness of Jesus.

Rom. 12:13, 9

- Without hypocrisy

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I Pet. 4:9-11

- Without grudging

I Tim. 3:2

- Ministers are given to it

Titus 1:8

- Love hospitality

Heb. 13:2

- Towards strangers

Gen. 18:1-8

- Abraham an example

--- Hospitality is a powerful tool of evangelism, fellowship, and strengthening.