

## The Seven Spiritual Gifts (Motivations) of Romans 12 (from *Uniquely You*)

Rom 12:3-8 NIV

3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. 4 Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5 so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. 6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. 7 If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; 8 if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

Spiritual gifts are supernatural motivations given to every believer. Everyone doesn't receive the same gifts. Just as many parts of the human body work together as one, so spiritual gifts are given to the Body of Christ to serve as one. Their purpose is to encourage and mature Christians for more effective ministry.

**1. Prophesying** - Prophets today are not exactly like prophets of old. Old Testament Prophets spoke the literal Word of God. Today people with the Gift of Prophecy seem to have the same seriousness and straight forward attitude toward truth. They like to share truth, regardless of what anyone thinks. Prophets today are motivated to confront anyone with what they believe is right. When controlled by the Holy Spirit, the Gift of Prophecy is a powerful tool to reprove, rebuke and exhort others. Prophets often find themselves pointing the way, declaring specific truth, or standing up for something significant.

**In a word: Bold**

**Overuse: Becomes a fighter**

**Goal: To declare truth without dividing**

**Scriptures: Eph 4:7,11; 1 Cor 14:1,3; 2 Pet 1:19-21**

**2. Serving** - When you think of Christians who serve faithfully behind the scenes, you think of those with the Gift of serving. They are interested in blessing others who serve the Lord. They love to help others. Motivated by a strong sense of need, they feel like "someone has to do it." Caring and concerned for others, they find themselves doing what no one else likes to do. They tend to do whatever is called for.

**In a word: Selfless**

**Overuse: Takes on too much**

**Goal: Be a servant, not a martyr**

**Scriptures: 1 Cor 12:28; Acts 6:1-3; Rom 16:1-2**

**3. Teaching** - Christians with the Gift of Teaching prefer explaining why things are true. While a prophet declares truth, the teacher explains the reasons why it is true. Interested in research, those with the Gift of Teaching like to dig into seemingly insignificant details. They enjoy presenting what they discover. Often negligent of the needs of others, they press toward a deeper understanding. They love to study. Searching patiently and persistently, they may miss the obvious. They stretch the limits of learning, setting high standards of education.

**In a word: In depth**

**Overuse: Digs too deep**

**Goal: Reveal truth, don't exhaust it**

**Scripture: Rom 12:6,7b; Col 3:16; James 3:1; 2:2; 2 Tim 2:2**

**6. Encouraging** - Christians with the Gift of Encouraging find themselves lifting others up. They are compelled to give advice. As counselors, they seem to often have steps of action. While Prophets declare the truth, and Teachers clarify the truth, Encouragers like to tell you what to do with truth. They bless others with a strong sense of concern. Often looking to encourage others, they are sought out as counselors. People find Encouragers friendly, understanding, and practical. They enjoy using their communication skills to share specific insights.

**In a word: Encourager**

**Overuse: Talks to much**

**Goal: Apply truth, don't create expectations**

**Scripture: Rom 12:6,8; Acts 11:23-24; Heb 10:24-25**

**5. Giving** - Givers tend to be seriously concerned about financial matters. The Gift of Giving also involves the "gift of getting." Givers are sensitive to how money is spent and saved. Those with the Gift of Giving don't always give to the wheel that squeaks the loudest, but to the wheel that truly needs the most grease. Givers have unique financial insights. They serve especially well on boards responsible for maintaining budgets. They tend to be conscientious and conservative. The Gift of Giving may not be always evident, but a genuine interest in wise stewardship will be.

**In a word: Steward**

**Overuse: The power of money**

**Goal: Sincere stewardship, not financial harassment**

**Scripture: Rom 12:6, 8b; Acts 4:32-35; 2 Cor 9:7-8**

**6. Leadership** - The Gift of Leadership is evident in those who demonstrate an unusual ability to influence others. They seem to have an independent determination to challenge and direct others toward a specific goal. They stand out and take stands. Those with the Gift of Leadership tend to be multi-talented excelling with their people and tasks skills. Often result-oriented and driven, they need to guard their strengths. They also need to be more sensitive and patient with those who don't respond as well or positive as they. They are great motivators.

**In a word: Dreamer**

**Overuse: Too demanding and impatient**

**Goal: Lead by example and willingness to be a servant.**

**Scripture: Rom 12:6,8c; John 13:13-17; Heb 13:17**

**7. Mercy** - Christians with the Gift of Showing Mercy demonstrate genuine sensitivity to suffering. They are compelled to help people reduce pain. They are concerned more with the person, than the reason for the suffering. Focusing on the feelings of those who hurt, believers with the Gift of Mercy desire to minister by "being there" when people really need them. Sympathizing and/or empathizing are their specialties. While others may care more about why, what, when or how, those with a Mercy gift are interested in "who" needs tender loving care.

**In a word: Caring**

**Overuse: Too sensitive**

**Goal: Wise insights, not foolish responses**

**Scripture: Rom 12:6,8d; Matt 5:7**

