

# Motivational gifts

**Romans 12: 4-8**

**Each one of us has a body, and that body has many parts. These parts all have different uses. In the same way, we are many, but in Christ we are all one body. Each one is a part of that body. And each part belongs to all the other parts. We all have different gifts. Each gift came because of the grace that God gave us.**

**If one has the gift of prophecy, he should use that gift with the faith he has.**

**If one has the gift of serving, he should serve.**

**If one has the gift of teaching, he should teach.**

**If one has the gift of encouraging others, he should encourage.**

**If one has the gift of giving to others, he should give freely.**

**If one has the gift of being a leader, he should try hard when he leads.**

**If one has the gift of showing kindness to others, that person should do so with joy.**

Some call the seven gifts outlined here, 'motivational gifts'. It is common for Christians to have a natural strength in one or more of these areas. However, to be more effective in serving God in whatever situation we find ourselves, we should try to grow in all the gifts, not just the ones we are naturally good at.

## **Characteristics of Motivational Gifts**

### **The prophetic one**

- "tells is like it is"
- can be blunt
- quickly identifies good and evil
- is often an intercessor
- has strict personal standards

### **The server**

- remembers the things that people like or dislike

- enjoys serving and does not think of work as a drudge
- is generous by nature and will do more than asked
- has a high energy level
- prefers doing than delegating
- sees serving as highest importance
- has a hard time saying 'no'

### **The teacher**

- needs to validate truth
- loves detail and precise definitions
- can successfully enable someone to learn
- believes that all scripture must be viewed in context
- believes that TRUTH has power to change and that the gift of teaching is fundamental
- likes to check out sources, check accuracy and finer details
- leans towards scripture rather than experience

### **The encourager**

- may be inclined to use scripture out of context
- may centre on experience
- has a positive outlook
- like to apply truth rather than just study it
- likes immediate response
- likes to do personal counseling

### **The giver**

- supports in all sorts of areas
- is not limited to finances
- has a good sense of value / recognizes a bargain
- will intercede for needs
- is industrious
- tends towards success

### **The leader**

- is highly motivated to organize the people they are responsible for
- sees the long-term picture
- enjoys delegating
- writes notes to self
- may respond to criticism with outer indifference

### **The one who shows mercy**

- drawn to people who hurt
- identifies with the hurt
- feels compassion
- is sensitive
- can be prone to depression

## **Understanding the motivation of each spiritual gift**

Let's pretend that all of the seven motivational gifts are represented in the one family. Each member is strong in one of the seven gifts. Someone is carrying the whole dessert dish to the table, and drops it on the floor. What would each person say, and why would they say it?

### **The prophetic one**

"That's what happens when you're not careful!"  
(Motivation: to correct the problem)

### **The server**

"Oh, let me help you clean it up."  
(Motivation: to fulfill a need)

### **The teacher**

"The reason that it fell is that it was too heavy on one side."  
(Motivation: to discover why it happened)

### **The encourager**

"Next time, let's serve the dessert in bowls before carrying it to the table."  
Motivation: to correct the situation so that it doesn't happen again in the future.

### **The giver**

"I'll be happy to go down to the shops and buy a new dessert."  
(Motivation: to give to a tangible need)

### **The leader**

"Tom, would you get the mop. Meg, please help scrape it up; and Kim, help me prepare another dessert."  
Motivation: to achieve the immediate goal of the group.

### **The one who shows mercy**

“Don’t feel badly. It could have happened to anyone.”

Motivation: to relieve embarrassment)

### **Activities**

Read Romans 12: 4-8 again.

1. Write down the names of the seven ‘gifts’.

Note: These are called ‘gifts’ because they are in us from the moment we are born. Some people are naturally better at some gifts than others.

But being naturally strong in a gift does not mean that we shouldn’t try to use ALL the gifts. God wants us to practice ALL the gifts so that we get better at the ones we are not so good at. This means we can be available for God to use us in ANY situation. God wants us to be prepared to be His servants and use the right gift in the right situation when helping others.

2. Make a list of the seven gifts. Now next to each gift write some ways in which YOU could use that gift to help other people.

## Questionnaire

Write a number next to each of the following sentences. Give yourself a number to show how much the statement is / or is not - like YOU.

3 – greatly

2 – quite a bit

1 – a little

0 – not at all

1. I am enthusiastic about explaining the meaning of the Bible to others.
2. I don't mind going without something myself if I know it can help someone else.
3. I enjoy doing class presentations.
4. I like to encourage those who are having a bad day.
5. I like to share my things with others.
6. I like to organize group members in class.
7. I feel sad when others are sad.
8. I like stories that have hidden meaning,
9. I like to have friends around and make them feel welcome.
10. I like to learn facts.
11. I encourage my friends to do their best.
12. I like to give gifts to others.
13. I like to be a group leader.
14. I like to visit those who are sick.
15. I would like to give class devotion.
16. I like to work under someone who gives me instructions on what to do.
17. I enjoy finding out the meaning of words.
18. I like to help people with their problems.
19. I like to give my money or things to those in need.
20. I like to make plans and carry them out.
21. I feel sorry for those who are having a hard time.
22. I sometimes know what God is saying to me.
23. I like to help Mum or Dad do preparations when visitors are coming.
24. I like reading the Bible.
25. I like to help others know more about God.
26. I like to make gifts for others.
27. I like things to be well organized.
28. If I do good work I don't mind if people don't know about it.

29. When I explain the meaning of the Bible to people they understand what I'm saying really well.
30. I like to help people who have a lot of work to do.
31. I like to look up Bible verses.
32. I can often understand what is troubling someone.
33. If I had \$20 a month I would use it to sponsor a child in a needy country.
34. In a game I am good at explaining the rules to others and I like teaching them how to play the game.
35. When a young child is crying I like to calm them down and find out what's wrong.

**Now fill out the chart:**

Write your scores for each question next to the numbers in the boxes.

1	8	15	22	29
2	9	16	23	30
3	10	17	24	31
4	11	18	25	32
5	12	19	26	33
6	13	20	27	34
7	14	21	28	35

Now add up the numbers in the rows horizontally. Write the total of each row at the right hand end of the row.

Each row stands for a gift. Find out which gifts are your strongest.  
(See next page)

**Key to table:**

Row A (top row): Prophecy / insight

Row B: Serving

Row C: Teaching

Row D: Encouraging others

Row E: Giving

Row F: Leadership

Row G (bottom row): Caring for the needy (mercy)