



TOGETHER IN BATTLE · MINISTRY MONDAYS

Now Deploy It

Every gift of the Spirit named in Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, and Ephesians 4, and what you are doing with yours

“Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of the varied grace of God.”

1 PETER 4:10, NET

1 Received, Stewarded, Deployed

Peter puts three things in one sentence, and the order matters. **You have already received it.** The verb is past tense, so nothing tonight is asking God to give you something. **It is not yours.** A steward manages what belongs to someone else, so the question is not whether you are gifted but whether you are handling His property well. And **it points away from you.** The gift is given to serve one another, never as proof of your standing with God.

Varied grace is *poikilēs*, many-colored. Peter uses that same word for the “various trials” of 1 Peter 1:6. Varied trouble, met by varied grace. That is why a room full of believers does not carry one gift. One grace, many colors.

2 The Three Lists

Read these before you look at the chart. The chart is only a sorting of what is here.

And we have different gifts according to the grace given to us. If the gift is **prophecy**, that individual must use it in proportion to his faith. If it is **service**, he must serve; if it is **teaching**, he must teach; if it is **exhortation**, he must exhort; if it is **contributing**, he must do so with sincerity; if it is **leadership**, he must do so with diligence; if it is **showing mercy**, he must do so with cheerfulness.

ROMANS 12:6-8, NET

For one person is given through the Spirit the **message of wisdom**, and another the **message of knowledge** according to the same Spirit, to another **faith** by the same Spirit, and to another **gifts of healing** by the one Spirit, to another **performance of miracles**, to another **prophecy**, and to another **discernment of spirits**, to another **different kinds of tongues**, and to another the **interpretation of tongues**.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:8-10, NET

And God has placed in the church first **apostles**, second **prophets**, third **teachers**, then **miracles, gifts of healing, helps, gifts of leadership, different kinds of tongues**.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:28, NET

And he himself gave some as **apostles**, some as **prophets**, some as **evangelists**, and some as **pastors and teachers**, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, that is, to build up the body of Christ.

EPHESIANS 4:11-12, NET

3 The Chart: Twenty Gifts

Twenty-nine mentions across the three passages, twenty distinct gifts, one Spirit “distributing as he decides to each person” (1 Cor 12:11). A dot marks each passage a gift appears in. The last column is not a definition, it is a mirror: if it describes something that has actually happened through you more than once, mark it. Full definitions follow on the next two pages.

GIFT	ROM 12	1 COR 12	EPH 4	THIS IS YOU IF ...
Prophecy <i>prophēteia</i>	●	●	●	God gives you words for people that you did not reason your way to, and they land.
Service <i>diakonia</i>	●			You see the need and meet it, without being asked and without needing the credit.
Teaching <i>didaskōn</i>	●	●	●	You take what is true and make it plain, and people leave actually understanding it.
Exhortation <i>parakalōn</i>	●			People walk away from a conversation with you standing straighter than when they came in.
Contributing <i>metadidous</i>	●			You give past what looks reasonable, quietly, and you keep on having enough.
Leadership <i>proistamenos</i>	●			People follow you, and they end up somewhere better than where they started.
Showing mercy <i>eleōn</i>	●			You are drawn to the person everyone else steps around, and you are still there next month.
Message of wisdom <i>logos sophias</i>		●		In a stuck situation you know the next right move, and the move works.
Message of knowledge <i>logos gnōseōs</i>		●		You know something true about a person or a situation that nobody told you.
Faith <i>pistis</i>		●		You believe God for the thing the rest of the room has quietly stopped believing for.
Gifts of healing <i>charismata iamatōn</i>		●		You pray for sick bodies and sick bodies get well.
Miracles <i>energēmata dynamēōn</i>		●		Things happen around you that have no natural explanation, and you were praying.
Discernment of spirits <i>diakriseis pneumatōn</i>		●		You can tell what is actually in a room, and what is actually driving a person.
Kinds of tongues <i>genē glōssōn</i>		●		You pray in a language you never learned, and it builds you up.
Interpretation of tongues <i>hermēneia glōssōn</i>		●		When a tongue is given out loud, the meaning of it comes to you.
Apostle <i>apostolos</i>		●	●	You start things that did not exist, then hand them to other people to run.
Helps <i>antilēmpseis</i>		●		You make someone else's assignment possible by carrying the part nobody sees.
Gifts of leadership <i>kybernēseis</i>		●		You bring order to chaos: plans, systems, follow-through, the thing steered on course.
Evangelist <i>euangelistēs</i>			●	Strangers end up talking with you about Jesus, and you did not force the door open.
Pastor <i>poimēn</i>			●	You carry the same people over years, and they stay with you through the hard seasons.

4 What Each Gift Is, and How It Functions

Definitions first, then operation. Read the one you think is yours, then read the two next to it, because the gifts nearest yours are the ones people most often confuse it with.

PROPHECY

Rom 12:6 • 1 Cor 12:10, 28 • Eph 4:11

WHAT IT IS. God giving you a message for another person or for the church, in the moment, that you did not arrive at by study or observation.

HOW IT FUNCTIONS. It usually comes as an impression, a picture, a phrase, or a weight you cannot shake. You speak it plainly and you let others weigh it (1 Cor 14:29). The test is whether it strengthens, encourages, and comforts (1 Cor 14:3). It never contradicts Scripture, and it never requires a performance.

TEACHING

Rom 12:7 • 1 Cor 12:28 • Eph 4:11

WHAT IT IS. The ability to take what God has said and make it clear, accurate, and usable by ordinary people.

HOW IT FUNCTIONS. You study it, order it, and anticipate where people will get lost. The evidence is not that the room enjoyed it; it is that they can now handle the text themselves. It carries a heavier accountability than the other gifts (James 3:1).

CONTRIBUTING

Rom 12:8

WHAT IT IS. Supplying real resources to meet a real need: money, goods, a room, a vehicle, a meal.

HOW IT FUNCTIONS. Paul attaches one requirement, sincerity, which is literally singleness, giving without a second motive attached. It tends to operate quietly and to give past the comfortable number. It is not a gift reserved for wealthy people.

SHOWING MERCY

Rom 12:8

WHAT IT IS. Compassion that acts, aimed at the suffering, the shamed, and the overlooked.

HOW IT FUNCTIONS. You are drawn toward the person others step around, and you are still there long after it stops being rewarding. Paul's instruction is cheerfulness, because mercy handed over grudgingly wounds the person receiving it.

MESSAGE OF KNOWLEDGE

1 Cor 12:8

WHAT IT IS. God revealing a fact about a person or a situation that you had no natural way of knowing.

HOW IT FUNCTIONS. A name, a condition, a date, a hidden thing. It is given to open a door, not to expose anyone, and handled badly it humiliates. When it touches sin or shame, deliver it gently and privately, and let the person confirm it rather than announcing it over them.

SERVICE

Rom 12:7

WHAT IT IS. The practical carrying of the load. The hands-on work that keeps the body of Christ actually functioning.

HOW IT FUNCTIONS. You notice what needs doing before it is announced, and you do it. It runs on availability more than on talent. Unstewarded it sours into resentment, so it has to stay a gift given to God rather than a debt owed by people.

EXHORTATION

Rom 12:8

WHAT IT IS. Coming alongside someone to urge them forward. Encouragement, comfort, and when it is needed, a push.

HOW IT FUNCTIONS. You see the potential and the obstacle at the same time, and you speak to both. It shares a root with the name for the Holy Spirit as Helper. Done right it gets a person back on their feet and moving, not merely feeling better about standing still.

LEADERSHIP

Rom 12:8

WHAT IT IS. Standing out in front and taking responsibility for people and for direction. The Greek *proistamenos* carries caring for, not only commanding.

HOW IT FUNCTIONS. You set the course, you carry the weight of the decision, and you go first. Paul's one instruction is diligence, because this gift fails far more often by neglect than by error.

MESSAGE OF WISDOM

1 Cor 12:8

WHAT IT IS. A Spirit-given word that applies God's truth to one specific situation. The right next move.

HOW IT FUNCTIONS. It shows up in the stuck moment: a decision, a conflict, a dilemma nobody can untangle. It is not accumulated life experience; it is a specific word for a specific case. It usually comes when someone asks, and it resolves rather than impresses.

FAITH

1 Cor 12:9

WHAT IT IS. Not the saving faith every believer has, but a given surge of certainty for one specific thing.

HOW IT FUNCTIONS. You find yourself settled about an outcome after the rest of the room has quietly moved on. It anchors a room in prayer and it often runs just ahead of healing and miracles. It is received, not worked up.

GIFTS OF HEALING

1 Cor 12:9, 28

WHAT IT IS. God restoring bodies and minds through a person's prayer. Both words are plural in the Greek: gifts, healings.

HOW IT FUNCTIONS. Plural because each healing is its own gift, given case by case. Nobody carries a standing supply. Sometimes it comes instantly, sometimes over days. The people who walk in this are the ones who kept praying after the times nothing happened.

DISCERNMENT OF SPIRITS

1 Cor 12:10

WHAT IT IS. The ability to distinguish which spirit is actually operating: the Holy Spirit, a human spirit, or a demonic one.

HOW IT FUNCTIONS. You sense what is in a room, or what is behind a person's words, before there is evidence for it. It is a sorting gift, not a suspicion gift, and the same word is used for weighing prophecy. Exercised without love it curdles into cynicism quickly.

INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES

1 Cor 12:10

WHAT IT IS. Receiving and giving the meaning of a tongue that has been spoken publicly.

HOW IT FUNCTIONS. It is the gift that makes public tongues useful to the room rather than confusing to it. Not word-for-word translation, but the sense of what was said. Paul tells the one who speaks in a tongue to pray for this gift as well (1 Cor 14:13).

HELPS

1 Cor 12:28

WHAT IT IS. Taking hold of a burden on someone else's behalf. The word pictures picking up the other end of a load.

HOW IT FUNCTIONS. You attach yourself to a person or an assignment and make it possible. It is the least visible gift on the list and one of only two support gifts Paul names in that ordered list. Nothing public in a church runs without it.

EVANGELIST

Eph 4:11

WHAT IT IS. One who announces good news, with unusual effectiveness in bringing people to Christ.

HOW IT FUNCTIONS. Conversations turn that direction without you forcing them open. Ephesians 4 lists it among the equipping gifts, so it is not only doing the work but training the church to do it. Timothy was told to do the work of one even though it was not his primary gift.

MIRACLES

1 Cor 12:10, 28

WHAT IT IS. Literally “workings of powers.” Acts of God that suspend or override the ordinary course of nature.

HOW IT FUNCTIONS. Provision that should not exist, deliverance, events with no natural account. In Scripture it clusters around the advance of the gospel and the glory of God, not around personal convenience.

KINDS OF TONGUES

1 Cor 12:10, 28

WHAT IT IS. Spirit-given speech in a language the speaker never learned. “Kinds” is plural: it is not one uniform experience.

HOW IT FUNCTIONS. Privately it builds up the one praying (1 Cor 14:4). Publicly Paul sets firm limits: two or three, one at a time, and only when someone interprets (1 Cor 14:27–28). Order is not the enemy of the gift, it is the instruction for it.

APOSTLE

1 Cor 12:28 · Eph 4:11

WHAT IT IS. A sent one. The Twelve are unrepeatable, but Scripture also names others as apostles in a continuing sense of pioneering and sending.

HOW IT FUNCTIONS. You start what does not exist yet, lay the foundation, and hand it to other people to run. It travels, it plants, it builds the structures others will work inside. Listed “first” because it opens the ground the rest of the gifts then work.

GIFTS OF LEADERSHIP

1 Cor 12:28

WHAT IT IS. From *kybernēseis*, the word for the man steering the ship. Governing, ordering, turning direction into a working system.

HOW IT FUNCTIONS. You see the whole thing, sequence it, assign it, and follow it through. Distinct from Romans 12 leadership: that gift leads people, this one steers the vessel. Disorder costs a church more people over time than weak teaching does.

PASTOR

Eph 4:11

WHAT IT IS. A shepherd. Feeding, protecting, and staying with one specific flock over time.

HOW IT FUNCTIONS. Long-haul care. You know the people, you go after the one that wanders, and you stand between them and what would harm them. The text ties it to teaching, because you cannot feed a flock you are unable to instruct.

Two notes. “Leadership” appears twice because the Greek does: Romans 12:8 is *proistamenos*, standing out front and taking responsibility for people, while 1 Corinthians 12:28 is *kybernēseis*, steering the ship. They are not the same gift. And prophecy is one entry, but Scripture distinguishes the gift of prophecy, which many exercise, from the office of prophet in Ephesians 4:11, which is a far smaller set. Do not promote yourself from one to the other tonight.

5 Your Part: What Are You Doing With It?

Answer these for yourself before you talk to anyone. A steward is never asked whether he enjoyed the job. He is asked what he did with what he was handed.

1 Name it. Which gift on the chart is yours?

One or two. If you are not sure, write down the one people keep telling you about.

2 What is your evidence?

Not a feeling. A time it actually worked, and the person who watched it happen.

3 How are you stewarding it right now?

Are you sharpening it, feeding it, submitting it to someone older? Or sitting on it?

4 Where is it deployed this week?

An actual person, an actual place, an actual day. If you cannot name one, that is your answer.

5 If it is buried, say why.

Fear, no permission, too busy, nobody ever asked, or you never really believed it was real.

A gift you are not deploying is not humility. It is an unopened box.

"Do not neglect the spiritual gift you have." 1 Timothy 4:14, NET

6 Your Group's Part: Make Room on Monday Night

Now work as a group. The point is not to critique Monday night. It is to find the gifts sitting in this room that Monday night currently has no place for, and then to put a place there. Be specific enough that somebody could act on it next week.

1 Go around. Each person names their gift in one sentence.

Write down what you hear. You are about to need the list.

2 Which gifts in this group have nowhere to operate on a Monday night?

Be honest. Some gifts have an obvious slot here and some have none at all.

3 What would have to change for that gift to actually operate?

Time in the run of the night, permission, structure, training, or simply an invitation.

4 What is the one thing this group will own starting next Monday?

One. Not five. Something this group can start without waiting on anybody.

5 Who needs to be asked, and which of you is asking?

A name, and a name. This is the line that makes all the rest of it real.

“To each person the manifestation of the Spirit is given **for the benefit of all.**” 1 Corinthians 12:7, NET

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