

Revealing Our Gifts and Using Them for the Good of All

⁷*A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. (NLT)*

Read I Corinthians 12:1-11

Take a few moments to pray about your gifts using your hands.

First, cup hands together in front of you as if holding water in them. With your imagination put into your hands some of the gifts God has built into you.

Raise your hands still cupped up to God. While your hands are so raised, thank God for all the gifts given to each of us.

Hold your cupped hands out as if offering what is in them to the world. While hands are in this position, ask God to help you use your gifts to love and take care of others.

Fold your hands in prayer. Pray for God to help you use all these gifts wisely and lovingly. **Amen.**

From Paul's writing in his letter to the Corinthians, we are challenged to recognize which of these gifts have been given to us individually and then to use them to the glory of God in our lives at home, at school, at work, and in the community. This is a partial list. You are encouraged to think of all the gifts you have been graced with, and how you can put them to use for the common good.

Prophecy is the gift of being able to see far ahead; to see what is possible; to have vision and dreams. Perhaps you are good at brainstorming and having new ideas.

Service is the gift of dedicating our lives to others and to God's creation, becoming caregivers like the Good Shepherd. Examples include do tasks, helping when needed, doing things for others.

Teaching is the gift of speaking with knowledge, sharing what we learning and being willing to teach a skill or information with others.

Preaching is the gift of speaking with wisdom, sharing from your revelations of God in scripture and in life.

Encouraging is the gift of coaching or nurturing, and of bringing the best out in others.

Healing is the gift of making people whole when they have physical, mental, emotional, or spiritual ailments. Offering hope, kindness, grace and comfort.

Giving is the gift of making sure that others who are doing the work of the Lord have the right resources at the right time. Sharing your resources and being generous with time and resources.

Leadership is the gift of giving direction and guidance.

Mercy is the gift of going beyond fairness, of standing up not only for justice, but also for kindness. Being willing to speak up, speak out and stand with the most vulnerable.

As we move forward through 2022, you will be asked to put your gifts to use in serving God. Please pray about what God is calling **YOU** to do to serve others. In February, we will all be invited to put our "love" into action as we identify our individual gifts and how we can use them for the common good.. May God bless us and multiply our gifts and ministry!