

She has been a helper of many

We begin today with general guidance for recognizing the spiritual gift you have. This comes from our study on the evangelist.

Here are 12 indications that you have a particular gift:

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1. God has placed a burden on your heart. For evangelists, it's a burden for the lost. For pastors, it's a burden for a congregation, particularly those who are vulnerable to false teaching or are going astray. For someone who has the gift of helps, it's a burden for certain individuals (often in leadership) who would be more effective if they had help.
2. God has filled your heart with a special love for the people who most need to be ministered to with the gift.
3. You are willing to suffer in order to serve others with this gift.
4. You have a supernatural ability when you operate in that area.
5. Other Christians sense that God is at work when you exercise this gift.
6. You sense that this is your purpose in life.
7. God has prepared you for this gift in a unique way. Often it involves suffering and difficulty.

8. When the word of God puts a spotlight on a person possessing this gift, you have a great desire to do the work he or she did.
9. Mature believers encourage you to practice the gift.
10. God is providing what you need to be effective in the gift.
11. God is opening doors for you to exercise the gift.
12. You are drawn to serve a particular location, group of people, or individual.

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With that, we are now ready to learn about our next gift.

Actually, it's two gifts. /The gift of helps and the gift of service.\

There is considerable overlap between them. That becomes clear when you examine the people in the New Testament who have these gifts.

We begin by finding these gifts in the lists of gifts in the epistles,

Rom 12:6-8

Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith;

7 if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; 8 or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

1 Cor 12:27-28

*27 Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it. 28 And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, **helps**, administrations, various kinds of tongues.*

Today we are going to learn about the spiritual gift of helps.

/The spiritual gift of helps is an unusual capacity to help and assist others. \

To begin, we are going to look at individuals with the gift of helps whom the New Testament singles out for praise.

Two individuals are called “helpers”. Let’s read about them:

Rom 16:1-2

I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea; 2 that you receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and that you help her in whatever matter she may have need of you; for she herself has also been a helper of many, and of myself as well.

Phoebe is a great example of someone who had the gift of helps but was also a servant of a church.

By the way, Cenchrea was the place where Paul got his infamous haircut. (Acts 18:18 -he was keeping a vow). It was the eastern harbor of Corinth.

Notice that Paul not only singled her out for her service. He also insisted that the church in Rome honor her and give her whatever she needed.

/Paul recognized the value of a saint who was enthusiastic in providing help to the other saints.\

And Phoebe ministered to many of the saints in Rome. We are not given the specifics, but we do know that she came to the aid of many who were in need.

/Paul also appreciated the help that Phoebe gave him.\

It's often the case that a person with the gift of helps steps in to stand alongside leaders who need assistance in order to fulfill their mission.

2 Tim 1:15-18

15 You are aware of the fact that all who are in Asia turned away from me, among whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes. 16 The Lord grant mercy to the house of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains; 17 but when he was in Rome, he eagerly searched for me and found me — 18 the Lord grant to him to find mercy from the Lord on that day — and you know very well what services he rendered at Ephesus.

/The gift of helps is a supernatural ability to come alongside others for the purpose of greatly increasing the effectiveness of another person's ministry.\

Again, the spiritual gift of helps is similar to the gift of service, but there is this important difference.

/The believer with the gift of **helps** is focused on **people**, whereas the believer with the gift of **service** is focused on **tasks** (projects, the work to be done).\

Men and women can have this gift.

/One man in the New Testament who had this gift was John Mark.\

*Acts 13:2 While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me **Barnabas and Saul** for the work to which I have called them." 3 Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.*

*4 So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia and from there they sailed to Cyprus. 5 When they reached Salamis, they began to proclaim the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews; and they also had John as **their helper**.*

Now, John Mark also shows up in 2 Timothy 4:11 –

2 Tim 4:9-11

9 Make every effort to come to me soon; 10 for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. 11 Only Luke is with me. Pick up Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for service.

/The gift of helps also includes helping the sick, afflicted, handicapped, and helpless.\

Again, the gift of helps is held by both men and women.

/The Greek word for helps meant two things: (1) to be aware, and (2) to hold and support.\

It was used of a bandage to support a wound.

/People with the gift of helps have a unique ability to see needs and render the right assistance.\

Individuals with this gift relieve pressures and burdens in the congregation.

/They have an unusual capacity to serve faithfully behind the scenes. \

They help out wherever they are needed. It may involve helping a deacon with the church property, doing secretarial work, or providing transportation.

/People with the gift of helps are never “too busy”. They are ready to help on a moment’s notice.\

It may involve financial help, physical help, visiting the sick in the hospital, or helping a person find a place to live.

/Members of the body who have this gift are the backbone of the congregation. \ Hidden, strong, flexible; providing stability under stress, supporting the other members of the body.

/Christian workers, released from temporal tasks, can concentrate more fully on their spiritual duties. \

Individuals who have this gift stand in the gap in times of stress. They help hold the congregation together.

As we close, I want to help you tell whether you might have the gift of helps.

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1. You see and earnestly desire to meet the practical needs of others.
2. You have a knack for knowing what really blesses people. You make things special for people.
3. You go the extra mile to assist other believers who need help.
4. You are driven by short-range and immediate needs. You find it hard to make long-term plans.
5. You are burdened to pray for people in need, especially when they don't have the ability to trust the Lord in the moment.
6. When you help people, they sense that God is working through you to meet their needs.
7. You have no desire to receive credit, recognition, or reward for the help you render.\