



05 Service Gifts

0:00:00.3 Speaker 1: Are you dissatisfied with your spiritual progress, feeling stuck without knowing why even after deliverance, prayers or years of therapy, recover your dignity find your purpose and discover the thrill of walking with God once again, explore spiritual consultations with Sonja at biblestudyevangelista.com, click go deeper on the home page and then one-on one and find out how to co-operate more deeply, the Holy Spirit's action in your life for the spiritual consultation.

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0:00:38.8 Sonja Corbitt: Welcome to the Bible Study Evangelista Show. I'm Sonja Corbitt, your Catholic Evangelista, where in our spiritual gift series, and today we're talking about service gifts, last week we looked at equipping gifts, and then the other category is service gifts under which we also have fine gifts, which we'll talk about next week, and service gifts is an enormous category. It covers quite a bit of ground, so administration, caregiving, craftsmanship, discernment, encouragement, faith generosity, hospitality, intercession, knowledge, mercy missions, musicianship, servant leadership, trust, service, communication, wisdom, all of that, and more, because we don't really know how many gifts there are actually are... They're all covered under the service gifts category, and so I'm gonna try my best to get through the major ones in order to sort of give you an explanation of what these gifts are so that you can continue discerning. I wanted to also share with you the results of the quiz, so we had a total of 12,545 people who took the quiz, and it was actually... The results were kind of surprising, I thought the number one result was intercession, and I find that a comforting thought, because it is the intercession of God's people, I have always said And believe, especially those of the religious and the ordained, because they...

0:02:22.8 SC: A lot of those pray the fix our prayers of the Catholic faith, and those of course are based on the fixed hour prayers of Judaism, but because of that constant prayer, the world, the earth is bathed in prayer. Really at every hour of every day, if you consider all of the time zones and how they overlap, and the fact that there are also masses being said all over the world in every time zone, and so intercession, then I believe is what keeps the earth on its axis, especially in our day of just growing, not just growing, but overwhelming almost evil, we see so much darkness around us, and yet there's also so much light, and I've often said that the church is purified in proportion to the growth of evil in the world, so you have these two competing... Well the darkness and the light competing... I don't even wanna say it's a competition, to be honest, 'cause it really isn't, but as the evil increases, the grace abounds, Paul says, and so we can see the purification of the church and of us Christians individually, at the same time, there is an increase in evil and so that's why there has to be a final confrontation because they can't...

0:03:56.3 SC: The power of both of those cannot co-exist, one of them must bow, one of them must

bend the knee, and so what's so exciting about knowing that you're discerning your spiritual gifts and you're beginning to practice and experiment with them is knowing that you and I are contributing to that renewal and that purification of the church and that growth of goodness and love and light in the world... I love that idea. I love it. That's actually exactly why I wanted to do the series, in part. The other part was, that I know it also contributes to your healing, and that's the main purification that the Holy Spirit is working toward in every single Christian, it is our purification and the purification that we undergo is our healing, it's The healing From wounded-ness because sin comes from wounded-ness, so it's a constant renewal at work in the world through the Holy Spirit. So service gifts, then, this is the bulk of all of the spiritual gifts, and so Intercession was the number one, we had 17% of all of the quiz takers got intercession as their top result, and then Apostle Shepherd and Wisdom, then Communication, but it drops off dramatically between Apostle Shepherd and Wisdom.

0:05:27.6 SC: So it went from 17% to 15% on Apostle Shepherd, and then Wisdom is 11%, and then it drops again dramatically at communication, leadership, missions, administration, encouragement. At this point, we're down in the fives and the fours, it's really amazing, it's amazing the gifts that you all have and how they are organized in the church right now, so that tells me with intercession, apostle Shepherd and wisdom in the top three, and they are 15 30-40. So about almost half, almost half of all of the results then are these three intercession, apostle Shepherd and wisdom, and two of those are service gifts, the apostles shepherd is an equipping gift, which tells me that many, many of you need to be having small groups in your home, or you need to be working.

0:06:30.9 SC: In some sort of educational capacity as... Well, when I say educational, I don't necessarily mean like you're teaching necessarily, but definitely that you're facilitating groups so that people... Their formation can flower, and so there are lots of places that that can happen, Small Group leaders, the PRE the parish Religious Education or CCD classes, nursery that would qualify any of the high school or college ministry, single adults, camp leaders or helpers, any sort of book club or book study, or any sort of fellowship of group thing in your own home, vacation Bible school, all of those things would qualify under that Apostle shepherd, because it's sort of pulling a group together, there's also...

0:07:33.3 SC: Well, I'm getting ahead of myself here, [chuckle] but... Alright, so let's just begin with administration, 'cause that starts with A... Right, so the Holy Spirit enables some of us to motivate direct and inspire people in such a way that they voluntarily and harmoniously work together to do the churches work effectively. And so administration involves being able to put things together to tie up all the loose ends and to get things done, setting a pattern for other people to follow, they're good at financing, planning, organizing, delegating responsibilities and problem solving, typically people who are gifted in the area of administration, are goal and objective-oriented, they like to get jobs done, they like to have the little... The list and they like to check things off, they often have really good organizational skills and they're able to coordinate resources to accomplish tasks quickly and effectively, they're motivated by accomplishing these tasks, and they get real satisfaction from seeing the results of everything they've accomplished, so if you've scored high in the area of administration, you should be thinking about getting involved in some sort of ministry where you can use your organization strengths to carry out goals, particular goals numerical growth, the advancement of ministries.

0:08:51.4 SC: Missions expansion, that kind of thing. Martha Ministry, Christ Renews His Parish, Knights of Columbus Lighten Suppers, Parish Event Planning, Church Office Help, Religious

Education, Pastoral Council, Adult Faith Formation, Outreach, St. Vincent de Paul, somebody's gotta organize all that, right? The Finance Council, Greeters and Ushers, lots and lots of areas in the church need this sort of administrative gift... Right. Because the administrators, they're just... They get the stuff done. They get the stuff done and they concern themselves, well, they don't even have to do this, it's just, it's a natural supernatural kind of thing, they're concerned with the details of things because they know that the details are where the work gets done, so you need... We, the church needs people who are willing and able and thrilled to do administrative work because nothing happens if that doesn't get done, right. Let's see caregiving. "The Holy Spirit empowers some persons to willingly bear the burdens of others and help them in such a way that they can do their tasks more effectively to exercise the gift of caregiving or caregiving is to give assistance or relief From distress where it's needed. And this involves a willingness to help others, even when the jobs are messy or involved, getting into close proximity with people who are sick or distress.

0:10:30.3 SC: Now, caregiving is closely related to Mercy, but they're a little bit different. Caregiving is focused more on helping someone with the daily difficulties of life, especially those who are disabled or sick or for some reason unable to help themselves." So you can see how nursing would probably be more of a mercy in a healing gift, whereas caregiving would be someone like who comes into your home and help you with the day-to-day responsibilities of getting dressed, getting something to eat, getting a bath or a shower, navigating duties that you're unable to do on your own, so it's a very hands-on kind of daily activity sort of thing, caregiving. So it's a little bit different than mercy, which we'll get to in a moment, but this is where... These... The last week's show and this week's show and next week show, these are the shows that I'm really trying to kind of give you the nuances between similar gifts, so you're better able to discern the gifts that you have.

[music]

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0:12:21.8 SC: Lets Get social, I'm no longer on Facebook, so come and connect with me in the new Catholic Evangelista Community, visit biblestudyevangelista.com and click community on the menu, or scroll down to the radio notes and click the link to our community. We're sharing picks and prayers, love the word takeaways and insights on the daily readings and everything else social... Come share with me.

0:12:43.3 SC: Caregiving is actually not one of the listed gifts in the biblical lists that Paul gives us Paul and Peter, it's usually morphed in with service or helps, but it is a very specific type of gift, so I wanted to at least offer that explanation there. Then we have craftsmanship, to exercise the gift of craftsmanship, one must have or develop a skill, be it a hobby or a vocation, and must be willing to share this ability with others, either in finished products or in teaching others the skill. This gift involves any art or craft, or skill from painting to pottery, to woodwork, weaving, computer skills, photography, any auto-craft that can be used to the glory of God, I saw on the community page, someone scored really high in craftsmanship and was kind of surprised because she doesn't consider

knitting a craftsmanship gift, and yet she's knitting, [chuckle] for ministries that offer comfort, so encouragement, you can see how this craftsmanship gift in her context is also used with encouragement, she's using this knitting to encourage other people and to comfort them in particular times of distress, so you can see there's mercy kind of mixed up in there and encouragement, and then she's using.

0:14:10.4 SC: Her craftsmanship gift, but she just never considered that that actually might be a spiritual gift, and indeed it is. And so what I'm really trying to do with the series here is to get you to start thinking, to start thinking about the things that you're doing as a spiritual exercise, as a contribution to the renewal of other people, and then in a wider way, the church itself, so I loved that she had begun to think about her gifts that way, and I'm seeing that a lot actually, and I'm really excited about it because I want you guys to understand and to start looking at the offerings that you're making in a spiritual light, because ultimately everything we do has a spiritual component, everything we like to put stuff in these boxes.

0:15:15.3 SC: This is work, this is home, this is church, but it's all spiritual, it all contributes or detracts, if it's a deficit or a sin, it either contribute or detracts from our spiritual lives, so to see what this lens of the Holy Spirit and spiritual gifts, it invests then this eternity with it, it invites more clearly the Holy Spirit into what you're already doing or into the gifts that you're discerning, and as you step out in faith and begin to experiment and work in them and participate, then you have this sense of the supernatural. Supernatural, is that a word? Supernatural of your spiritual gifts, and that is... That really set your faith on fire when you realize and know that you are participating with the Holy Spirit in something eternal.

0:16:06.1 SC: It's wonderful, it gives you that sense of purpose that we talked about in the conference, so we have discernment, then the Holy Spirit enables some of us to determine which kingdom is attempting to manifest, that would be Jensen's definition from the conference, and I loved it, and I have adopted it. So there are two kingdoms, the kingdom of light, the kingdom of darkness, the kingdom of God, the kingdom of the enemy, and which kingdom in a certain situation is trying to reveal itself or trying to manifest itself. So discernment then is the ability, the gift to be able to distinguish between truth and error and to identify whether something is of God or not, and our other speaker on discernment... I can't remember now if that was Mon Sinyor Rossetti or if it was Neil Lezon. I can't remember either way, our other speaker on discernment, I remember them saying that they gave us three categories of discernment, so is it human, is it the enemy or is it God, what is the influence that is attempting to manifest there? And that's actually a church... The church's way of categorizing the elements of discernment, so if you have discernment then, you're able to identify what's happening. Sometimes... I actually had someone ask me recently If I had the gift of discernment, and I do, but not very strong.

0:17:44.8 SC: And they asked me how I felt, how the room felt? And I'm not able to do that. I can't walk into a room and say, You know, the room is full of light, or full of the Holy Spirit, or full of darkness. I can't do that, I don't see spirits, I don't see angels, I don't see that kind of stuff, but some people do, and that would be part of the gift of discernment there. Another service Gift, encouragement, and this one is so, so important, Barnabas... I forgot to give you examples in the scriptures of those who have these gifts, I think one of the best examples of administration is in the Book of Acts when the apostles are the... The widows, and those who are in need are complaining that they don't have enough help, and the apostles are supposed to be out preaching, and they don't have time to do those kinds of things, and so they start to ordain deacons, they bring deacons in, and

that deacons are servers, they're servers in the sense of they have service gifts, they are assisting.

0:18:53.0 SC: And they can be male or female, but in the book of Acts, those deacons were assembled in order to take over those kinds of responsibilities, the apostles called them waiting tables, we don't have time to wait tables, we're supposed to be preaching the gospel, we need people who can administer and minister to those in need, without ourselves having to do it, because we're called to do something else, so you can see then that the gifts of administration and service kind of go together because the deacons there, they were in charge of making sure that those who needed more help were actually receiving it. For discernment, there's a good example in the book of Acts, where Ananias and Sapphira sell land and they bring the money to the apostles to distribute it, but they hold some back and Peter calls them out for their duplicity.

0:19:47.9 SC: He knows that there's something else going on, and of course, with that discernment, there's probably a word of knowledge, possibly prophecy in there kind of mixed in, but you can see then that that's an example of where Peter saw that there was something evil mixed in, or at least natural mixed in with that supposed supernatural gift. Alright, so evangelization was an equipping gift, but encouragement is a service gift, empowered by the Holy Spirit. Some persons are called to stand beside other people who are in need and bring comfort, counsel and encouragement, so they feel helped, Barnabas is one of those Biblical examples. To exercise the gift of encouragement is to call forth the best from others, I love that. And I know that Mary Lena Burke, when she did her talk, 'cause she talked about that, and she is so gifted at that, is she not? And some of you are. There is nothing better than being around someone with the gift of encouragement 'cause you just feel happy being around them and you feel drawn to them, so if you scored pretty high on encouragement, everybody loves you, everybody loves you, and that was actually...

0:21:01.5 SC: That gift got about 4%, almost 5% in the results of the quiz, so there are many of you. People gifted in the area of encouragement have a special ability to encourage others in the body of Christ by giving them words of comfort, encouragement, and counsel in times of need, they're attracted to individuals seeking spiritual growth, and often are willing to share their past personal failures to help motivate others toward a greater spiritual maturity. People who are gifted in encouragement can make accurate assessments of people's spiritual needs and have the ability to explain truth logically giving step-by-step instructions that are easy to follow. So, if you scored high in encouragement, you need to consider maybe being involved in the area where you can use those strengths to minister one-on-one to people in need, and that would be obviously in a apostle-shepherd sort of context.

0:21:57.6 SC: All of those that we have mentioned before, Religious Education, Christ Renews His Parish, small group communities, men's spirituality, college graduate professional ministries, community outreach, outreach to the homebound and the elderly, social justice ministries, just all kinds of those sorts of things, those are all places where you can use the encouragement gift, but most people who have that gift they just use it on a daily basis, and everybody they come in contact with, they're constantly helping build them up and they are calling forth the best from that person who feels discouraged, or feels depressed, or feels down, they're just able...

0:22:39.1 SC: Encouragers are just really able to help build other people up. And so we love you for that. Then we have faith, the Holy Spirit provides individuals with extraordinary confidence in God's promises, power, and presence, so that they can take heroic stands for the future of God's work in the church and faith community, this gift involves a healthy prayer life, sensitivity to the

will of God, and a firm trust that God will come through even when there is no concrete evidence. And the gift of faith is a little bit different than just the faith that we're all supposed to have. And I did a couple of shows previously talking about what faith isn't. James has... There's a great verse in James that says... It talks about how faith is not the deposit of faith, it is not a body of doctrine or beliefs, because even the demons believe and tremble. It's not a matter of your head. Faith is a matter of stepping out and doing something with great risk. Faith is spelled R-I-S-K. I think Mike Nolan said that in his talk, right.

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[music]

0:24:48.2 SC: So faith as a spiritual gift is spelled R-I-S-K, [chuckle] it's not a matter of your belief system, it's a matter of stepping out in obedience to God when everything seems to be telling you not to do something.

0:25:05.3 SC: The Book of Hebrews and Chapter 11 gives us this, hall of fame, of faith. And so there are too many biblical examples to even begin to list, but there's a bit of a list there. I'll give you a recent... A recent example for my own life, I recently attended a conference myself, this was actually for me, and I did not have an invitation to that conference, it was full, and I was actually on a waiting list and I didn't consider this a gift of faith at all, until I got there and everybody was like, "Wow, I can't believe you did this." So I rented an Airbnb and my husband was gonna go with me, and so I had to tell him like the day before I was getting ready to leave for this conference, I had to tell him... Since he was gonna go with me, I said, "Well, I guess I need to let you know that I don't actually even have a place at this conference, I'm on the waiting list and I haven't heard, and here we are two days away, but I'm gonna go..."

0:26:05.3 SC: I've already rented the Airbnb and I'm just gonna go and I believe that there's gonna be a spot." [chuckle] So to his credit, I really couldn't believe it. He didn't even blink, he parked the truck and off we went, so we got there, and I walked in the day that it began, and I said... They said, "Welcome, we're so glad you're here." And I said, "Well, I hope I'm welcome. I actually don't have a reservation, I was just... I came all this way, it was an eight-hour trip and we actually drove because the airport that was closest to that particular area was not a very big airport, and the flights were more expensive and took more time because there wasn't a direct flight, it would have taken more time and more money to fly than it did to actually drive, so we drove, and so we drove eight hours with no reservation, [chuckle] and I showed up and I said, I hope I'm welcome because I don't actually have a reservation here, but I'm just guessing that the Holy Spirit, probably someone probably dropped out at the last minute," and lo and behold, they actually had... And so I was, I created a little bit of a buzz.

0:27:12.8 SC: "You drove all the way down here with your family, and I didn't even have a reservation, you did it on faith." And I was like, "Oh, okay, yeah." So that could possibly be an example of extraordinary faith where everything looks to be one way, but you step out in obedience and faith to God, and you do something without any evidence whatsoever that it's gonna work out now, I wouldn't advise this unless you have a very clear word from God and confirmation of such, don't just plan something and then go do it, and then ask God to catch up with you, you really have to be following him, he has to be taking the lead and then you step out, but this kind of faith as a spiritual gift is, it's not something... It's not in the way of daily faith, it is taking big risks for God, and there are examples all over the place, especially in the scriptures, but lots of people have extraordinary faith and they step out and do things that seem absolutely crazy to other people, but they're doing it out of obedience, so that would be an example of faith as a spiritual gift. Then generosity, the Holy Spirit enables people to offer energies, abilities and material resources for the work of the Church with exceptional willingness, cheerfulness and generosity to exercise the gift of giving.

0:28:34.6 SC: One operates out of a spirit of selflessness, requiring no recognition or reward for their giving, this gift involves offering one's time, talent and treasure, that's a good point. So it involves all of those time, talent and treasure, so you can be... You can have the gift of generosity and give lots and lots of your time, and I would only caution you to make sure that you do so according to the hierarchy that God has given us, so God in our relationship with Him first, then our vocations to our families, if we have those, and then the exercise of a spiritual gift for one's time talent and treasure. Now, if you have the gift of generosity... My husband's stepfather actually had this gift, and he never had money for his family, so it was out of balance, but he never had money for his family 'cause he was giving it away all the time.

0:29:32.9 SC: He gave everything away, everything the family actually ever got, the man gave it away to somebody else. So you can see how that's out of balance, but it's a gift, it's a gift in operation, I've never seen anybody more generous than this guy, it drove everybody crazy because they could barely eat, but he was given away every penny he made to people around him, so that's a gift, that's the exercise of a spiritual gift, it's just very out of balance, okay, so we wanna bring it into balance, we wanna be obedient to the Holy Spirit, and I will also say that people who have the gift of generosity, this is what money is for you all, when God gives you money and he blesses you, whether it's abundant or not, if he gives you an excess, it's meant to be given away, that's the whole reason why people have lots of money, in fact, I think it was father Larry who has said this several times, he says, "Hey, I've got plenty of money, it's all in your pockets."

[chuckle]

0:30:24.1 SC: He's talking about His ministry, right? God has plenty of money, it's all in your pockets, so those of us who are trying to work in evangelization and work in more visible sorts of ministries, we need it, we can't... Nothing gets done on Earth without money, so if you have a little bit of extra money, it's meant to be given away. The church fathers, when I did the series on social justice, we talked about this a lot. That's the whole point, that's why you have extra. If you have an extra, it's meant to be given away, so be generous, but these people with the gift of generosity, they go way overboard, they are just... They really... And a lot of times they do it in secret, they don't tell people. And sometimes these people, I know some people like this, you would never know that they even have any money, [laughter] 'cause they don't look like they do, and in fact, I think they work to

seem like they don't, so that they can be more anonymous in their giving, so generosity then is a true service gift, because the money that the people with the gift of generosity give, and the time and the talent that generosity fuels the ministries of the church.

0:31:45.9 SC: So Lots of places where you will see this, and there's really no point in even trying to go through the list again, because any of the church ministries, whether they're in a parish or whether they're like mine or say Catholic Charities or something like that. All of those ministries, they need this gift of generosity, and there are many, many people who have that gift and exercise it on behalf of God who has given them the resources to be able to help, so generosity then is also a service gift, then we have hospitality now, I didn't see a whole lot of really half-scoring on hospitality, which is interesting because I think... Many of you have it and you just don't want it. [laughter] I think many of you have it and wish you had other gifts, listen, the gifts are distributed as the Holy Spirit wills, according to Saint Paul in 1 Corinthians 12, The Holy spirit distributes them. You can't get other gifts, we always want different gifts, I don't want the gift of hospitality or the gift of helps or service, I want the evangelism gift, or I want the mission gift or whatever, we're always trying get new gifts, just leave the administration of the gifts to the Holy Spirit, because He knows how and where and when He has placed you.

0:33:05.3 SC: So if you have the gift of hospitality, get busy using it because you're gonna be filled up and you're gonna fill up other people with that gift, and it's a very, very important gift. I can't tell you how many times I've traveled in, say, doing a conference or event or whatever, and someone with the gift of hospitality takes a weekend that is so exhausting and... In a good way, right? I'm thrilled to be able to do it, I'm not complaining here, but I am saying that you feel the power go out of you, [chuckle] like Jesus did when the woman touched the hem of his garment, he felt the power go out of him, you feel the power go out of you, it's exhausting, 'cause you're... When I go, when I go to an event, from the time I leave my driveway to the time my foot hits my driveway again, my soul focus is a complete self-donation to the coordinators who brought me and the people to whom I'm ministering, so I am... I am completely at their disposal, there is no lunch time or a bathroom break or whatever, unless they give it to me, right?

0:34:18.5 SC: I am completely at their disposal, both the people that I'm there to serve and the people who brought me the coordinators and the planners. So a person with the gift of hospitality will make sure that I have a bathroom break, will make sure that I have a comfortable room that's private, will, make sure that I have private time so I can recover because they sense, they sense the need there and they want to make sure that you're at ease, a concern for the comfort of others is a manifestation of the gift of hospitality, this gift involves having a knack for making people feel at ease, enjoying being in the presence of strangers and a welcoming spirit. Hospitality is a huge gift. People gifted in the area of hospitality have the ability to make guests feel comfortable and at home, they have a desire to provide a warm welcome, whether in ministry or a social setting, and they delight in opening their homes to individuals or groups, and they often look for opportunities to use the gift of hospitality to minister to others, so if you scored high in hospitality, you need to consider being involved in a ministry where you can use gift to help make other people feel at home in the church, perhaps a welcoming committee or something like that.

[music]

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[music]

0:36:24.5 SC: Back to generosity for just a moment, I wanna shout out several weeks worth of Friends of the show, Jessica W. Monica... They are Adriana C. Katina I. Michelle Varde. Elizabeth C. Kelly D. Allison Mc. Janet P. Jossy OR. Deodre E. Sussan S. Maria L. Taris F. Claire and Zee, Gil D. Regina L Julie S. Bonny C. Elizabeth Mc. Maggie Y. Laura B. And Katherine A. I appreciate your help so much, I can't wait to tell you in my next series, Cherished, I can't wait to explain why I am so grateful for you monthly friends of the show. It has never been more important in my ministry than it is now, to thank you and to tell you how grateful I am for your support, and I will tell you the whole story when we get to that series Cherished on how our vocations... How God uses our vocations to heal us, but I just wanted to shout you out and thank you. There were a couple of... Gosh, the list is just so long, I've been trying to keep up with it, or I have been keeping up with it actually on the weekly emails, but the series, since the series started, there are so many of you and I just want to...

0:37:44.7 SC: I just want to thank you. I am so sincerely and deeply grateful for your generosity and your help. Alright, so Intercession. Evidence of the gift of intercession would be, having the mindset for being instantly in prayer for a person or a situation, having confidence that God acts in response to our prayers, being patient and persistent in prayer, even when change is not evident, and having a continuing sense of responsibility to pray for people and situations. People with the gift of intercession, they pray until something happens, P-U-S-H, push, they pray until something happens, and intercession is such an important gift, because it really does, in a spiritual sense, it fuels everything in the church. So, this was the number one gift through the gift quiz, it scored 17% out of all of the quiz takers. So, the majority of you then have the gift of intercession, and remember that 17 doesn't sound very high, but there were only four questions for each of the categories, and so 17 out of 26 gifts, if you divide 100 by 26... Let me do that real quick.

0:39:11.7 SC: So 4%, almost 4%. So four times four, so that's a huge percentage, 16 would be equivalent to like 75, 75% of you have the gift of intercession, that's amazing. So intercession then is a service gift, it operates in service to the whole church. Knowledge to exercise the gift of knowledge, one enjoys learning probably from childhood and on into adulthood, the gift may include knowledge of facts and relationships of scripture and tradition of the church, and knowledge of the ways of sharing this information gracefully. Knowledge is a huge gift, and it usually goes with the teaching gift, those sort of are clustered together often. Mercy, mercy is different, as I said, than caregiving, but it's closely related. The Holy Spirit provides individuals with exceptional empathy and compassion for those who are weak or suffering, so that they can devote large amounts of time and energy to alleviate these conditions, to exercise the gift of mercy is to relate to others in kindness and compassion.

0:40:21.0 SC: This gift involves continual readiness to forgive those who have erred, comfort the bereaved, help those who face a crisis, minister to the sick, become a peacemaker, and or offer assistance to those in need. The examples there are, Jesus, when he said, When you give a cup of water to someone who thirst, when you visit someone in prison, he's talking about the gifts of mercy

there. Also that same example of the deacons being sent out to care for the widows and the orphans, that also is an example of mercy combined with some caregiving. So those gifts are closely related, but the mercy gift, it most often manifests itself in this outpouring of compassion, there's an outpouring of compassion that motivates you to do something, anything, to help in the situation, it's different from caregiving where it's a daily, taking care of people's daily needs. I don't know how else to explain it, but mercy is... It's just this outpouring of compassion that will do absolutely anything to help alleviate the suffering of someone else.

0:41:42.1 SC: And of course, Mother Teresa is a perfect example of that, where her whole ministry was to the poorest of the poor, she just wanted to alleviate their suffering because she saw Jesus in them. Alright, missions, to exercise the gift of mission is to faithfully and mutually share what one has learned about God, this gift involves a willingness to be with and share with people of different heritage, customs, economic background, experience or manner of speaking, as much as a willingness to listen as to speak, and an awareness that God loves all people. This was actually another one of the gifts that was pretty high in... Let's see. It was one, two, three, four, five. The number six, it was number six. In the results from the quiz there. I need to go back to mercy one more time, I'm sorry. People gifted in the area of mercy have immediate compassion for those who are suffering physically, spiritually or emotionally, they derive great joy from meeting the needs of others and often attract people who are in distress.

0:42:54.7 SC: These people usually need friendships in which there is a deep communication and a mutual commitment, they have the ability to draw out the feelings of others and are willing to be vulnerable to hurt both directly and from feeling the hurts of others, that's where compassion comes in, C-O-M meaning with, and passion to suffer, to suffer with. They prefer to remove the causes of hurts rather than to look for spiritual benefits from them, that's another really important nuance in Mercy, Mercy prefers to remove the cause of hurt rather than to look for a spiritual benefit or a root, okay. Person's gifted in ministry have a... I'm sorry, person's gifted in mercy, have a tendency to avoid confrontation and firmness, they often closed their spirit to those whom they feel are overly harsh or critical, if you scored high in the area of mercy, you should consider being involved in an area of ministry that enables you to minister to those who are hurting and who need the sensitivity you have to offer, the compassion that you have to offer, and of course, the works of mercy would be the obvious place to do those. Catholic Charities, any sort of disaster relief, those kinds of things. There are lots of places to use that.

0:44:08.2 SC: Missions then, back to missions, sorry. Missions is this focus on other people groups, and this is truly a spiritual gift, a lot of times, we see this in social justice, warriors, they are drawn, not just to the suffering of different groups, but they want to share God with them. That's the main push for missions, so it's closely related also to evangelism. So missions then is a comfort and an ability and a willingness to share with people who are just very different. And that was actually another really high... Oh, I said that, one, two, three, four, five, six. So number six on the results, so it was pretty high, so you guys have... Many of you have this really strong sensitivity to people of other groups, and that is a true spiritual gift. Musicianship, sorry... That's a pretty self-explanatory one, but lots of places to use that gift, you can... It's a singing or instruments, but also the ability to select music for worship services, or parish events, or programs, liturgy, that kind of thing. So contemporary ensembles, the choir, instrumentalists, we have a boys choir that is absolutely angelic, all of those places are places where you can use the musicianship.

0:45:39.5 SC: Leadership is also a service gift, we often think of it as an equipping gift, but it's

really not. The gift of servant leadership allows individuals to assume responsibility for the leadership and guidance of a group within the church, it includes leading, facilitating, counseling and providing pastoral presence for various parish programs, but the main push behind leadership as opposed to apostleship shepherd, is that the leadership gift has a vision for a direction, the apostle shepherd, all they care about is the formation of the people under their care, the leader though has a vision for a direction, and so that's the difference there in leadership, they're also... Leaders are willing and able to gather and direct people, they often are gifted in administration too. I'm not gonna get to all of these. Trust, is closely related to faith, the Holy Spirit empowers some individuals to accomplish a lot toward achieving God's will in the church and community. Some versions of scripture, this gift is called the working of miracles. I'm gonna actually put that in the sign gifts for next week, but I just wanted to bring it up, 'cause there are a couple of places where that can work also in service.

0:46:53.0 SC: So this gift involves a firm and faithful relationship with God, courage in the face of adversity and a willingness to trust in the power of God, that's the nuance with trust as opposed to faith, trust will trust when things have been terrible in a long-term way, trust just never, never gives up. I'll finish up the service gifts next week with service and helps, communication and wisdom, and then we'll move into the sign gifts as well. If you wanna take the spiritual gifts quiz again, or review the gifts in a sort of concise way, you can do that at biblestudyevangelista.com, click the spiritual gifts picture there on the home page, and it will take you to a page with all of the descriptions of the gifts, and you can take that quiz again. I'm Sonja Corbitt, your Catholic Evangelista.

[music]

0:47:51.4 Speaker 5: Thank you for listening to the Bible Study Evangelista Show. Find out more at biblestudyevangelista.com.

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