



Discovering Your Design:

Preparing Christ's followers to change the world

HELPS

DEFINITION: THE SPIRIT-GIVEN ABILITY TO SERVE WHERE NEEDED, SO THAT GOD'S WORK IS ADVANCED.

- Carries the idea of taking a burden on oneself (verbal form).
- This gift, like all others has people in view first - meets individual needs just as much as it does ministry needs (I Corinthians 16:15) Examples include works of charity and attending to the sick and the poor.
- The gift of helps is sometimes seen as separate from the gift of service or ministry (Romans 12:7), and sometimes synonymous. We take these two to be one and the same because little difference can be seen between the two - both gifts are given to meet the practical needs which exist in every church
- The gift ranges from serving tables, to giving money, to helping in ministry, to helping the weak.

Biblical References: I Corinthians 12:28, Romans 12:7

Contribution: this gift builds up the body by serving and helping out where needed. In many ways these people are the engine of much of the church's ministry.

Biblical Examples: Jesus (John 13) Stephanos (I Corinthians 16:15), Paul and Ephesian elders (Acts 20:35), Dorcas Acts 9:36-39, Phoebe (Romans 16:1,2)

Characteristics - People with this gift :

- are motivated to serve as they see needs
- they will serve wherever and whenever
- usually enjoy working behind the scenes more than being "up front"
- are faithful and reliable workers
- have a "can do" attitude toward tasks that need accomplishing

Cautions:

- remember you can't do everything - learn to say no
- be careful that you don't get discouraged (or maybe even bitter) when others don't serve (cf. Martha in Luke 10:40)
- remember to serve in the strength that God supplies, not your own (I Peter 4:11)

Christian Responsibility: we are told that when we are equipped we will be prepared to do works of service. This gift reminds us that we are all to have the attitude which leads us into joyful service for Christ and His church. A lot that needs doing in the church like our families isn't about a gifting but about a willingness to pitch in and help