

Discovering and Developing Our Spiritual Gifts
Part 6

Common Characteristics of Exhorters/Encouragers and Givers

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Romans 12:6-8 (NIV)
⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. ⁷ If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; ⁸ if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

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Common Characteristics of the Exhorter/Encourager⁹

- They enjoy working with people especially encouraging and exhorting people to develop and grow.
- They usually focus more on the big picture rather than the details.
- They usually see trials as opportunities for growth.
- They tend to think out loud.

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Acts 4:36 (NLT)

36 For instance, there was Joseph, the one the apostles nicknamed Barnabas (which means "Son of encouragement"). He was from the tribe of Levi and came from the island of Cyprus..

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Acts 11:22-26 (NIV)

22 News of this reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. 23 When he arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. 24 He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord. 25 Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, 26 and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.

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Common Characteristics of the Giver

The Greek word is metadidomi meaning "to give over, share, or impart."

- They usually prefer to give anonymously.
- They are wise managers of their personal finances and other resources.
- They are usually very industrious and successful in their work.

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Genesis 12:2-3 (NIV)

2 "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

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Genesis 13:9-11 (NLT)

9 I'll tell you what we'll do. Take your choice of any section of the land you want, and we will separate. If you want that area over there, then I'll stay here. If you want to stay in this area, then I'll move on to another place." 10 Lot took a long look at the fertile plains of the Jordan Valley in the direction of Zoar. The whole area was well watered everywhere, like the garden of the LORD or the beautiful land of Egypt. 11 Lot chose that land for himself—the Jordan Valley to the east of them. He went there with his flocks and servants and parted company with his uncle Abram.

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Genesis 14:18-20 (NKJV)

18 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. 19 And he blessed him and said: "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, possessor of heaven and earth; 20 And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." And he gave him a tithe of all.

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Mark 12:42-44 (NIV)

42 But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. 43 Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. 44 They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything--all she had to live on."

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Proverbs 22:6 (NIV)

6 Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.
