**SUPPORTER CLUSTER**

This cluster is made up of five gifts.

(column 3)

**1. The Gift of Hospitality**

**Definition**

Hospitality is the Spirit's gift to reach out to others, especially strangers, in friendship. To provide an open house and a warm welcome for those in need of food and lodging.

**A Woman with the Gift of Hospitality**

* knows that it is more natural for her to meet people's immediate needs than to aid them in planning to meet long-term needs
* enjoys meeting strangers and having them in her home
* knows that people look forward to being part of gatherings in her home
* offers her home to meet the need of someone in need of lodging

Visualize How Your Gift Can Be Used.

Hospitality coordinator/team leader, social committee, greeter, deaconess, singles’ ministries, Women's Ministries committee.

When the Gift is Misused

This gift is improperly used when we allow personal spiritual growth to slip because excessive amounts of time are spent being hospitable, or when members of the congregation unduly impose on those gifted with hospitality.

**2. The Gift of Support**

**Definition**

Support is the Spirit's gift to meet another's needs, to identify the unmet needs involved in a task related to God's work and to make use of available resources to meet those needs and help accomplish the desired goals.

**A Woman with the Gift of Support**

* is willing to cheerfully endure personal inconvenience to help meet a need
* would, when positions are assigned, rather help out somewhere else than be the leader
* is willing to use her natural talents (such as music, art, cooking) in any way she can serve the church
* is deeply impressed by texts about serving others and tends to become over-involved because of her convictions

**Visualize How Your Gift Can Be Used**

Deaconess, Women's Ministries, music committee, flower committee, church librarian or tape librarian, audio visual committee, publications/public relations, community service, ingatherer, homeless ministry.

**When the gift is misdirected**

Christians can retreat from the vital nurture of prayer, reading, and meditation claiming they are too busy doing things for the Lord. People in positions of responsibility can take advantage of subordinates by taking the credit for their work.

**3. The Gift of Giving**

**Definition**

Giving is the Spirit's gift to give generously and cheerfully to help those in need.

**A Woman with the Gift of Giving**

* finds that her gifts to others often are answers to specific prayers
* has the ability to make wise investments with the ultimate aim of sharing her gains
* is sensitive to the material needs of others and desire to meet those needs without publicity
* is able to give without expecting something in return and without insisting on determining how the gift is used

**Visualize How Your Gift Can Be Used**

Finance committee, student aid committee, Women's Ministries committee, Community Services board, Ingathering leader, Student Missionary committee.

**When the Gift is Misdirected**

Giving is thoroughly distorted when thought of as a payment for a better understanding with God. Givers should never become critical of others who do not give as generously as themselves. The gift of giving should never be associated with acquiring position or political favor.

**4. The Gift of Compassion**

**Definition**

Compassion is the Spirit's gift to feel genuine empathy to the feelings of others, both Christian and non-Christian, and helpful to their needs.

**A Woman with the Gift of Compassion**

* shares the experiences of people’s inward struggles, because they see her as sympathetic and understanding
* often lack firmness and decisiveness because she is sensitive about offending others
* is moved with compassion toward society's outcasts (such as drunks, mentally retarded)
* only condemns others if they are insensitive to personal needs

**Visualize How Your Gift Can Be Used:**

Community services, student aid committee, poor fund committee, counseling, single mothers ministry, shut ins, prison ministry, the elderly in her church, Women's Ministries.

**When the Gift is Misdirected.**

The gift is misdirected when it is wasted on confident people, when it causes an attitude of superiority on the part of givers, or when it makes receivers think less of themselves.

**5. The Gift of Intercession**

**Definition**

Intercession is the Spirit's gift to devote much time to pray for the specific needs of others.

**A Woman with the Gift of Intercession**

* knows that her prayers are personal and to the point rather than impersonal and vague
* spends much of her prayer time in petition for the need of others
* knows numerous cases where her prayers have led to specific results
* knows that her communication with God involves the everyday details of living as well as the monumental decisions

**Visualize How Your Gift Can Be Used.**

Hospital visitation, church nurture visitation, new project development, Women's Ministries, elder, prayer band leader, follow up media interest.

**When the Gift is Misdirected**

There is always the danger that intercessors:

* will ask for their own will, not God's
* will seek their own glory, not God's
* will demand rather than ask God to act

**WORKSHEET FOR SUPPORTER CLUSTER**

1. Go through each spiritual gift.

Help each member of the group to identify herself with one of the gifts in the cluster.

2. Questions for group discussion:

In what specific ways could the gift of hospitality become a blessing to your congregation in the area of nurture? In outreach to the community? In Women's Ministries?

Are you convinced that intercession makes a difference? How can you be sure? Do you think it affects the outcome of events if we do not pray for others? Why?

What tasks could be assigned to someone with the gift of support in your congregation to facilitate nurture and/or outreach?

In which ways can the gift of giving be valuable to Women's Ministries?

If no one is exercising the gift of compassion in your congregation, does it mean there is no need for this ministry? Or is it more likely that members have not yet become aware of their giftedness and/or the need? Should church administration get involved in such situations or leave it to the Holy Spirit to lead individuals into personal ministry?

Can you recall any contemporary experience where the gift of intercession made an important difference to the outcome of some situation?

How could the gift of support be facilitated in Women's Ministries?

Is the gift of giving mostly the ability to give donations, or the giving of oneself? Explain.