**COUNSELOR CLUSTER**

This cluster is made up of three gifts.

(column 4)

**1. The Gift of Insight**

**Definition**

Insight is the Spirit's gift to perceive people's needs and to minister effectively to them both for the growth of the person counseled or concerned and for the growth of the church as a whole. To be able to know with assurance whether certain behavior purported to be of God is in reality divine, human, or satanic.

**A Woman with the Gift of Insight**

* is able to assist others in determining spiritual problems
* her focus is on identifying problems rather than creating change
* can effectively choose or nominate church members for positions where they would serve well
* can correctly distinguish a spirit of truth from a spirit of error before that difference is apparent to others

**Visualize How Your Gift Can Be Used**

Elder, nominating committee, lay advisory committee, school board, membership committee.

**When the Gift is Misused**

The gift is inappropriately used when it leads to a perpetual suspicion of others, or when a spirit of superiority develops in the one who claims the gift.

**2. The Gift of Encouragement**

**Definition**

Encouragement is the Spirit's gift to give comfort and motivation, and to inspire people to live according to the Lord's will.

**A Woman with the Gift of Encouragement**

* finds it easy to genuinely comfort someone who is hurting
* can make effective appeals by publicly urging certain courses of action
* helps strengthen positive behavior rather than criticizing negative behavior
* is quick to encourage others

**Visualize How Your Gift Can Be Used**

Hospital visitation, church nurture visitation, prison ministry, Women's Ministries, counseling, ingathering leader, Youth Ministries.

**When the Gift is Misdirected**

This gift is inappropriately used if the counsel creates unhealthy dependencies. It is misuse of the gift to be more concerned with "setting people straight" than with lifting burdens and providing encouragement.

**3. The Gift of Wisdom**

**Definition**

Wisdom is the Spirit's gift to be perceptive, enabling practical counsel that facilitates an individual's growth, and promotes harmony among people. It is to know the mind of the Holy Spirit in such a way as to receive insight into how given knowledge may best be applied to specific needs arising in the Body of Christ.

**A Woman with the Gift of Wisdom**

* knows when to take an uncompromising stand and when to change a position
* can predict with excellent accuracy the long-term results of decisions
* can apply what she learns to practical life situations
* views all of life from a scriptural perspective

**Visualize How Your Gift Can Be Used**

Church board chairman, membership committee, elder, counseling, Women's Ministries, school board member.

**When the Gift is Falsely Claimed**

The givers of advice probably don't have this gift if they are more anxious to speak than to listen. Those not genuinely gifted will lead the church into courses of action that bring conflict and misunderstanding, and will harm the cause of Christ.

**WORKSHEET FOR COUNSELOR 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 situations could the gift of wisdom be most beneficial to Women's Ministries? How could women receive the benefit of wise counsel in these situations?

We live in a time when it is commonplace to resort to legal action. Under what circumstances would it be appropriate to have someone with the gift of insight attempt to resolve a difference between two church members?

Can you relate an experience where the exercise of the gift of encouragement brought you a personal blessing?

Can you think of any circumstance when it would be best not to exercise the gift of insight?

How would you compare the reliability of counsel from someone who has the gift of wisdom with the recommendations of a church committee?

How could those with the gift of insight expect to exercise it to bless Women's Ministries?

What questions would be appropriate to ask someone gifted with encouragement? What questions would it be more appropriate to ask a psychologist or psychiatrist?

Is the gift of wisdom static, or does the gift expand with the individual's maturity and experience? How does your answer fit with the concept of a gift?