

HOSPITALITY

The Spirit-given ability to open home and heart to those who need food, lodging or a warm welcome. This person has a knack for making people feel at ease and enjoying strangers. This may or may not be the one with the biggest house or best food, but it is the one with a warm heart and an open door. This gift is invaluable to the Body of Christ as it is used to create a sense of belonging and family by including newcomers, calling on those who feel left out or insecure, entertaining visiting ministers or guests, and hosting or planning social events. Generally, it seeks to build relationships by providing opportunities for people to feel safe and welcome.

CHARACTERISTICS

1. A real desire to host events and to make guests feel important and welcome.
2. An ability to provide the extras that make an occasion special.
3. Someone who genuinely enjoys being with others.
4. Often volunteering their home or services, being willing to spend the extra time and effort to host guests as a service to the Lord. They understand the value of fellowship.
5. Entertains with no hope or expectation of being entertained in return.
6. Feels that the church should place importance on fellowship activities because they build relationships among believers.

CAUTIONS

1. Getting caught up in occasions and people to the exclusion of developing their own relationship with the Lord.
2. Doing things too well, which intimidates those who are not able to entertain as capably.
3. Developing a "Martha" complex, feeling unappreciated and that they do all the hard work. *Luke 10:38-42*
4. Becoming nervous before company arrives, then putting on a cheerful face when guests arrive, making them appear hypocritical to their families.
5. Practicing hospitality in their own strength rather than leaning on the Lord and His power.
6. Agreeing to too many hospitality needs, doing more than their share, resulting in their families feeling imposed upon.