

DISCOVERING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

You have just begun a process of discovering your spiritual gifts. As you reflect on the gifts you have tentatively identified through the questionnaire, try to discern which ones truly are, or are not, your gifts. To do so, follow this five-step approach:

- 1. EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES:*** Read through the three key chapters in the scriptures dealing with spiritual gifts (I Corinthians 12, Romans 12, Ephesians 4). Learn what the gifts are, what characterizes them and how they function in the Body of Christ, so that you can have something concrete to look for as you move ahead.
- 2. EXPERIMENT WITH AS MANY GIFTS AS POSSIBLE:*** The spiritual gifts analysis which you have just completed has helped you experiment with different gifts. Your feelings, reactions, and general outlook on the gifts were measured as you worked through the discovery questionnaire. Now you need to experiment further with the gifts you pinpointed in the analysis. Unless you try the gifts this analysis has revealed, you will have a hard time knowing whether you really have them or not. Get involved in a ministry activity that will let you try out these gifts.
- 3. EXAMINE YOUR FEELINGS:*** Since God has put the body together, you will feel fulfilled when functioning in the proper area. Thus, if you enjoy your attempts to use a particular gift, that is a good sign that you possess it. If, however, you dislike the service activities associated with a certain gift, that is a fairly good sign that you do not have it.
- 4. EVALUATE YOUR EFFECTIVENESS:*** Since spiritual gifts are designed to benefit others, you should see positive results as you use your gift(s). If you see no results when you experiment with a particular gift, you probably do not have that gift. But it could be that you did not give it a fair try, or that it will simply take time for you to learn to use the gift effectively. As you evaluate, pray for the courage to be honest with yourself and with your Lord.
- 5. EXPECT CONFIRMATION FROM THE BODY:*** You cannot discover, develop and use a gift all on your own. Gifts are given to build up other members of the Body. If you have a gift, other Christians will recognize it and confirm it. If you feel that you have a particular gift but no one else agrees with you, then you should take a closer look at yourself and re-evaluate.

Remember, in all of these five steps, **the key is prayer**. The Lord will lead you to accurate discoveries of your gift(s) if you allow Him to guide and direct you in all your endeavors.

GIFT DEFINITIONS AND SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

The following contains suggested definitions of the spiritual gifts. While not meant to be dogmatic or final, these definitions and supporting scriptures do correspond to characteristics of the gifts as expressed in the Spiritual Gifts Questionnaire.

- A. HELPS** - The ability to invest the talents one has in the life and ministry of other members of the body, thus enabling those others to increase the effectiveness of their own spiritual gifts. (Mark 15:40-41, Acts 9:36, Romans 16:1-2, I Corinthians 12:28)
- B. LEADERSHIP** - The ability to set goals in accordance with God's purpose for the future and to communicate those goals to others in such a way that they voluntarily and harmoniously work together to accomplish those goals for the glory of God. (Acts 15:7-11, Romans 12:8, 1 Timothy 5:17, Hebrews 13:17)
- C. HOSPITALITY** - The ability to provide an open house and a warm welcome to those in need of food and lodging. (Acts 16:14-15, Romans 12:9-13, Romans 16:23, Hebrews 13:1-2, I Peter 4:9)
- D. SERVICE** - The ability to identify the unmet needs involved in a task related to God's Word, and to make use of available resources to meet those needs and help accomplish the desired results. (Acts 6:1-7, Romans 12:7, Galatians 6:2, II Timothy 1:16-18, Titus 3:14)
- E. ADMINISTRATION** - The ability to understand clearly the immediate and long-range goals of a particular unit of the body of Christ and to devise and execute effective plans for the accomplishment of those goals. (Luke 14:28-30, Acts 6:1-7, I Corinthians 12:28)
- F. DISCERNMENT** - The ability to know with assurance whether certain behavior purported to be of God is in reality divine, human or satanic. The purpose of this gift is to prevent confusion and false teaching from infiltrating the church. (Matthew 16:21-23, Acts 5:1-11, Acts 16:16-18, I Corinthians 12:10, 1 John 4:1-6)
- G. FAITH** - The ability to discern with extraordinary confidence the will and purpose of God, and to propel the body of believers into actively claiming the promises of God. (Acts 11:22-24, Romans 4:18-21, I Corinthians 12:9, Hebrews 11)
- H. MUSIC** - The ability to use one's voice in the singing of praises and joy to the Lord for the benefit of others, or to play a musical instrument to the praise of the Lord and for the benefit of others. (Deuteronomy 31:22, I Samuel 16:16, I Chronicles 16:41-42, II Chronicles 5:12-13, II Chronicles 34:12, Psalm 150)
- I. LANGUAGES/TONGUES** - The ability to speak a divinely-anointed message in a language one has never learned, but known to the hearers. Its purpose being an evangelistic tool used for the purpose of spreading the gospel. (Mark 16:17, Acts 2:1-13, Acts 10:44-46, Acts 19:1-7)

- J. MIRACLES** - The ability to serve as human intermediaries through whom it pleases God to perform powerful acts that are perceived by observers to have altered the ordinary course of nature. (Acts 9:36-42, Acts 19:11-20, Romans 15:18-19, I Corinthians 12:10, 28)
- K. CRAFTSMANSHIP** - The ability to use one's hand, thoughts and mind to further the kingdom of God through artistic, creative means. People with this gift may also serve as leaders for others in forming their abilities in this area. The gift may also be used in the areas of maintenance, care and upkeep for the benefit and beautification of God's Kingdom here on earth. (Exodus 30:22-25, Exodus 31:3-11, II Chronicles 34:9-13, Acts 18:2-3)
- L. HEALING** - The ability to serve as human intermediary through whom God's healing power is applied to another person's physical or emotional need.
(Acts 3:1-10, Acts 5:12-16, Acts 9:32-35, Acts 28:7-10, I Corinthians 12:9, 28)
- M. GIVING** - The ability to contribute material resources to the work of the Lord with liberality and cheerfulness.
(Mark 12:41-44, Romans 12:8, II Corinthians 8:1-7, II Corinthians 9:2-8)
- N. MERCY** - The ability to feel genuine empathy and compassion for individuals who suffer distressing physical, mental or emotional problems, and to translate that compassion into cheerfully-done deeds which reflect Christ's love and alleviate the sufferings.
- O. WISDOM** - The ability to apply spiritual truth to a specific issue in an especially relevant fashion, and to make proper choices in difficult situations, based on sufficient information.
(Acts 6:3,10, I Corinthians 2:1-13, I Corinthians 12:8, James 1:5, II Peter 3:15)
- P. KNOWLEDGE** - The ability to discover, accumulate, analyze and clarify information which is pertinent to the growth and well-being of the body.
(Acts 5:1-11, I Corinthians 12:8, II Corinthians 11:6, Colossians 2:2-3)
- Q. EXHORTATION** - The ability to minister words of encouragement, consolation, comfort and motivation from God's Word to help others complete their tasks and be all that God wants them to be.
(Acts 4:32-37, Acts 14:22, Romans 12:8, I Timothy 4:13, Hebrews 10:24-25)
- R. TEACHING** - The ability to employ a logical, systematic approach to biblical study and to communicate information relevant to the health and ministry of the body and its members in such a way that others will learn.
(Acts 18:24-28, Acts 20:20-21, Romans 12:7, I Corinthians 12:28, Ephesians 4:11-14)
- S. PASTOR/SHEPHERD** - The ability to assume a long-term personal responsibility for the spiritual welfare of a group of believers.
(John 10:1-18, Ephesians 4:11-14, I Timothy 3:1-7, I Peter 5:1-3)

- T. APOSTLE** - The ability to assume and exercise general leadership over a number of churches, with an extraordinary authority in spiritual matters which is spontaneously recognized and appreciated by those churches. (Acts 15:1-2, I Corinthians 12:28, II Corinthians 12:12, Galatians 2-7-10, Ephesians 3:1-9, Ephesians 4:11-14)
- U. MISSIONARY** - The ability to minister whatever other spiritual gifts one has in a second culture. (Acts 8:4, Acts 13:2-3, Acts 22:21, Romans 10:15)
- V. PROPHECY** - The ability to proclaim the Word of God with divine anointing which brings conviction to the hearers so they recognize that it is truly the Word of God and they must do something about it.
(Acts 2:37-40, Acts 7:54, Acts 26:24-29, I Cor. 14:1, 31, I Thess. 1:5)
- W. EVANGELISM** - The ability to share the gospel with unbelievers in such a way that men and women become Jesus' disciples and responsible members of the body of Christ.
(Acts 8:5-6, Acts 8:26-40, Acts 14:21, Acts 21:8, Ephesians 4:11-14, II Timothy 4:5)
- X. PRAYER/INTERCESSION** - The ability to pray for extended periods of time on a regular basis and see frequent and specific answers to prayer, to a degree much greater than that which is experienced by most Christians. (Luke 22:41-44, Acts 12:12, Colossians 1:9-12, Colossians 4:12-13; I Tim. 2:1-2; James 5:14-16)

A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

The application of spiritual gifts is where the rubber meets road. Spiritual gifts discovery without application is to render powerless the ability God has given us to build His Kingdom.

The following is a practical guide to matching spiritual gifts to possible ministries in the Church. While this list is not comprehensive, it offers a broad spectrum of possibilities. You can help a person find their place of ministry by looking up their spiritual gift from the following list.

1. HELPS/SERVICE

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Committees | New Infant Recognition |
| Children's work | Church landscape |
| Nursery | Church Building Repair |
| Handyman | Children's Music |
| Cooking | Bible Study leader Arts and Crafts |
| Media Committee | Church Bulletin |
| Library | Children's Sunday School Teacher |
| Church Office Worker | Women's Ministries |
| Transportation/Bus Driver | Organ, Piano, Other Instruments Drama |
| Usher | |
| Telephoning | |
| Greeter | |
| Hospital Visitation | |
| Communion Preparation | |

2. LEADERSHIP
Boards and Committees
Organize Special Events

School Class Officer
Leadership Training

3. HOSPITALITY

Usher

Greeter

Open Home

Visitor's Lunches

Banquet Server

Host/Hostess

ADMINISTRATION

Boards and Committees
Church Office Work
Sunday School Asst.
Sunday School Class Officer
Church Historian

Organizing Special Events
Financial Secretary
Superintendent

5. DISCERNMENT

Board Member
Altar Counselor
Recruiter
Visitation

6. FAITH

Prayer Ministries
Board Member
Healing Ministry
Altar Counselor
Prayer Partner

7. MUSIC

Instruments/Band
Worship Leader

8. MIRACLES

Prayer Ministries
Anointing of Believers

1. Craftsmanship

Arts and Crafts
Posters
Handyman
Grounds Maintenance
Church Office Volunteer

2. Giving

Church Treasurer
Support Missionaries
Fund Raiser
Sponsor Missions Trips
Build Buildings
Help the Needy

3. Mercy

Addiction Recovery
Abused Children
Shut-in
Bereaved

Cancer Care
Hospital Visitation

4. **Knowledge/Wisdom**
Boards and Committees
Research
Altar Counselor
Teaching
Discipleship
5. **Exhortation**
Boards & Committees
Sunday School
Visitation
Counseling
Discipleship
6. **Teaching**
Sunday School Teacher
Discipleship
Outreach
7. **Pastor/Shepherd**
Discipleship
Visitation
Training
Outreach
Follow-up
8. **Apostleship**
Missionary
Outreach
Church Planter
9. **Missionary**
Missions
Evangelism
10. **Prophecy**
Preaching
Boards & Committees
11. **Evangelism**
Outreach

Door to Door Visitation
Visitation
Altar Counselor
Telephoning Prospects

12. Intercession
Prayer Ministries