

# Part 1 - Spiritual Gifts Test

For each of the 244 statements below indicate, by number, whether you Strongly Agree, Partially Agree, are Undecided, Disagree Somewhat, or Mostly or Completely Disagree. After completing all the questions, transfer your answers to the profile sheet in Part 2.

4 - Strongly Agree    3 - Partially Agree    2 - Undecided    1 - Disagree Somewhat    0 - Mostly or Completely Disagree

## Part 1A

- \_\_\_ I like to organize people for more effective ministry.
- \_\_\_ There is great joy in doing little jobs or routine tasks that help the ministry.
- \_\_\_ There is great joy in having people in my home.
- \_\_\_ I seem to recognize prayer needs before others.
- \_\_\_ I received excellent grades in school.
- \_\_\_ There is great joy in leading people to accomplish corporate (group) goals.
- \_\_\_ I feel great compassion for the problems of others.
- \_\_\_ I like to proclaim God's Word to fellow Christians.
- \_\_\_ It is enjoyable to have the responsibility of leading other people in their spiritual life.
- \_\_\_ I'm excited to help people discover important truths in the scriptures.
- \_\_\_ People with spiritual problems seem to come to me for advice and counsel.
- \_\_\_ People seem to be willing to follow my leadership without much resistance.
- \_\_\_ I enjoy the opportunity to pray with and for a person who is physically ill that they may be made well.
- \_\_\_ I can adapt well to different cultures and surroundings.
- \_\_\_ I find that the repair and maintenance of many things in my environment come easily to me.
- \_\_\_ I enjoy challenging people's perspective of God by using various forms of performing arts.
- \_\_\_ I tend to see the potential in people.
- \_\_\_ It seems easy to perceive whether someone is honest or dishonest.
- \_\_\_ It is a joy for me to proclaim God's plan of salvation to unchurched people.
- \_\_\_ I am ready to try the impossible because I have a great trust in God.
- \_\_\_ There is great satisfaction in giving large amounts of money or resources for the Lord's work.

## Part 1B

- \_\_\_ There is joy in making important decisions.
- \_\_\_ I receive great satisfaction in doing small or trivial tasks in church.
- \_\_\_ I do not feel uncomfortable when people drop in unexpectedly.
- \_\_\_ Prayer is one of my favorite spiritual exercises.
- \_\_\_ It seems easy to learn difficult truths.
- \_\_\_ People seem to enjoy following me in doing an important task.
- \_\_\_ Visiting people in retirement homes gives me a great satisfaction.
- \_\_\_ I like to proclaim the Word of God to comfort others.
- \_\_\_ It is exciting to provide spiritual leadership for a congregation.
- \_\_\_ Teaching a Bible Class is one of the most enjoyable things I do (or could do) in the church.
- \_\_\_ I enjoy providing solutions to difficult problems in life.
- \_\_\_ I feel a sense of authority in my relationship to a group.
- \_\_\_ I have prayed for an emotionally ill person and seen the person get better.
- \_\_\_ I am attracted to the idea of serving in another country or ethnic community.
- \_\_\_ I strive to do my best in anything I make, create, or decorate.
- \_\_\_ I enjoy developing and using my artistic skills (art, drama, music, photography, web design, multimedia, etc.).
- \_\_\_ I enjoy reassuring and strengthening those who are discouraged.
- \_\_\_ I usually seem to know very quickly whether something is right or wrong.
- \_\_\_ I seem able to determine when the Spirit has prepared a person to receive Jesus Christ.
- \_\_\_ When things seem impossible, I'm ready to move forward.
- \_\_\_ I find real joy in giving a generous portion of my money or belongings to the Lord.

## Part 1C

4 - Strongly Agree    3 - Partially Agree    2 - Undecided    1 - Disagree Somewhat    0 - Mostly or Completely Disagree

- \_\_\_ I enjoy taking the responsibility for the achievement of group goals.
- \_\_\_ I find more satisfaction in doing a job than finding someone else to do it.
- \_\_\_ People seem to feel very comfortable in my home.
- \_\_\_ God consistently answers my prayers in tangible ways.
- \_\_\_ I am able to understand difficult portions of God's word.
- \_\_\_ It is more effective to delegate a task to someone else rather than to do it myself.
- \_\_\_ I sense joy in comforting people in difficult situations.
- \_\_\_ I enjoy relating and sharing God's Word to the issues of the day.
- \_\_\_ I like to assist people with their spiritual problems.
- \_\_\_ It seems that people learn when I teach them.
- \_\_\_ It seems that people generally follow my advice.
- \_\_\_ I have little fear in leading people where God wants them to go.
- \_\_\_ I have visited a person who was sick, prayed that God would make them physically whole, and the person got better.
- \_\_\_ I adapt easily in a culture different from mine.
- \_\_\_ I like to create things with my hands.
- \_\_\_ I help people understand themselves, their relationships and God better through artistic, dramatic, or musical expression.
- \_\_\_ I give hope to others by directing them to the promises of God.
- \_\_\_ The difference between truth and error is easily observed by me.
- \_\_\_ I feel a burden, or compelled, to share the Gospel with people.
- \_\_\_ I am often ready to believe God will lead us through a situation when others feel it is impossible.
- \_\_\_ I appreciate the opportunity to financially or tangibly support a critical situation.

## Part 1D

- \_\_\_ The development of effective plans for ministry gives me great satisfaction.
- \_\_\_ I am quick to volunteer for tasks requiring cleaning, cooking, or other manual labor.
- \_\_\_ When missionaries come to our church I (would) like to have them come to my home.
- \_\_\_ I faithfully pray for others recognizing that their effectiveness and total well-being depends on God's answer to prayers.
- \_\_\_ I have a clear understanding of Biblical doctrines (teachings).
- \_\_\_ It is a thrill to inspire others to greater involvement in ministry.
- \_\_\_ I enjoy ministering to a person who is sick in the hospital.
- \_\_\_ It is important for me to speak God's Word of warning and judgment in the world today.
- \_\_\_ People like to bring their troubles & concerns to me because they feel I care.
- \_\_\_ One of the joys of my ministry is training people to be more effective Christians.
- \_\_\_ I feel that I have a special insight in selecting the best alternative in a difficult situation.
- \_\_\_ I appreciate the opportunity to proclaim God's word to others.
- \_\_\_ I like to participate in ministry to the physically or emotionally ill and pray for their recovery.
- \_\_\_ It is easy for me to move into a new community and make friends.
- \_\_\_ I see that the results of my working with various objects in God's creation can help to improve and beautify that which other people have not seen or developed.
- \_\_\_ I like finding new and fresh ways to communicate God's truth.
- \_\_\_ I reassure those who need to take courageous action in their faith, family, or life.
- \_\_\_ I can judge well between the truthfulness and error of a given theological statement.
- \_\_\_ It is a joy to share what Jesus means to me with an unchurched neighbor.
- \_\_\_ People seem to view me as one who believes everything is possible.
- \_\_\_ It is a joy to see how much money I can give to the Lord.

## Part 1E

4 - Strongly Agree 3 - Partially Agree 2 - Undecided 1 - Disagree Somewhat 0 - Mostly or Completely Disagree

- \_\_\_ I would rather make decisions for a group before persuading them to reach the same decision.
- \_\_\_ I look for opportunities to assist people in their work.
- \_\_\_ People seem to enjoy coming to my house.
- \_\_\_ I find myself praying when I possibly could be doing other things.
- \_\_\_ It is an exciting challenge to read and study a difficult passage of the Bible.
- \_\_\_ There is great satisfaction in having others follow me in performing a task.
- \_\_\_ It is a special satisfaction to visit people who are confined to their homes.
- \_\_\_ In a Bible class it seems essential to share God's word even if it irritates others.
- \_\_\_ I can enjoy or develop a close relationship with people in a one to one situation.
- \_\_\_ It is easy or enjoyable to organize materials for teaching a Bible class.
- \_\_\_ I have a strong sense of confidence in my solutions to problems.
- \_\_\_ I enjoy training workers in the church.
- \_\_\_ I feel strongly that my prayers for a sick person effect wellness for that person.
- \_\_\_ I am able to relate well to Christians of different locations or cultures.
- \_\_\_ There is pleasure in drawing, designing and/or painting various objects.
- \_\_\_ I apply various artistic expressions to communicate God's truth.
- \_\_\_ I strengthen those who are wavering in their faith.
- \_\_\_ I often seek the motives of a person and look beneath their words.
- \_\_\_ I feel a deep concern for the unreached people in my community or region.
- \_\_\_ When people are discouraged I enjoy giving them a positive hope or vision.
- \_\_\_ I can give sacrificially because I know that God will meet my needs.

## Part 1F

- \_\_\_ I like to organize people, tasks, and events.
- \_\_\_ I enjoy helping with urgent or emergency tasks.
- \_\_\_ I view my home as a place to minister to people in need.
- \_\_\_ I take prayer requests from others and consistently pray for them.
- \_\_\_ I am approached by people who want to know my perspective on a particular passage or biblical truth.
- \_\_\_ I am able to motivate others to accomplish a goal.
- \_\_\_ I empathize with hurting people and desire to help in their healing process.
- \_\_\_ I can speak in a way that results in conviction and change in the lives of others.
- \_\_\_ I enjoy spending time nurturing and caring for others.
- \_\_\_ I am able to communicate God's word effectively.
- \_\_\_ I fear the Lord in holy reverence.
- \_\_\_ I hold my life as an example of Christianity.
- \_\_\_ I believe that God physically heals today.
- \_\_\_ The thought of beginning a Christian work in a new community is exciting to me.
- \_\_\_ I enjoy working creatively with wood, cloth, paints, metal, glass or other materials.
- \_\_\_ I am creative and imaginative.
- \_\_\_ I like motivating others to take steps for spiritual growth.
- \_\_\_ I can readily distinguish between spiritual truth and error, good and evil.
- \_\_\_ I communicate the gospel to others with clarity and effectiveness.
- \_\_\_ I find it natural and easy to trust God to answer my prayers.
- \_\_\_ I give liberally and joyfully to people in financial need or to projects requiring support.

## Part 1G

4 - Strongly Agree   3 - Partially Agree   2 - Undecided   1 - Disagree Somewhat   0 - Mostly or Completely Disagree

- I am careful, thorough, and skilled at managing details.
- I appreciate a ministry of helping other peoples to bear their burdens.
- I enjoy meeting new people and helping them to feel welcomed.
- I enjoy praying for long periods of time and receive leadings as to what God wants me to pray for.
- I receive information or insight from the Spirit that I did not acquire through natural means.
- I am able to influence others to achieve a vision.
- I can patiently support those going through painful experiences.
- I feel responsible to confront others with the truth.
- I have compassion for wandering believers and want to protect them.
- I can spend time in study knowing that presenting truth will make a difference in the lives of people.
- I can often find simple, practical solutions in the midst of conflict or confusion.
- I see leadership as being a servant to all.
- I have prayed for a physically ill person and seen that person get better.
- More than most, I have a strong desire to see all people of other communities and countries won to the Lord.
- I am skilled in working with different kinds of tools.
- I regularly need to get alone to reflect or develop my imagination.
- It is enjoyable to motivate people to a higher spiritual commitment.
- I frequently am able to judge a person's character based upon first impressions.
- I consistently look for opportunities to build relationships with non-Christians.
- I have confidence in God's continuing provision and help, even in difficult times.
- I give more than a tithe so that Kingdom work can be accomplished.

## Part 1H

- I can clarify goals and develop strategies or plans to accomplish them."
- If a family is facing a crisis or is in need, I enjoy the opportunity to help them.
- I genuinely believe the Lord directs strangers to me who need to get connected to others.
- I know I am ministering to others as I pray.
- I am committed, and schedule blocks of time for reading and studying scripture, to understand biblical truth fully and accurately.
- I can adjust my leadership style to bring out the best in others.
- I enjoy helping people who are sometimes regarded as undeserving or beyond help.
- I boldly expose cultural trends, teachings, or events which contradict biblical principles.
- I like to provide guidance for the whole person — relationally, emotionally, spiritually, etc.
- I pay close attention to the words, phrases, and meaning of those who teach.
- I can easily select the most effective course of action from among several alternatives.
- I would like to start churches in places where they do not presently exist.
- When I pray for someone's healing, I truly believe God will heal them.
- I enjoy learning about the culture and religions of other areas and people for the purpose of better communicating the gospel with them.
- I enjoy making things for use in ministry.
- I have special joy singing praises to God either alone or with other people.
- It is a joy to give encouragement to people who are discouraged.
- I can see through phoniness or deceit before it is evident to others.
- I am effective at communicating the gospel message so that it connects with an individual's need.
- I believe that God will help me to accomplish great things.
- I manage money well in order to free more of it for giving.

## Part 1I

4 - Strongly Agree 3 - Partially Agree 2 - Undecided 1 - Disagree Somewhat 0 - Mostly or Completely Disagree

- I can identify and effectively use the resources needed to accomplish tasks."
- I enjoy working behind the scenes to support the work of others.
- I like to create a place where people do not feel that they are alone.
- I pray with confidence because I know that God hears and answers prayer.
- I believe God's written Word is completely true and sufficient.
- I set goals and manage people and resources effectively to accomplish them.
- I have great compassion for hurting people.
- I see most actions as right or wrong, and feel the need to correct the wrong.
- I can faithfully provide long-term caring support and concern for others.
- I like to take a systematic approach to my study of the Bible.
- I can anticipate the likely consequences of an individual's or a group's action.
- I am willing to take an active part in starting a new church.
- 0 ] SKIP
- 0 ] SKIP
- I can imagine how something should be constructed before I build it.
- God has given me the ability to play a musical instrument and I enjoy it.
- People who are feeling confused or discouraged often come to me for encouragement and comfort.
- I tend to see rightness or wrongness in situations.
- I invite unbelievers to accept Christ as their Savior and Lord.
- I trust God in circumstances where success cannot be guaranteed by human effort alone.
- I am challenged to limit my lifestyle in order to give away more of my belongings or income.

## Part 1J

- I like to help organizations or groups become more efficient.
- I willingly take on a variety of odd jobs to meet the needs of others.
- I enjoy entertaining people and opening my home to others.
- When I hear about needy situations, I feel burdened to pray.
- I have suddenly known some things about others, but did not know how I knew them.
- I influence others to perform to the best of their capability.
- I can look beyond a person's handicaps or problems to see a life that matters to God.
- I like people who are honest and will speak the truth.
- I enjoy giving guidance and practical support to a small group of people.
- I can communicate Scripture in ways that motivate others to study and want to learn more.
- I give practical advice to help others through complicated situations.
- I can relate to others in culturally sensitive ways.
- 0 ] SKIP
- 0 ] SKIP
- I honor God with my hand-crafted gifts.
- I have enjoyed being involved with musical or dramatic productions.
- I would rather call on an individual in the church who is faltering in his/her Christian walk than on an unchurched family.
- I receive affirmation from others concerning the reliability of my insights or perceptions.
- I openly tell people that I am a Christian and want them to ask me about my faith.
- I am convinced of God's daily presence and action in my life.
- I like knowing that my financial or material support makes a real difference in the lives and ministries of God's people.

## Part 1K

4 - Strongly Agree 3 - Partially Agree 2 - Undecided 1 - Disagree Somewhat 0 - Mostly or Completely Disagree

- I enjoy learning about how organizations function.
- I like to find small things that need to be done and often do them without being asked.
- I do whatever I can to make people feel that they belong.
- I am honored when someone asks me to pray for them.
- I discover important biblical truths when reading or studying Scripture which benefit others in the body of Christ.
- I am able to present and frame an idea so that others want to be a part of it.
- I enjoy bringing hope and joy to people living in difficult circumstances.
- I will speak God's truth, even in places where it is unpopular or difficult for others to accept.
- I can gently restore wandering believers to faith and fellowship.
- I can present information and skills to others at a level that makes it easier for them.
- I can apply scriptural truth that others regard as practical and helpful.
- I enjoy pioneering new undertakings.
- 0 ] SKIP
- 0 ] SKIP
- I am good at and enjoy working with my hands.
- I feel secure in the fact that my musical or dramatic ability will be of benefit to other people with whom I come in contact.
- I can lovingly challenge, correct, or rebuke a believer involved in sin.
- I can identify preaching, teaching, or communication which is not true to the Bible.
- I openly and confidently tell others what Christ has done for me.
- I am regularly challenging others to trust God.
- I give generously due to my commitment to stewardship.

## Part 1L

- I can imagine a coming event, anticipate potential problems, and develop backup plans.
- I feel comfortable being a helper, assisting others to their job more effectively.
- I can make people feel at ease even in unfamiliar surroundings.
- I often see specific results in direct response to my prayers.
- I confidently share my knowledge and insights with others.
- I determine where we need to go and help others to get there.
- I enjoy doing practical things for others who are in need.
- I feel compelled to expose sin wherever I see it and to challenge people to repentance.
- I enjoy patiently but firmly nurturing others in their development as believers.
- I enjoy explaining things to people so that they can grow spiritually and personally.
- I have insights into how to solve problems that others do not usually see.
- I am able to orchestrate or oversee several church ministries.
- 0 ] SKIP
- 0 ] SKIP
- I am able to design and construct things that help the church.
- Leading others in singing songs of praise or celebration to God, or for worship, is personally satisfying.
- I am willing and able to use Scriptures to point out corrections to someone's spiritual walk.
- I can sense when demonic forces are at work in a person or situation.
- I seek opportunities to talk about spiritual matters with unbelievers.
- I can move forward in spite of opposition, or lack of support, when I understand it to be God's will.
- I believe I have been given an abundance of resources so that I may give more to the Lord's work

## Part 2 - The Gifts Test Profile Sheet

2a. Move your scores for each Part 1A-1L into the following table by column, then total the sum of each row.

| 1A    | 1B    | 1C    | 1D    | 1E    | 1F    | 1G    | 1H    | 1I    | 1J    | 1K    | 1L    |                   |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | = _____ <b>01</b> |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | = _____ <b>02</b> |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | = _____ <b>03</b> |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | = _____ <b>04</b> |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | = _____ <b>05</b> |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | = _____ <b>06</b> |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | = _____ <b>07</b> |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | = _____ <b>08</b> |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | = _____ <b>09</b> |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | = _____ <b>10</b> |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | = _____ <b>11</b> |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | = _____ <b>12</b> |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | = _____ <b>13</b> |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | = _____ <b>14</b> |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | = _____ <b>15</b> |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | = _____ <b>16</b> |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | = _____ <b>17</b> |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | = _____ <b>18</b> |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | = _____ <b>19</b> |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | = _____ <b>20</b> |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | = _____ <b>21</b> |

2b Bring your totals from above, to the corresponding item (by number) below.

|                         |       |  |       |
|-------------------------|-------|--|-------|
| 01 Administration       | _____ | 12 Church Planter / Apostleship          | _____ |
| 02 Helps & Serving      | _____ | 13 Healing _____ (from above) x 1.5 =    | _____ |
| 03 Hospitality          | _____ | 14 Missionary _____ (from above) x 1.5 = | _____ |
| 04 Intercession         | _____ | 15 Craftsmanship                         | _____ |
| 05 Knowledge            | _____ | 16 Music & Creative Communication        | _____ |
| 06 Leadership           | _____ | 17 Exhortation & Encouragement           | _____ |
| 07 Mercy                | _____ | 18 Discernment                           | _____ |
| 08 Prophetic/Prophet    | _____ | 19 Evangelism / Evangelist               | _____ |
| 09 Shepherding / Pastor | _____ | 20 Faith                                 | _____ |
| 10 Teaching / Teacher   | _____ | 21 Giving                                | _____ |
| 11 Wisdom               | _____ |  |       |

**Part 3 - In the spaces below, list your top ten gifts in descending order (large to small) by score.**

PRIMARY

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You can list your remaining lesser gifts in descending order here...

LESSOR

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**Part 4 - Purpose of Gifts**

God gives the church all the gifts it needs to function well. Not everyone has the same gifts, so each should use what God has given them...

Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. (4) Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, (5) so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. (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. - Romans 12:3-8

Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. - 1 Corinthians 1:7-8

Never forget that every spiritual gift is given for the purpose of strengthening and building up the body of Christ. Gifts are not given for personal glory or prestige, nor is a gift given to one person more important than that given to another. It is God alone that gives the gifts, we don't earn them or learn them, though we should always be careful to develop and use them fully.

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. (5) There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. (6) There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. (7) Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. - 1 Corinthians 12:4-8



Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? (30) Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? (31) But eagerly desire the greater gifts. - 1 Corinthians 12:29-31

Asking God to give you the "greater gifts" is never wrong, God gives delights in given gifts to His children and every gift He gives is "good and perfect. (James 1:17)" Remember though, the gifts are His sovereign choice, and He gives them as He wills (1 Corinthians 12:18). You cannot *demand* a gift of God.

If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! - Matthew 7:11

Every gift is useless without love. Every gift is motivated by love. Love first for God and secondly for mankind (Matthew 22:37-40). Read carefully Paul's passage on love found in 1 Corinthians chapter 13, noting that it follows directly his speaking on gifts in chapter 12.

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. - 1 Peter 4:10

### **Part 5 - Finding my gifts**

While the Bible is clear that every Christian is given a spiritual gift, that leaves many in a quandary: What is *my* spiritual gift? The three following steps should help.

#### Examine Your Desires

Do you know what you want? Is what you want in line with God's revealed will? If God gifts you a certain way, it is reasonable to assume that He will also give you the desire to exercise it. For example, I struggled for a while with the decision to preach and teach, but it was not because I didn't want to. Actually it was the opposite. It was because I did want to exercise this gift that I was struggling — otherwise there would have been little struggle! The struggle was more about yielding to God's will in spite of a sense of inadequacy and a fear of other's reactions. Simply put, God had given me the desire as well as the gifting, I only needed to learn to trust Him that He would give me the strength. You should find the same.

Be careful though! You must examine your motives as well — they can be deceiving. Your felt "call to service" may in reality be merely a desire to excel or to be noticed. That was one part of the Corinthians' problems — they wanted gifts which would make them prominently stand out and be noticed. James touches on this very problem (James 3:1) when he commands his readers that they should not all try to be teachers. Many, it seemed, wanted to teach and lead because of the honor associated with such activity. A desire for prominence is *never* a proper motive — a desire to serve others in the best possible way is.

#### Examine the Evidence

Don't be self deluded, like the man who was sure that he had the gift of teaching but was puzzled why no one else seemed to have the gift of listening. Certainly some gifts must be developed and strengthened; but if the evidence says there is no giftedness, then find another area of service. Taking a spiritual gifts test may help you to evaluate the evidence.

#### Examine the Opportunities

If you look at the opportunities God has given you, you will see open doors for using your gifting. This is the stress of the New Testament in this regard. Simply look for what is available. Look to see what is needed. Endeavor to find how you can serve and best benefit the body. The bottom line says to look for a need which you are able to fill.

#### Conclusion

While all these guidelines appear to be in keeping with related Biblical principles, it should be observed that the apostle Paul, in all of his discussion of spiritual gifts, nowhere gives any instruction on how to recognize your gift. The apostle goes to great lengths to let you know that you have one and that you should use it for the good of the body, but he neither asks nor answers the question of how to discover your individual gifting. This is intriguing in comparison to all the worry over this question today. The Biblical contrast is staggering! Perhaps they understood that the Lord would guide you into using the gift He provided. Further, the recognition of your gift by the leaders of the church is also evident in Scriptures. God will show other godly people where you are gift and should be used. Paul recognized and advised Timothy of the gift that God had given him (2 Timothy 1:6).

Don't worry so much about asking, "What is my gift?" Focus on service. Look for the opportunities, then serve. God will show you through the doing. Be willing to listen to Godly people who are in authority over you (Hebrews 13:17). Don't be afraid to fail, or stumble. If you do, get up and keep on looking for places to serve (Proverbs 24:16). If God is behind anything, it cannot fail. Do all to the glory of God and the building of His kingdom.

## **Part 6 - Gifts Defined**

### 01 Administration - Romans 12:8b

A gift whereby the Spirit enables certain Christians to understand the goals of a given segment of the ministry and to direct that area effectively, helping to keeping the Church on course. Related to Leadership.

### 02 Helps & Serving - Romans 12:7a, Acts 6:2-4

A gift whereby the Spirit empowers certain Christians to willingly bear the burdens of other Christians and help them in such a way that they can do their tasks more effectively. Providing behind the scenes assistance to support the overall work.

### 03 Hospitality - 1 Peter 4:9-10, Romans 16:23, Romans 12:13

A gift whereby the Spirit enables certain Christians to open their homes willingly and offer lodging, food, and fellowship cheerfully to other people.

### 04 Intercession - 1 Thessalonians 3:10-13 , 1 Timothy 2:1-2

A gift whereby the Spirit enables certain Christians to pray for extended periods of time with great positive effect for the building of the Kingdom. "Prayer warriors."

### 05 Knowledge - 1 Corinthians 12:8, Ephesians 3:14-19

A gift whereby the Spirit enables certain Christians to understand in an exceptional way the great truths of God's Word and to show them relevant to specific situations in the church.

### 06 Leadership - Hebrews 13:7, Romans 12:8b

A gift whereby the Spirit enables certain believers to motivate, direct and inspire God's people in such a way that they voluntarily and harmoniously work together to do the Church's work effectively.

### 07 Mercy - Luke 10:30-37, Romans 12:8b

A gift whereby the Spirit enables certain Christians to feel exceptional empathy and compassion for those who are suffering so that they devote large amounts of time and energy to alleviate it.

### 08 Prophetic / Prophet - 1 Corinthians 14:1-5 , 1 Corinthians 14:30-33 , 1 Corinthians 14:37-40

A gift whereby the Spirit empowers certain Christians to interpret and apply God's revelation in a given situation. Forth telling God's Word.

09 Shepherding / Pastor - 1 Peter 5:1-11, Ephesians 4:11

A gift whereby the Spirit enables certain Christians to assume responsibility and guidance for the spiritual welfare of a group of believers. An elder of the church.

10 Teaching / Teacher - Ephesians 4:11, Hebrews 5:12-14, 2 Timothy 2:2,24

A gift whereby the Spirit enables particular Christians to communicate the truths of God's Word so that others can learn.

11 Wisdom - James 3:13-17, 2 Peter 3:15

A gift whereby the Spirit endows particular Christians with an understanding of God's Word, will, and work as it relates to the living of life. Individuals who have good and impartial judgment.

12 Church Planter / Apostle - Acts 14:21-23,

A gift whereby the Spirit appoints certain Christians to lead, organize, inspire and develop the churches of God by the proclamation and the teaching of true doctrine. Sometimes related to Missionary.

13 Healing - James 5:13-16 , Luke 9:1-2, 1 Corinthians 12:9

A gift whereby the Spirit employs certain Christians to restore health to the sick through prayer and by God's power.

14 Missionary - See 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

A gift given to certain members of the body of Christ (local church) to minister whatever other spiritual gifts they have in a second culture or second community. Sometimes related to Church Planter but often with teacher or evangelism.

15 Craftsmanship - Exodus 28:3-4

A gift whereby the Spirit endows certain Christians to use hands and minds to build up the Kingdom through artistic, creative means.

16 Music & Creative Communication - Colossians 3:16, 1 Corinthians 14:26, Matthew 13:34-35, Luke 18:1, Ezekiel 4:1-4

A gift whereby the Spirit enables certain Christians to praise God through various forms of music and enhance the worship experience of the local congregation. Others may utilize drama, dramatic stories, or other visuals.

17 Exhortation - Acts 11:23-24, Acts 14:21-22, 1 Timothy 5:1, Hebrews 13:22

A gift whereby the Spirit enables certain Christians to stand beside fellow Christians in need and bring comfort, counsel, correction and encouragement.

18 Discernment - Acts 5:3-6 , Acts 16:16-18, 1 Corinthians 2:14-15, Romans 12:2, 1 Thessalonians 5:21, 1 Corinthians 12:10

A gift where an individual is enabled by the Spirit to know with assurance whether some behavior or teaching is of God or of Satan.

19 Evangelism / Evangelist - Ephesians 4:11, Acts 8:26-40, 2 Timothy 4:5

A gift whereby the Spirit enables particular Christians to share the Gospel to unbelievers in such a way that the unbeliever becomes a disciple of the Lord Jesus.

20 Faith - Hebrews Chapter 11

A gift whereby the Spirit provides Christians with extraordinary confidence in God's promises, power, and presence so that they can take heroic stands for God's work in the church.

21 Giving - 2 Corinthians 8:1-5

A gift whereby the Spirit enables certain Christians to offer freely of their material blessings for the needs of the ministry, or to people in need, all with exceptional willingness, cheerfulness and generosity.

### **SPIRITUAL TEMPERAMENT**

In an attempt to understand how each of us varies in style of thinking and service, an unknown individual has compiled this partial list of temperaments. I'm sure that some of you could add others to this list.

- **THE NATURALIST**, who responds to the glory of God's handiwork
- **THE SENSATE**, who delights in incorporating all five senses
- **THE TRADITIONALIST**, moved by symbol, ritual, and liturgy
- **THE ASCETIC**, who seeks solitude and simplicity
- **THE ACTIVIST**, motivated by moral confrontation
- **THE CAREGIVER**, who loves God through meeting the needs of others
- **THE ENTHUSIAST**, who celebrates the mystery and greatness of God with exuberance
- **THE CONTEMPLATIVE**, in search of a deepening emotional and spiritual intimacy
- **THE INTELLECTUAL**, moved to understand God in deeper ways