

DISCOVERING SPIRITUAL GIFTS

If each Christian properly understood their spiritual gift, it would motivate them to greater commitment and service, and it would bring a whole new excitement to the Body of Christ.

1. EVERY CHRISTIAN HAS A SPIRITUAL GIFT

When we were born physically, we possessed certain natural abilities. When born again spiritually, we received certain spiritual abilities ([Rom 12:4-6](#); [1Cor 12:7,11](#)).

2. SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE GIVEN BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

All spiritual gifts are given to individuals by the Holy Spirit to carry out His ministry as designed by God ([1Cor 12:4-11](#); [Eph 2:10](#)).

3. GOD GIVES SPIRITUAL GIFTS “for the common good”

Each of us has a desire for meaningful achievement. The ultimate of this is having a significant part in a Divine program. This Divine program is being carried through the Body of Christ by the proper functioning of each person’s gift ([1Cor 12:7](#)).

4. JOY COMES IN EXERCISING OUR GIFT

The root word for gift is *Charisma*. This comes from the word *Char*, which means joy. *Charis* is the word for grace, which involves God giving us the desire and power to accomplish God’s will ([Phil 2:13](#)).

5. EACH GIFT IS DESIGNED TO PERFECT THE BODY OF CHRIST

Just as there are varying functions in the members of our body, so each Christian has a particular & necessary function in the Body of Christ. Failure to exercise our gift weakens the ministry of the Body of Christ ([Eph 4:16](#)).

6. ALL THE GIFTS ARE EQUALLY IMPORTANT

Importance isn’t measured by the visibility of our efforts or their apparent impact but by their combined results for the Body of Christ. The contribution of all members sustains and grows the Body ([1Cor 12:14-27](#)).

If we are to concentrate on our gift as instructed in Romans 12, we must first understand what that gift is and if we are to have harmony with others within the Body of Christ, we must understand what their particular functions are.

There are many different ways people have categorized the spiritual gifts. This study is adapted from the study guide, “Developing Your SHAPE to Serve Others,” written by Brett and Dee Eastman, Todd and Denise Wendorff, and Karen Lee-Thorp. Statements in quotes are from that study guide. The categories include the following:

1. Gifts that communicate God’s Word
2. Gifts that educate God’s people
3. Gifts that demonstrate God’s love
4. Gifts that celebrate God’s presence
5. Gifts that support all four purposes

Gifts that Communicate God's Word

1. Prophecy: "The ability to publicly or personally communicate God's word regarding a specific situation with challenge, comfort, and conviction so as to point people toward Jesus Christ and his will." ([1Cor 14:3](#))

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>
<i>Are you direct, frank, & persuasive in speaking?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do you have the capacity to identify, define, & hate evil?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do you depend on Scriptural truth to validate your authority to speak?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do you have the ability to discern the character & motive of people?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do you look for outward evidences of inward conviction of people?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do you have a concern for the reputation & program of God?</i>	___	___	___

2. Evangelism: "The ability to communicate the good news about Jesus Christ easily and naturally to unbelievers so that they often respond with faith." ([Acts 8:26-40](#))

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>
<i>Are you comfortable talking to strangers about Jesus?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do you pray for opportunities to share your faith?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do you enjoy an immediate response from sharing your faith?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do you seek out people who are not followers of Jesus?</i>	___	___	___

3. Missions: "The ability and flexibility to bring Jesus to a culture or people other than your own." Also, "The ability to plant new churches and oversee their development." ([Acts 13:2-3](#); [Rom 15:20](#))

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>
<i>Are you burdened for the lost beyond your sphere of influence?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Is your concern for the lost greater than ties to your current location?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do you enjoy being with people of different ethnic/cultural backgrounds?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do you have emotional ties to people in a specific land or culture?</i>	___	___	___

Gifts that Educate God's people

1. Teaching: "The ability to teach the Bible or train others in a way that causes them to learn and implement life-change." ([Eph 4:12-13](#))

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>
<i>Do you delight in research in order to validate truth?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do you present the truth in a systematic sequence?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do you have a greater joy in researching truth than presenting it?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do you have the belief that your gift is foundational to other gifts?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do you place an emphasis on the accuracy of words?</i>	___	___	___

2. Exhortation: “The ability to care for others in a way that builds their courage and motivates them to follow Jesus; the ability to bring out the best in others.” ([Acts 14:22](#))

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>
<i>Do you find enjoyment with those eager to follow steps of action?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Are you disappointed when teaching does not lead to steps of action?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do you have boldness to confront fellow believers?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Are you able to visualize potential & prescribe precise steps of action?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do you seek visible acceptance when speaking to individuals or groups?</i>	___	___	___

3. Knowledge: The ability to discover, accumulate, analyze, and clarify information and ideas that are pertinent to the growth and well-being of the Body. ([Rom 15:14](#))

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>
<i>Do you have a greater joy in researching truth than presenting it?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do you delight in analyzing, categorizing & clarifying truth?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do you analyze and clarify what you already believe to be true?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do you systematically study to increase your knowledge of the truth?</i>	___	___	___

4. Wisdom: “The ability to understand God’s perspective on life situations and share these insights in a simple, understandable way.” ([1Cor 2:6-16](#))

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>
<i>Do you try to learn from your mistakes and the mistakes of others?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do you reflect on your experiences in the light of God’s word?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Are you able to explain life situations in a simple, understandable way?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do you usually know which biblical verse to recommend for guidance?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Are you able to help others to make Godly decisions?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do people often come to you for advice?</i>	___	___	___

5. Discernment: “The ability to know whether one is following the Spirit of God or the spirit of error in a given situation.” ([1Cor 2:14](#); [Heb 5:14](#))

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>
<i>Do you see past peoples words and recognize false intentions?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do you have an unusual ability to read between the lines?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do you have an uncanny ability to sense something isn’t right?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Are you able to uncover false teachings fairly easily?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do you have a great hunger for biblical knowledge and teachings?</i>	___	___	___

6. Writing: The ability to formulate your thoughts and ideas into meaningful, written forms so that the reader will find courage, guidance, knowledge, or edification through the words you share with them. [\(Acts 15:19-29; Phil 3:1; 1Tim 3:14-15\)](#)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>
<i>Do you find yourself putting your thoughts into words on paper?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do you enjoy spending time reading books?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do you struggle expressing yourself in writing?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do you find yourself correcting the writing of others?</i>	___	___	___

Gifts that Demonstrate God's Love

1. Service: "The ability to give practical assistance in a way that makes people feel cared for and loved; the ability to see opportunities to serve without being asked." [\(Acts 6:1-7; 2Tim 1:16-18\)](#)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>
<i>Are you able to recall specific likes & dislikes of people?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Are you involved in a variety of activities with an inability to say "no"?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Are you motivated to meet needs as quickly as possible?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Are you motivated to fulfill needs with disregard for physical weariness?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Are you willing to use personal funds to avoid delays?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do you prefer short-range goals rather than long-range goals?</i>	___	___	___

2. Mercy: The ability to show practical compassion toward suffering persons; the ability to sense people's thoughts and emotions in order to care for them." [\(Acts 16:33-34; Lk 10:33-35\)](#)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>
<i>Are you attracted to & understand people who are in distress?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do you have a desire to remove hurts & bring healing to others?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Are you more concerned for mental distress than physical distress?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Are you sensitive to words & actions which may hurt other people?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Are you turned off by those who are insincere or insensitive?</i>	___	___	___

3. Hospitality: "The ability to make strangers feel welcomed and comfortable." [\(1Pet 4:9; Heb 13:2\)](#)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>
<i>Do you enjoy meeting new people and helping them feel welcome?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do you enjoy connecting people together?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do you find it easy to make people feel comfortable?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do you make an effort to create a warm, welcoming environment?</i>	___	___	___

4. **Shepherding:** “The ability to walk with others through life in a caring way that helps them grow in faith; the ability to care for people’s spiritual needs and equip them for service.” [\(1Pet 5:2-4\)](#)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>
<i>Are you able to earn trust and confidence in relationships?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Are you a good role model for others to follow?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do you enjoy helping people in their walk with God?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Are you quick to offer guidance and support to others?</i>	___	___	___

5. **Giving:** “The ability to give of your resources without feeling put out;” the ability to contribute material resources for the work of the Lord with great joy, eagerness, and liberality. [\(2Cor 8:1-7\)](#)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>
<i>Do you have a desire to give quietly to effective projects or ministries?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Are you alert to valid needs which might otherwise be overlook?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do you enjoy meeting needs without the pressure of appeals?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do you desire to feel a part of the work or person to whom you give?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do you have joy when your gift is an answer to specific prayer?</i>	___	___	___

Gifts that Celebrate God’s Presence

1. **Prayer:** “The ability to pray in faith for God’s supernatural intervention into an impossible situation and see God answer; the ability to sense when God is prompting you to pray this kind of prayer.” [\(Mk 11:23-24\)](#)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>
<i>Are you able to find direction and answers to prayer in the Bible?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do you frequently receive concrete responses to prayer?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do you feel God’s presence throughout the day?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do you pray for extended times each day?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do you have confidence that God will answer your prayers?</i>	___	___	___

2. **Intercession:** “The ability to bring physical or emotional healing into another’s life through prayer.” [\(Col 1:9-12; Jam 5:14-16\)](#)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>
<i>Do you always take the concerns and needs of others to God in prayer?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do you maintain a prayer request list and note results?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do people come to you requesting prayer?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Are you able to recognize when others are in need of prayer?</i>	___	___	___

3. Music and Arts: "The ability to create art that elevates people into God's presence." (*Ps 150*)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>
<i>Do you enjoy singing praises to God either alone or with other people?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Are you able to effectively play a musical instrument?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do you find joy in the creation of pictures, banners, or other craft objects?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do you enjoy creating, repairing or constructing items used for ministry?</i>	___	___	___

Gifts that Support all four Purposes

1. Leadership: "The ability to bring out the best in others in their service to God; the ability to set vision, motivate, equip, train, or set an example of service in order to draw a group to reach a goal." (*Heb 13:7, 17*)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>
<i>Are you able to persuade other people to accomplish goals they have set?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do people follow your lead in accomplishing of specific tasks?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Are you able to lead small or large groups of people in decision-making?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Are you able to motivate other people in a friendly, positive manner?</i>	___	___	___

2. Administration: "The ability to manage people well and organize programs and ministries effectively." (*1Cor 14:40*)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>
<i>Are you able to see the overall picture & to clarify long-range goals?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do you enjoy organizing ideas, things, and people for effective results?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do you find enjoyment working with facts and/or figures?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Can you tell where certain people would function best in ministries?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do you look to see if needed resources are available to complete a task?</i>	___	___	___

3. Faith: "The ability to trust God and to act on God's promise, regardless of what the circumstances indicate; the willingness to risk failure in pursuit of a God-given vision, expecting God to handle the obstacles." (*Rom 4:18-21*)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>
<i>Do you have unwavering confidence in God's faithfulness?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do difficult circumstances cause you to doubt God's faithfulness?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do you trust the promises of God and inspire others to do the same?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do you act with confidence in God's ability to overcome obstacles?</i>	___	___	___
<i>Do you ask God for what's needed and trust God will respond?</i>	___	___	___

CONCLUSION

1. Explore: The information above provides basic information about each of the gifts. You should take some time to answer the questions and examine your abilities and passions to assist you in finding how the Holy Spirit has gifted you for service. Pray for the Spirit's help and direction as you examine your feelings in regards to the gifts you may have.
2. Evaluate: Take time to consider your passions when you've served in the past and take advantage of opportunities now to apply the gifts you think you may have. You should see results taking place as your gifts are used. Pray for discernment to evaluate your feelings and results of your service honestly.
3. As you use the gifts you have discovered you should continuously expect confirmation from other Christians with whom you serve. They will assure you of your effectiveness in your use of the gifts God has given you.