



A Bible Study on Spiritual Gifts
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All Scripture quotations are taken from The New International Version (NIV).



Lesson10: **What Are My Gift(s)?**

Many years ago there was a popular television quiz program called, "What's My Line? The program consisted of a panel of celebrities who asked questions of the special guest in an attempt to guess, before the allotted time elapsed, the occupation of the contestant.

This final chapter is much like that quiz program. It attempts to provide help and suggestions on finding out what your spiritual gifts are. A lot of time (nine lessons) has been spent introducing you to the subject of spiritual gifts. Now you know about spiritual gifts based on what God's Word has to say about the subject. One thing you have learned is that you are a gifted person and you are called upon to use your gift(s) for the edification of the Church. But the big question still remains: What's my gift?

So I'm gifted. God the Holy Spirit has given to me spiritual gift(s) to be used in the church for the edification of the Church. That's great! But let's get practical. I need some help discovering my spiritual gift and putting it to use in the church. Where do I go from here?

WHAT WILL HAPPEN

First of all, you need to know what you are getting into when you begin the discovery process relative to spiritual gifts. What will happen in the church when you and others begin to discover, develop, and use spiritual gifts? If you and the congregation to which you belong get into spiritual gifts you can expect the following things to happen:

Each member of the congregation will know his her spiritual job description. Knowing and putting into use one's spiritual gift will give direction to the things you do in God's Kingdom, You are a part of the body of Christ, the Church, and when you know what part you are (your spiritual gift), you will then know how to function, what to do, and what you should be doing as a vital part of the whole body.

People will come to life. Can you imagine what would happen in the church if just one out of four in your congregation were functioning as priests of God? In the church all of the members, according to God's will and way, are to be participants not spectators in the Church. Dwight Moody said, "I would rather train ten men to do work than to do the work of ten men." The discovery, development, and use of spiritual gifts will automatically put people into action in the church.

All the members of the church will be able to work together in love, harmony, and effectiveness. Put another way, the discovery, development, and use of spiritual gifts will do a lot to eliminate pride, false humility, and envy. Now it will not be a cure all! However, when one realizes that spiritual gifts are gifts given freely out of God's grace for us there is little room for pride, envy, or a "I'm better than you are" attitude . In each instance where the Bible discusses spiritual gifts it is discussed in the context of the church being made up of many parts, forming a unity, with Christ as head, with love and harmony evident. The Holy Spirit gives gifts that the church might grow, be effective.

The body, the church, will mature. We grow through use of the means of grace (Word and Sacrament). Likewise, yet never to be placed on a par with Word and Sacrament, the discovery, development, and use of spiritual gifts will assist the church member in growth as he she gets involved in a meaningful way in laboring in the church. I matured when I understood my ministry, my part as a redeemed child of God and put it to use in the church. And when the parts of the Body of Christ function properly the church matures and is built up.

The church will grow. God meant for His Church to grow. A mobilized laity (using their spiritual gifts) puts a force to work that can do great things under God's blessing with His Word. The church does well to remember the words of Oscar Feucht in his book *Everyone a Minister*: "The greatest gain in converts was not where the most money was raised but where the most Christians were at work personally winning their neighbors for Christ." Expect the church to grow when you put people and their spiritual gifts to work in the church.

God will be glorified. To that end all we do must be directed. For sure God will be glorified when His plan is carried out according to His directions. His plan is that spiritual gifts be used in the church for edification of the church and the glorification of God,

Now that you have an understanding of spiritual gifts, you can expect things to happen when people in the church discover, develop and use spiritual gifts. Maybe you can think of some other things which will happen in the church when spiritual gifts are put into practice. Jot them down in the space provided.

STEPS TO DISCOVERY

In his book on spiritual gifts C. Peter Wagner lists five very practical steps to discovering your spiritual gifts. They are most helpful and would be one of many ways of really getting into spiritual gifts.

EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES: That's what we are doing in this study. Read the best stuff you can get hold of on the subject of spiritual gifts, work of the Holy Spirit, priesthood of all believers. And by all means, read over and over the Scripture portions on spiritual gifts - Romans 12, I Corinthians 12-14, Ephesians 4, and I Peter 4.

EXPERIMENT WITH AS MANY SPIRITUAL GIFTS AS POSSIBLE: Doing this will help you discover and learn about the gifts. Be open – not only to what gift(s) you might have but also what gifts you do not have. One of the blessings of determining what gifts you don't have is that you spend less time on the wrong things.

EXAMINE YOUR FEELINGS: God gives to each person in the church a spiritual gift(s). When you know yours you will feel good about using it. If you really detest doing something (such as teaching) you probably do not have that gift.

LOOK FOR THINGS TO HAPPEN: Gifts are given by God so that things happen in the church. As you function in the body (church) as a part (spiritual gift) you will be effective. For example, if, when you teach, people learn, you should continue to explore whether or not you have the gift of teacher.

EXPECT CONFIRMATION: Others will affirm that you have such and such a gift or are good at this particular thing. If you think you are great at something and the Body doesn't confirm it you probably don't have the gift you think you have - go back and do some more discovering.

Using the words discover, develop, and use the following brief statements will assist the church member in working with spiritual gifts.

DISCOVER your gift(s)

- Read
- Spiritual Gifts Discovery Tool (Questionnaire at the end of the study).
- Pray for God's guidance and be patient.

DEVELOP your gift(s)

- Read some more! Once you have discovered your gift(s) do some in-depth reading in that area of involvement in the Body.
- As you develop your gift(s) don't forget to fit into the entire working of the Body.
- Remember the fruit of the Spirit.
- Don't forget the means of grace - Word and Sacrament.
- Pray for spiritual growth.
- Be patient

USE your gift(s)

- A church structure which enables.
- Pastor's role: "equip the saints."
- Pray for the entire Body and its work,
- Be extremely patient!

Spiritual Gifts “DISCOVERY TOOL” Questionnaire

One helpful aid in the process of getting into the discovery part is the questionnaire which follows. Read each question and in the space provided at the right put a check mark (x) under either 4,3,2,1,0 indicating whether you strongly agree (4), agree somewhat (3), undecided (2), disagree somewhat (1), completely disagree (0). Go through the entire questionnaire placing a check mark in the appropriate place.

“Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us” Rom 12:6

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Undecided	Somewhat Disagree	Completely Disagree
I Special	4	3	2	1	0
1. People seem to be willing to follow my leadership without much resistance.					
2. I like to proclaim God's word to fellow Christians.					
3. It is a joy to proclaim God's plan of salvation to unchruched people.					
4. It is enjoyable having responsibility of leading others in their spiritual life.					
5. I'm excited in helping people to discover important truths it the Scriptures.					
6. I feel a sense of authority in my relationship to the group.					
7. I like to proclaim the word of God to comfort others.					
8. It seems easy to determine when the Spirit has prepared a person to receive Jesus Christ.					
9. It is exciting to provide spiritual leadership for a congregation					
10. Teaching a Bible class is one of the most enjoyable functions of my ministry.					
11. I have little fear in leading people where God wants them to go.					
12. I enjoy relating and sharing God's word to the issues of the day.					
13. I feel a burden to share the Gospel with people.					
14. I like to assist people with, their spiritual problems.					
15. It seems that people learn when I teach them.					
16. I appreciate the oppourtunity to proclaim God's words to others.					
17. It is important to speak God's word of warning and judgment in the world today.					
18. It is a joy to share what Jesus means to me with an unchruched neighbor.					
19. People like to bring their troubles and concerns to me because they feel I care.					
20. One of the joys of my ministry is training people to be more effective Christians.					
21. I enjoy training workers in the congregation.					
22. In a Bible class it is essential to share God's word even if it irritates others.					
23. I feel a deep concern for the unreached people in my community.					
24. I enjoy a close relationship with people in a one to one situation.					
25. It is easy to organize materials for teaching a Bible class.					

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Undecided	Somewhat Disagree	Completely Disagree
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25. It is easy to organize materials for teaching a Bible class.					
	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Undecided	Somewhat Disagree	Completely Disagree
II Speaking	4	3	2	1	0
1. It is enjoyable to motivate people to a higher spiritual commitment.					
2. People with spiritual problems like to come to me to receive my advice.					

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Undecided	Somewhat Disagree	Completely Disagree
II Speaking - continued	4	3	2	1	0
3. I received excellent grades while in school.					
4. It is a joy to give encouragement to people who are discouraged.					
5. I enjoy providing solutions to difficult problems in life.					
6. It seems easy to learn difficult truths.					
7. I like to encourage inactive church members to become involved Christians again.					
8. It seems that people generally follow my advice.					
9. I am able to understand difficult portions of God's word.					
10. People who are feeling perplexed come to me for encouragement and comfort.					
11. I feel that I have a special insight in selecting the best alternative in a difficult situation.					
12. I have a clear understanding of Biblical doctrines.					
13. I would rather call on a delinquent family in the church than an unchurched family.					
14. I have a strong sense of confidence in my solution to problems.					
15. It is an exciting challenge to read and study a difficult book of the Bible.					

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Undecided	Somewhat Disagree	Completely Disagree
III Serving	4	3	2	1	0
1. There is great joy in doing little jobs around the church.					
2. I look for opportunities to assist people in their work.					
3. There is great joy in leading people to accomplish group goals.					
4. I like to organize people for more effective ministry.					
5. There is great satisfaction in giving money for the Lord's work.					
6. I feel great compassion for the problems of others.					
7. It seems easy to perceive whether a person is honest or dishonest.					
8. I am ready to try the impossible because I have a great trust in God.					
9. There is great joy in having people in my home.					
10. I enjoy doing routine tasks for the glory of God.					
11. I enjoy helping with the emergency tasks around the church.					
12. People seem to enjoy following me in doing an important task.					
13. There is joy in making important decisions.					
14. I find real joy in giving a generous portion of my money to the Lord.					

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Undecided	Somewhat Disagree	Completely Disagree
III Serving - continued	4	3	2	1	0
15. Visiting people in retirement homes gives me great satisfaction.					
16. I seem to know very quickly whether something is right or wrong.					
17. When things seem impossible, I am ready to move forward.					
18. I do not feel uncomfortable when people drop in unexpectedly.					
19. I receive great satisfaction in doing small or trivial tasks in the church.					
20. I desire to do the tasks which will free others for important ministry.					
21. It is more effective to delegate a task to someone else rather than do it myself.					
22. I enjoy the responsibility for the achievement of group goals.					
23. I appreciate the opportunity to financially support a critical situation.					
24. I sense joy in comforting people in difficult situations.					
25. The difference between truth and error is easily perceived.					
26. I am often ready to believe God will lead us through when others feel it is impossible.					
27. People seem to feel very comfortable in my home.					
28. I find more satisfaction in doing a job than finding someone else to do it.					
29. I appreciate a ministry of helping other people to bear their burdens.					
30. It is a thrill to inspire others to greater involvement in church work.					
31. The development of effective plans for a church ministry gives me great satisfaction.					
32. It is a joy to see how much money I can give to the Lord.					
33. I enjoy ministering to a person who is sick in the hospital.					
34. I can judge well between the truthfulness and error of a given Theological statement.					
35. People seem to view me as one who believes everything is possible.					
36. When missionaries come to our church I like to have them come to my home.					
37. I like to do things without attracting much attention.					
38. If a family is facing a serious crisis, I enjoy the opportunity to help them.					
39. There is great satisfaction in having others follow me in performing a task.					
40. I would rather make decisions for the group than persuade them to reach the same decision.					
41. I can give sacrificially because I know that God will meet my needs.					
42. It is a special satisfaction to visit people who are confined to their homes.					
43. I often seek the motives of a person and look beneath the words.					
44. When people are discouraged I enjoy giving them a positive vision.					
45. People seem to enjoy coming to my house.					

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Undecided	Somewhat Disagree	Completely Disagree
IV SIGN	4	3	2	1	0
1. I have spoken in tongues.					
2. I have interpreted a message given in tongues.					
3. In the name of the Lord, I have cast out demons.					
4. In the name of Jesus, I have cured illness.					
5. I have shared a message of God in an unknown language.					
6. I have edified a congregation by interpreting tongues.					
7. God has worked through me to do humanly impossible things.					
8. In the name of Jesus, I have healed someone of an emotional illness.					
9. I have worshipped God in an unknown language.					
10. I have prayed to interpret tongues.					
11. God has used me in a supernatural way to change the lives of people.					
12. In the name of the Lord, I have treated those who are spiritually ill.					
13. I have edified the Body of Christ by speaking in tongues.					
14. My interpretation of tongues has been a blessing to others.					
15. In the name of the Lord, I have miraculously changed circumstances.					
16. I have seen people healed as a result of my prayers.					
17. I would feel at ease in a service where strange unknown languages were spoken.					
18. I would feel comfortable with the gift of interpretation of tongues.					
19. In the name of the Lord, I have been able to recover sight for the blind.					
20. Some people would testify that I have been involved in their healing process.					

Now that you have taken the questionnaire step two is to calculate it.

Below is the Spiritual Gifts Profile Calculation graph.

The numbers 1-25, 1-15, 1-45, 1-20 correspond with the questions under each of the four major sections of the questionnaire. After each number place in the box the number corresponding with the answer you gave to that question in the questionnaire.

For example, if under Section I (Special), your answer to question one was strongly agree then place a 4 in the box next to question one. Continue this process with each question in each of the four sections until all the boxes are filled with a number.

Now total the five numbers for each gift and place that number in the appropriate box under the heading total. For example, for the gift of apostle total your scores for questions 1, 6, 11, 16, 21 (from left to right), and put the number in the total column. Do this for all of the twenty-one gifts listed on the Spiritual Gifts Profile Sheet.

Your Spiritual Gifts Profile

I SPECIAL	Statement Number						Total
1. Apostle	1:	6:	11:	16:	21:	=	
2. Prophecy	2:	7:	12:	17:	22:	=	
3. Evangelist	3:	8:	13:	18:	23:	=	
4. Pastor-Teacher	4:	9:	14:	19:	24:	=	
5. Teacher	5:	10:	15:	20:	25:	=	
I SPEAKING							
1. Exhortation	1:	4:	7:	10:	13:	=	
2. Wisdom	2:	5:	8:	11:	14:	=	
3. Knowledge	3:	6:	9:	12:	15:	=	
III SERVING							
1. Serving	1:	10:	19:	28:	37:	=	
2. Helps	2:	11:	20:	29:	38:	=	
3. Leadership	3:	12:	21:	30:	39:	=	
4. Administration	4:	13:	22:	31:	40:	=	
5. Giving	5:	14:	23:	32:	41:	=	
6. Mercy	6:	15:	24:	33:	42:	=	
7. Discernment	7:	16:	25:	34:	43:	=	
8. Faith	8:	17:	26:	35:	44:	=	
9. Hospitality	9:	18:	27:	36:	45:	=	
IV SIGN							
1. Tongues	1:	5:	9:	13:	17:	=	
2. Interpret	2:	6:	10:	14:	18:	=	
3. Miracles	3:	7:	11:	15:	19:	=	
4. Healing	4:	8:	12:	16:	20:	=	

Create a Visual Graph of Your Gifts:

Now you are ready to develop a visual by transferring the numerical value for each spiritual gift to the graph. Take the total number for each gift and shade the box with that number corresponding to that gift on the graph. For example, if your total for the gift apostle was 14, shade in the box under the number 14 in the line for gift one, apostle. Continue this process for all twenty-one gifts. Once you have completed this process go back and shade in with a pencil the boxes from where you shaded in your total score for that gift back to zero. For example, under apostle number 14 was shaded in. Now the numbers 0-13 should be shaded in. Do this for each spiritual gift and you will have a profile which will help you in discovering your spiritual gifts.

In the space provided below the spiritual gift profile graph write down the five gifts you scored the highest number on. This gives you a list of five gifts you should continue to pursue your study of since you might have one or a number of them as your spiritual gifts given to you by the Holy Spirit to be used in the church for the edification of the Church.

I SPECIAL	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1. Apostle																					
2. Prophecy																					
3. Evangelist																					
4. Pastor-Teacher																					
5. Teacher																					
I SPEAKING	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1. Exhortation																					
2. Wisdom																					
3. Knowledge																					
III SERVING	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1. Serving																					
2. Helps																					
3. Leadership																					
4. Administration																					
5. Giving																					
6. Mercy																					
7. Discernment																					
8. Faith																					
9. Hospitality																					
IV SIGN	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1. Tongues																					
2. Interpret																					
3. Miracles																					
4. Healing																					

Here are a few helpful hints as to how you can get greater use out of the "Discovery Tool."

1. Take the questionnaire several times and compare your results with previous tests.
2. Have your spouse or close friend take the test answering the questions as to how they view you and your desires, workings in the church.
3. Go back and study each of the gifts more carefully and then take the test again. Always check your results with previous results.

This "Discovery Tool" is not the last word on discovering your spiritual gift(s). It is one of many tools you should use in the discovery process. Don't forget to use these other tools in your discovery process - Scripture, Prayer, C. Peter Wagner's six steps to gift discovery, the pc4nts under the words discover, develop, and use, conversation with others about your possible gifts.

After you have discovered your spiritual gift(s) don't forget to develop them. Go back and thoroughly study God's Word on that gift, pray for the Spirit's continued direction and development. And, oh yes, with joy, love, and patience, labor faithfully in the church for the edification of the church to the glory of God through Christ Jesus. Remember: God gives gifts to be used!

CONCLUSION

In the year 1492 Christopher Columbus discovered America. For sure, Columbus had no idea of the importance, impact, and significance his discovery would have upon all mankind. It has to be one of the greatest and most significant discoveries ever to have occurred in world history. His discovery eventually changed the operation of multitudes of things in the world.

Hundreds of years before that discovery God in His infinite wisdom established the Church. To the people making up His church He gave spiritual gifts so that the gifts might assist His chosen people in building up and expanding His church.

As members of the church we need to discover the gift(s) God the Holy Spirit has given to us. Using Word and Sacraments it can and should be done. It is God's way! And such a spiritual discovery will have the impact and significance on the church and its work nothing short of the degree of impact and significance Columbus' discovery of America had upon the world.

"Brethren, I would not have you ignorant concerning spiritual gifts." 1 Corinthians 12.

Bibliography:

READING GUIDE:

NOTE: As this is a reprint of a study revised in 1984, some of the books referenced below may be out of print. We apologize for this inconvenience however the study itself should serve useful to you as you pursue the discovery of your Spiritual Gifts.

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