

Manifesting the Spirit

Spiritual Gifts

Describe your most fulfilling work situation and why it was so fulfilling.



We weren't rescued by Christ from our rebellious state of mind and its consequences (which is separation from Him forever if unforgiven), in order to vegetate in God's grace. He wants us to serve Him, His people and His world.

The way we serve Him and others is through the gifts or abilities His Spirit has given to us. The Holy Spirit is the source of all abilities to do good. When we became followers of Christ the Spirit came to help us become more like Christ. He lives in us and shows or manifests Himself through each one of us, but each in a unique way that enables us to be part of a team with differing abilities that contribute to the whole.

2Timothy 1:6 6For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

1Corin 14:13 13For this reason anyone who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret what he says.

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

Read 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 and answer the following questions:

1. For whose benefit are spiritual gifts or manifestations of the Spirit given?
2. Who determines which gift or gifts you get?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 17-18 and answer the following questions:

1. Why do you think Paul says the church is like the human body?
2. Why is no gift or manifestation of the Spirit through Christians unnecessary?

Read 1 Peter 4:10-11 and answer the following:

1. What is the immediate purpose of our gifts?
2. What is the ultimate purpose of our gifts?

For Reference

1 Corin 12:7-11 7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 8 To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, 10 to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. 11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.

1 Corin 12:12-18 12The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. 13For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. 14Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. 14Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. 15If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. 16And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. 17If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? 18But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.

1 Peter 4:10-11 10Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. 11If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

FWQ: Frequently Wondered Questions (but not often asked)

- *Pick one or two and discuss whether you agree or disagree with the answer and why.*

How do I know what my spiritual gift is?

The best way is to move toward ministries or service areas that you feel drawn to. Our gifts create in us motivations to do certain types of service. Broadly speaking, the gifts may be categorized in two large groupings, speaking gifts and serving gifts (1 Peter 4:11).

Speaking gifts include such things as teaching, prophesying, and encouraging (and each of these can be done in a number of different formats, like singing, counseling, preaching, mentoring, etc.). Serving gifts include things like administrating, leading, showing mercy, healing, and simply serving with our talents (and each of these can be done in a number of different formats, like visiting the sick, organizing outreaches or services to those in need, hospitality, and any number of services tied to our skills and talents).

When you find success in the areas you attempt to serve, that is, people are helped and the kingdom of God is furthered, this is a good indicator that you are functioning in your gift. If you find yourself more stressed than excited, or people do not respond the way you hoped to your efforts, there is likely another area more in line with your gifting. Another factor to consider is the venue in which your gift is used. Some are given a large scale venue in which God will use them, others a small scale venue. Neither is better than the other, just a matter of where God wants to use you.

Sometimes spiritual gifts tests can give you an idea of where to start trying out your desire to serve. One has been included in this lesson.



Can I ask for and get different gifts than the ones I now have?

God can do anything. Paul talks about Timothy receiving a gift by the laying on of hands (2 Timothy 1:6) and some have interpreted 1 Corinthians 14:13 (“...anyone who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret what he says”) and Paul’s encouragement to desire the gift of prophecy as indicators that we can ask God for gifts we don’t have now. Some believe that none of the gifts are actually resident in us but that we can get them temporarily from God for various occasions. It seems to me that our gifts were being developed in us from birth by God through our personalities, training and experiences. These will not likely change and are “resident” in us. However, God, if He is willing, may give us new gifts that we were, in some sense, developed in from birth but that were His purpose for us after we developed in relationship with Him.

FWQ (continued)

How is a spiritual gift developed?

Paul tells Timothy to “fan into flame the gift of God,” which suggests that there is a part we have to play in the development of the gifts or manifestations of the Spirit within us. This may seem contradictory in some ways, because if it is the manifestation of the Spirit, it should be complete. But we know from how He works spiritual growth in us that it is advantageous to us to play a role in developing our lives. One of the best ways to develop our gifts is to learn from those who have the same gifts and more experience than we do. Another avenue of development is practicing our gifts and letting God show us how to improve. And finally, practicing all the other essentials of discipleship will actually help us develop in this area as well.

If I don't have the gift of giving does that mean I don't have to tithe?

Even though no one has all the gifts, all Christians are called upon in some limited capacity to utilize all the gifts. So, for example, when I am with someone who is hurting, though my gift might be to teach them, I must also exercise mercy, encouragement, faith, healing, serving and any host of other gifts. All Christians are to be leaders wherever they are, to be witnesses wherever they are, to teach their children and others, and to give to God's purposes. In other words, even though the focus of my ministry to others will be in my gifting, I need to develop some ability in all the areas of gifting.



How do I know when to start using my gift, especially when some areas of service require spiritual maturity?

Start using your gift with someone who is already mature in the faith and let them mentor and supervise you while you grow.

How do I keep myself from gravitating toward what I'm simply comfortable with, well trained in, or practiced in?

Ask God to make you more aware, if need be, of the areas of ministry in which you feel uncomfortable and to show you ways in which you might improve. You might learn invaluable things from those whose gifts are in these areas. If, for example, you are not too good at recognizing people's hurts, talk to someone who has the gift of mercy and ask them how they become alert to hurting people. You'll find that much of it is simply God bringing people to them and giving them discernment, but you'll also, undoubtedly, hear tips about how to pay attention to hurting people and ways in which to minister to them. This is true in all the areas of ministry or gifting.

Spiritual Gifts Assessment

Separate the scoring sheet on the following page and keep it in front of you as you respond honestly and quickly to the following statements.

1. I am alert to the practical needs that people have and enjoy meeting them.
2. I have the ability to know what can and cannot be delegated (tasks in a job that can be assigned to someone capable of completing them).
3. I am a very organized person.
4. I'm a good judge of character and can spot a spiritual phony.
5. I have believed God for the impossible and seen it happen in a tangible way despite insurmountable odds.
6. I have the ability to make wise purchases and investments.
7. I have an ability to feel an atmosphere of joy or distress in an individual or group.
8. I enjoy encouraging and giving counsel to those who are discouraged.
9. I am organized in my thinking and systematic in my approach to presenting truth.
10. I have non-Christian friends that I witness to.
11. I like to take on someone's routine tasks to free them for more important jobs.
12. I have the tendency to assume responsibility if no structured leadership exists.
13. I enjoy working out details necessary to organize people and resources for a task.
14. I have a desire to see outward evidence to demonstrate inward conviction or belief.
15. I have had great dreams and aspirations, which have turned into reality despite the likelihood of their not being accomplished.
16. When I give sacrificially I feel confident that the Lord will provide for my needs.
17. I have an attraction to and an understanding of people who are in distress.
18. People tell me things they won't tell anyone else and say I'm easy to talk to.
19. I enjoy communicating biblical truth to others and seeing growth in their knowledge of the Christian faith.
20. I feel comfortable spending time with non-Christians and, without compromising my faith, seek to be a light to them.
21. I prefer short-term tasks to long-term projects.
22. I don't mind asking others to accomplish important tasks in completing a shared goal.
23. I have an ability to see the "big picture" and coordinate others who see only the parts.
24. I have a directness, frankness and persuasiveness in speaking.
25. I exhibit confident trust in God despite apparent obstacles and raise the vision and trust of others in the Body.
26. I joyfully give money to the church well above my tithe.
27. When I see suffering my first thought is how to relieve it rather than how it might serve to mature the one suffering.
28. I have the ability to see how troubles can produce new levels of maturity.
29. Others have told me that they have gained new insight when I teach.
30. I care deeply about those who haven't received Christ and feel God can use me to reach them.
31. I enjoy working behind the scenes, taking care of little details.
32. I prefer the challenge of long-term projects to short-term tasks.
33. When faced with a complex problem, I am able to isolate the heart of it and suggest steps to resolve it.
34. I have a deep concern for the reputation and program of God.
35. I confidently expect God to respond to situations committed to Him in prayer.
36. I wouldn't mind lowering my standard of living to give more to the church and to others in need.
37. I have a sensitivity to words and actions, which will hurt other people.
38. I like discovering insights from human experience that fit with Scripture.
39. I have a special sensitivity to teaching taken out of biblical context.
39. I have been instrumental in leading others to believe in Christ as Savior.
41. I am very dependable at getting things done and don't need a lot of motivating.
42. I am willing to endure negative reactions from co-workers in order to get the task accomplished.
43. I can work under pressure with discipline to accomplish goals and objectives.
44. I am able to speak enthusiastically and clearly about doctrinal truth providing comfort, guidance, warning, or encouragement to those to whom I speak.
45. I often exercise my faith through prayer, and God answers my prayers in exciting ways.
46. I have an alertness to point out monetary needs which others might overlook.
47. I have an ability to discern sincere motives in other people.
48. When people have problems I see what needs to be done and I prescribe steps of action.
49. I delight in research in order to validate biblical truth.
50. I am able to share the gospel in a way that makes it clear and meaningful to non-believers.

Spiritual Gifts Scoring Sheet

Select the value from 0-3 that fairly represents your answer to each statement and write the answers in the arrows below corresponding to the question number.

0 = never 1 = seldom 2 = sometimes 3 = frequently

Example:

1 → 3 11 → 2 21 → 0 31 → 2 41 → 2

1	11	21	31	41
2	12	22	32	42
3	13	23	33	43
4	14	24	34	44
5	15	25	35	45
6	16	26	36	46
7	17	27	37	47
8	18	28	38	48
9	19	29	39	49
10	20	30	40	50

TOTALS

A
B
C
D
E
F
G
H
I
J



Assessing your Spiritual Gifts

Enter the total scores from the previous page in the corresponding boxes to reveal your tendencies which may lead you to uncover your spiritual gifts.

A

A) Helps/service: The desire and ability to invest my talents to meet the needs of others and increase the effectiveness of others' gifts.

B

B) Leadership: The desire and ability to motivate others to achieve God-given goals and visions, and to take others to a place of growth or ministry they haven't yet achieved.

C

C) Administration: The desire and ability to see the bigger picture, break it down into manageable parts (plans and objectives), utilize a team approach to meeting them, help others recognize their gifts, and help pull resources together to do the ministry.

D

D) Discernment/prophecy: The desire and ability to see what is false, sinful, or wrong, desire purity, truth and justice, and persuade people to move toward the Lord.

E

E) Faith: The desire and ability to have extraordinary confidence in the will of God and to pursue a God-given vision despite the obstacles.

F

F) Giving: The desire and ability to make money for the purpose of putting it to work in the furtherance of God's kingdom.

G

G) Mercy: The desire and ability to empathize with the hurting and show them compassion.

H

H) Encouragement: The desire and ability to motivate others by listening to them, by pinpointing what is needed to move them forward, and by inspiring or challenging them.

I

I) Teaching: The desire and ability to study Scripture and communicate its truths in an organized and understandable way.

J

J) Evangelism: The desire and ability to connect with unbelievers and boldly and effectively challenge them with the gospel at the appropriate time.

Below are areas of skill or interest in which you might find yourself exercising your gift or gifts. Check those that are true of you, and list the detail if applicable.

- singing
- playing an instrument: _____
- performing drama
- doing crafts or handwork
what kind: _____
- sports (coaching, etc.)
- computer technology
what kind: _____
- skilled labor (carpentry, car repair, etc.)
which: _____
- hospitality
- cooking
- knowledge area: _____
- collecting: _____
- financial: _____
- job: _____
- animal training/care
- TV/radio
- art/creative: _____
- medical: _____
- decorating
- clerical: _____
- counseling
- languages/sign language
- other: _____



Scripture memory for this week: 1 Peter 4:10

For further study: