

Discovering Your Spiritual Gift

NOTE: Mark "Yes" (Y) in the left-hand margin for each question which fits you:

1. Would you describe yourself as an effective public speaker?
2. Do you find it relatively easy and enjoyable to spend time in intense study and research of the Bible?
3. Do you enjoy sharing the personal and emotional problems of people?
4. Do you find yourself more concerned with how to apply God's Word than in simply trying to understand its message?
5. Have you sensed that God has given you a special ability to learn and acquire knowledge concerning His Word?
6. Do you enjoy motivating others to various tasks and ministries?
7. Would other people describe you as a person who makes decisions easily?
8. Do you seem to concentrate more on practical things that need to be done rather than on why they should be done?
9. When you hear of someone who needs help, do you immediately offer your services if it is possible?
10. Would you rather give money to help than to perform some manual task?
11. Do you enjoy visiting people who are sick or disabled?
12. Is your home the kind that most people feel comfortable in and will often drop by to visit with you unannounced?
13. Do you find that you have the ability to believe things that other believers cannot seem to accept or see?
14. Have other believers told you that you always seem to know whether something is right or wrong?
15. When situations are not right, do you feel a burden to speak up about them in order to correct them?
16. Do you love to deal with issues and questions?
17. Have you found that people often seek you out to have your advice about their personal problems?
18. Do you find that you often know immediately what to do in a situation where other believers are not clear as to what should be done?
19. Do you find that people will often come to you with difficult problems and questions from the Bible, seeking your understanding?
20. Do you find yourself setting goals and objectives for yourself and your ministry as a believer?
21. Do you sense a great deal of responsibility to make decisions in behalf of others?
22. Do you usually have a great deal of joy in just "doing things" that need to be done no matter how small or trivial the task?
23. Do you sense a special ministry to help other people become more effective in their work?
24. When you hear of someone in need, do you immediately think of sending them some money?
25. When you hear of someone in the hospital, does it challenge you to bring them some encouragement and cheer?
26. Do you feel that something is really missing in your life when you cannot have guests into your home?
27. When people say that something cannot be done or is impossible, do you feel the burden to believe it and trust God for it?
28. Do you seem to have an understanding of people and their motivations that proves to be correct, even though you do not know them well?
29. Do you have a tendency to speak up when issues are being dealt with in a group, rather than remain silent and listen?
30. When you hear a question or problem, are you anxious to both find and give an answer?
31. Would you prefer to talk personally with someone about their problems rather than to send them to someone else for help?
32. Do people often seek your advice in difficult situations as to what you would do or how you would handle things?

33. In your study of God's Word have you observed that new insights and understanding of difficult subjects seem to come to you easily?
34. When someone is not doing a job well, do you feel concerned to help him become more effective in what he is doing?
35. Do you sense a moral responsibility when giving direction and guidance to others, always thinking of how this will affect others?
36. Do you seem to have more satisfaction in doing a task than in what others thought of what you did?
37. Do you see yourself more in a supportive ministry to others than in being in a place of leadership?
38. Do you find yourself looking for opportunities to give your money without hearing any appeals?
39. Do you find it easy to express joy in the presence of those who are suffering physically?
40. Do you love to entertain people in your home regardless of how well you know them?
41. Do you find that you usually feel opposed to anyone who expresses that something cannot be done or accomplished?
42. Do you sense often that what is being said is produced by the devil rather than God, and has your judgment proved to be correct?
43. Have you sensed that people feel conviction about wrong practices or doctrinal error when you share with them what the Bible says?
44. Have people often said to you that you have an ability to explain difficult problems to them, usually giving reasons for what you believe?
45. Do you really get much joy out of encouraging people who are going through personal problems and trials?
46. Do you find that people usually ask what you think about a situation with the belief that you will always know what to do?
47. Have you noticed that you have the ability to understand difficult teachings of God's Word without a great volume of research and study?
48. Would you rather show someone else how to do a task than to do it yourself?
49. Do you enjoy giving direction to others and making decisions for them?
50. Is it true of you that when you are asked to do a particular task you usually feel no pressure or obligation?
51. Do you feel a special burden to relieve others of their duties in order to free them to do their most important work?
52. Do you find yourself responding immediately to financial needs by giving your money without a great deal of planning?
53. Is it easy for you to talk with those who are suffering physically and to experience response on their part?
54. Do you consider your home to be a real place of ministry to others?
55. Have you discovered that you do not have to wait for clear evidence and direction before you make a decision?
56. Do you find that you often evaluate people and the things they say as to whether it is right or wrong?
57. When you speak God's Word do you usually think of how this is going to challenge and motivate those to whom you are speaking?
58. Have people expressed to you how much they appreciate the way you explain things from the Bible?
59. Do you find it easy to deal with people who are depressed or discouraged, experiencing a certain joy in what can be accomplished?
60. Have other believers referred to decisions you have made or advice you have given as being the right thing to do and the best for everyone?
61. Do you seem to understand things about God's Word that other believers with the same background and experience don't seem to know?
62. Do you have a special concern to train and disciple other believers to become leaders?

63. Do you find yourself constantly thinking of decisions that need to be made in giving overall direction to a group or organization?
64. Would you rather do a job yourself than work with a group in trying to accomplish it?
65. Do you believe that you would help almost anyone who had a need, if it were possible for you to do so?
66. Do you sense a great deal of joy in giving, regardless of the response of the one to whom you gave?
67. Do you often think of ways to minister and help those who are suffering physically?
68. Would you like to have a regular ministry of entertaining people in your home regardless of who they are?
69. Do you feel that you are able to trust God in difficult circumstances without hesitation or indecision?
70. Do you feel a great responsibility toward God whenever you sense that something is not right which other believers do not seem to understand?
71. Have other believers shared with you that you have the ability to communicate God's Word with great effectiveness?
72. Do people come to you often, seeking your answers to specific questions or problems from the Bible?
73. Do you sense a great deal of love and compassion for people having personal and emotional problems?
74. When you give your advice to someone, do you seem to emphasize more in the area of "how" it should be done rather than "why" it should be done?
75. Have other believers frequently pointed out to you that you have an ability to know and understand the things of God's Word?
76. Do you have a special concern for people in helping them to reach their goals and objectives in their lives?
77. Do people seem to depend upon you to make the major decisions for the group or the organization?
78. When you hear of a specific job that needs to be done, are you anxious to do it yourself?
79. Are you satisfied more with how a person has been helped by what you did, than by simply doing it?
80. When you give your money to someone or something, do you usually desire to avoid letting others know what you did?
81. Would you enjoy a regular ministry to those who are suffering physically?
82. Do you look at having people into your home as an exciting ministry more than the fact that you have a responsibility to do this?
83. Have other believers often shared with you that you seem to have the ability to trust God in difficult situations?
84. Have people often asked your opinion of someone or something that has been said as to whether you thought it was right or wrong?
85. Do you believe that you have gifts in communicating to others?
86. Would you rather explain the meaning of a word than simply share a verse by quoting it to someone?
87. Do you usually desire to hear others share their personal problems rather than being able to share yours with someone else?
88. Do other believers seem to follow your advice in difficult situations?
89. Have you found in studying God's Word that you seem to know what a passage is saying before other believers discover it?
90. Do you usually take the leadership in a group where none exists?
91. Do you usually feel morally responsible for the long-range effects of your decisions?
92. Would you rather do a particular job than spend time talking with people about their problems and needs?
93. When someone asks for your help, do you have great difficulty in saying "No" to that person?
94. When you give some money to someone, do you find that you do not expect any appreciation in return?
95. Do you feel a great deal of compassion toward those who are suffering physically that makes you want to help them in some way?

96. Do you find that you can easily have people into your home without being overly concerned about how it looks?
97. Do you feel a burden to encourage people to trust God when you see them defeated and discouraged?
98. Have you felt a special responsibility to protect the truth of God's Word by exposing that which is wrong and sinful?
99. Would you rather speak God's Word to others without much explanation than take the time to explain every detail?
100. Do you usually organize your thoughts in a systematic way?
101. When you hear of some believer who has "sinned" or "fallen away", are you anxious to go to them immediately and try to help them?
102. Have the decisions and the advice you have given in difficult situations proven to be the right thing to do in most cases?
103. Do you have a great desire to share with other believers what the meaning of a difficult verse or passage is?
104. Do you sense a great deal of joy in a leadership position, rather than frustration and difficulty?
105. Have you had experience in being responsible to make decisions in behalf of a group or organization that would affect everyone?
106. Do you find that you enjoy things that need to be done without being asked to do them?
107. Do you find yourself looking for opportunities to help other people?
108. Do you see the matter of giving money as a tremendous spiritual ministry and one which you believe God has given to you?
109. Do you find that when visiting those who are suffering physically it brings you joy rather than depressing you?
110. Have other believers often referred to your ability to have people in your home and to the way God has used you in this?
111. Have you seen God do mighty things in your life that other believers said could not be done but which you believed He would do?
112. Do you feel that you are helping other believers when you discern that something is wrong, and have they readily accepted your evaluation?
113. When an opportunity is given to you to speak to other believers, do you find that you would rather share verses than to share your personal experiences?
114. Have other believers told you often that you should have a regular teaching ministry and have you felt the same?
115. Do you enjoy a person-to-person ministry more than ministering to a group?
116. Have you sensed a special ability in your life to know what to do when dealing with difficult problems and situations?
117. When you see other believers confused and lacking in understanding about some difficult teaching of the Bible, have you sensed a responsibility to speak to them about what it means?
118. Do you seem to know how to meet people's needs, goals, and desires without too much study and planning?
119. Do you enjoy being the "final voice" or the one with the overall responsibility for the direction and success of a group or organization?
120. Do you find that it is not necessary for you to have a "job description" when you are asked to do a particular task?
121. Have people often expressed to you how you have helped them in doing a particular job that relieved them of that responsibility in order to do something else?
122. Are you really excited when someone asks you to help financially in some worthwhile project, seeing this as a great honor and privilege?
123. Are you willing and eager to spend time, money, and resources, in order to help those who are suffering physically?

124. Do you find a great joy in having people into your home rather than sensing that it is a burden or responsibility that will entail too much work?
125. Have you discovered an effective prayer ministry in your life with many wonderful answers to prayer that from a human point of view seem impossible or unlikely?
126. Have you often made an evaluation of someone or something that was said that others did not see, but yet proved to be correct?

Now that your test is over, take a moment to thank the Lord for His direction and guidance and ask Him to give you a submissive heart and a humble attitude toward whatever gift (or gifts) He has given you. Also, remember that whatever gifts we have have already been given to us the moment we became believers in Christ. Our ability to discover these gifts is based on our maturity in Christ, our continual use of these gifts, and the effectiveness and joy we have experienced when using them. Since these things change throughout our Christian experience, you will want to review the gifts often and perhaps take the test again in the future and compare those results with what you have discovered at this point.

Your "Yes" answers will serve to help you identify your gift. Circle the number for each question you answered "Yes" in the appropriate place on the list below. The area where you have the most "Yes" answers is your gift. If there is more than one gift in which you have lots of positive answers, the final answer can be found in your own attitude toward those gifts in which you scored more or less equally. God gives us a delight and satisfaction in doing His will in our lives. The Holy Spirit will guide you in the use of your gifts - rely on Him!

PROPHECY

1
15
29
43
57
71
85
99
113

WORD OF WISDOM

4
18
32
46
60
74
88
102
116

ADMINISTRATION

7
21
35
49
63
77
91
105
119

GIVING

10
24
38
52
66
80
94
108
122

FAITH

13
27
41
55
69
83
97
111
125

TEACHING

2
16
30
44
58
72
86
100
114

WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

5
19
33
47
61
75
89
103
117

SERVING

8
22
36
50
64
78
92
106
120

SHOWING MERCY

11
25
39
53
67
81
95
109
123

EXHORTATION

3
17
31
45
59
73
87
101
115

LEADERSHIP

6
20
34
48
62
76
90
104
118

HELPS

9
23
37
51
65
79
93
107
121

HOSPITALITY

12
26
40
54
68
82
96
110
124

DISCERNMENT

14
28
42
56
70
84
98
112
126

Like controversy? **Spiritual gifts are one of the most divisive subjects.** **1 Cor 12:1-3**
Two extremes have created ignorance

***Some freaked out / don't want to know

***Others who haven't been taught anything

Good Reading About the Holy Spirit

Living Water	Chuck Smith
Charisma versus Charismania	Chuck Smith
God the Holy Spirit: Great Doctrines of the Bible	Martin Lloyd-Jones
Holy Spirit	Arthur W. Pink
Living in the Power of the Holy Spirit	Charles Stanley
Sermons on the Holy Spirit	C.H. Spurgeon
Showing the Spirit	D.A. Carson
How To Be Filled With the Holy Spirit	A.W. Tozer
The Holy Spirit of God	G. Campbell Morgan
Understanding the Holy Spirit	G. Campbell Morgan
The Holy Spirit	John Walvoord
They Found the Secret	V. Raymond Edman
Those Controversial Gifts	George Mallone

I. Jesus is alive today through each believer

- A. **The Holy Spirit lives in every believer** **John 14:15-20** **Jesus in ME**
 Jesus makes Himself known to world through us He ministers to peoples' needs, through us!
He does this through Fruit of the Spirit and by way of Spiritual gifts
- B. **Vv4-11, 27 Holy Spirit calls each one to work** He determines who gets what... We don't decide!
See vv7,11,27 **EACH ONE**... has a gift
Complete Godhead @ wk in ea of us... if allow
 Spirit determines what gift(s) we each have
 Jesus determines where we use those gifts
Father determines how powerfully we use them
 Not natural talents – **supernaturally** given @ salvation
Don't confuse Gifts of Spirit with Fruit of Spirit

FRUIT	GIFTS
Attitudes	Activities
No Carnality	Carnality possible
Affects me	Affect others
Control of the flesh	Build up Body Christ
All believers/ all fruit	All believers / differing gifts
Result of control of Holy Spirit	Result of salvation and distribution by Sp

II. **vv12-20** We Are His Body

- A. **Bible says we are His body** Jesus **still lives** among us BY HIS SPIRIT!!
We are His body... Jn 14:20 "I am in you..."
- B. **Normal healthy body has all its parts in right places**
 Life flows through it No body has just 1 body part
 Parts in disproportion / wrong place = malformed body
Normal healthy body depends on all its parts
Eye can't benefit from food without foot / hand / mouth / stomach
- If each of us is really inter-dependent... Then blvrs who don't use gifts are... **DISOBEDIENT**
That makes Body of Christ... **UNHEALTHY**
No human body parts that don't contribute something
 Why do we think it's okay in church?

Don't throw baby out with bathwater

Sign gifts – Gift of tongues and interpretation of tongues believed until 1700's

Age of Modernism – no miracles... until 1903 Asuza St

Years later – Dallas Seminary – Sought to explain away sign gifts **1Cor 13:8-12**

Poor exegesis – If a body part in 1st C why not now?

Is Jesus limping around w/o certain body parts?

Tongues is “Least of Gifts – but still a gift / God doesn't change

III. Finding your gift & operating in Body of Christ

A. **V 18 We're community Don't hinder God's work in body**

All gifts already present But are they operating?

What are these gifts?

@ 21, Including. sign gifts

Found in 1Cor 12 /

Probably not limited to these

Rom 12 / Eph 4 / 1 Peter 4 **Sampling**

Knowledge

Ability to know the Word / something @ person

Wisdom

Ability to apply that word / or direct person

Teaching

Ability to communicate that word

Shepherding

Pastoring (big P little p)

Faith

Vision / knowing God's direction / confidence to boldly stand

Healings

Plural Phys / Emotional / Spiritual

Prophecy

Fortelling more than Foretelling

Discernment of spirits

Determining truth from error / attitudes / spirits

Leadership

Youth, home fellowship, elders, other ministries

Administration

Financial, organizational, computer network

Service

Physical

Helps

Personal

Hospitality

Not just food – offering people comfort

B. **No more lone star Christians – Need each other**

Don't hold back – Don't think no time

It's a command of God!

Unstuff calendar!

God will take care of the rest

Can foot say “Not walking because I have other obligations?”

NO – it serves Body / Serves Head – Jesus Christ

C. **Some Spiritual Gift Inventories to Try...**

<https://gifts.churchgrowth.org/>

<https://www.globalimpactatl.org/spiritualgifts/>

<https://spiritualgiftstest.com/spiritual-gifts-test-adult-version/>

IV. Cut thru controversy & get to heart of things

A. **Many important things happened when saved**

Jn 3:5-7 Born of the Spirit Body soul spirit

1Cor 12:13 Baptized into 1 body Body Christ

Romans 8:9 Indwelt by the Spirit

Eph 1:13 Sealed with the Spirit

Eph 5:18 But commanded 2b filled w/ Spirit What controls you?

Be continually being filled

It's a command... not an option

If you want 2b normal Christian

B. **Eph 4:30 Alternative is grieving the Spirit**

Persistent sin; Disobedience; indifference to Jesus

Resistance to His control;

When we grieve him, we need to be refilled

Idea is filling for flowing / Kinked hose /

Rev 3:20 Behold I stand at door and knock

YOU must open the door!!!

C. **How to be filled??**

First – do you really want to be filled? Not the benefits / Do you want the cost?

Believe you **can be** filled Ask **(Lk 11)** Trust Him to do it

Then walk on, believing it really happened

Description Of The Spiritual Gifts

by Lambert Dolphin

Natural talents and personality traits are natural human resources which all of us have. These are not the same as spiritual gifts which are given by sovereign choice, by the Holy Spirit, at the time we become Christians. These are supernatural enablements so that we may serve God more effectively in the world and in the church. Every Christian has at least one spiritual gift, many are given more than one gift. All Christians are called to the work of the ministry and distinctions between "clergy" and "laity" are foreign to the New Testament.

Both spiritual gifts and natural talents must be employed in the power of the Holy Spirit and not in the self-energy of the flesh in order to please God and bring positive results.

The various spiritual gifts are listed in Romans 12, Ephesians 4, I Corinthians 13-15, and elsewhere. Commentators differ as to whether the list totals 22, or fewer, gifts. The gifts are divided into (1) teaching/leadership gifts, (2) service gifts, and (3) sign gifts given to authenticate the work of apostles and prophets, particularly at the beginning of a new age (dispensation) when God does something new and different in the world. Here is a rather complete list:

1. **Apostle** (apostolos). The Greek word means "one sent forth" (on an official errand), i.e., an ambassador. In addition to the twelve original disciples who became apostles, Paul was added to the list of those commissioned by God to lay the foundations of the Christian church and impart a full body of truth which would guide Christian faith and conduct. There were also other apostles, for example, Barnabas, Acts 14:4,14; Andronicus and Junia, Romans 16:7, 2 Corinthians 8:23; Philippians 2:25. The need for apostles diminished as the church became established. If there are any apostles today they might be found among pioneer missionaries who establish churches in foreign lands where the gospel has not yet been proclaimed. Christians today are under apostolic authority, however there is no Biblical reason to believe in the so-called apostolic succession of authority in the church. Ray Stedman likens the apostles in the Body of Christ to the skeleton and musculature of the human body.

2. **Prophet**, prophecy. (prophetes), lit: "to speak forth," to proclaim the mind and counsel of God, i.e., the gift of preaching. Differs from pastor-teacher in scope. Ray Stedman compares the role of the NT prophet to the nervous system of the body. NT prophets do not make predictions about the future as the OT prophets did, but gather their message from the Scriptures. Nor is God giving the church new revelation through such individuals today. The gift of prophecy is likewise not for giving secret messages from God to individuals in the church. Prophets vigorously stimulate and challenge the Body of Christ, pastor-teachers patiently feed the sheep and care for their needs. Prophets are to edify, exhort and console, (see 1 Cor. 14:3).

3. **Evangelist**, evangelism. (evangelistes) from eu = well, plus angelos = messenger. The gift of bringing the good news of God to unbelievers individually and in groups. The content of the message is outlined in I Cor. 15. Ray Stedman compares this gift to the digestive apparatus of the human body which has the ability to take material which is not a part of the body and transform it into parts of the body. Evangelists are also to teach other believers how to lead people to the Lord Jesus. Timothy evidently did not have this gift but Paul nevertheless urged him to "do the work of an evangelist".

4. **Pastor-teacher** (poimenes kai didaskalos), shepherd and teacher. Ray Stedman describes this gift as analogous to the circulatory system of the human body which "cleanses and feeds" the members of the body. Ray Stedman once said he believed this was a common gift, given to perhaps a third of Christians.

5. **Administration**. (kubernesis = government). To pilot, guide, or steer as one steers a ship. To preside over the assembly and guide the proceedings. In order to preserve order in Christian meetings the person in charge should know how to direct the course of events towards a spiritual goal as led by the Spirit.

6. **Leadership**, (proistemi) "to stand before" that is attend to with care and diligence, as the head of a family does. Perhaps this also includes setting the pace, imparting direction and goals in a ministry since sheep are lazy and helpless and prone to wander off course. Most people like to follow a good leader. God's leaders are not only visionary they lead by serving.

7. **Faith**. (pistis), Faith-vision: the ability to believe God for new direction and power---visionary faith that sets in motion events others can join in and follow. All Christians have some faith because "without faith it is impossible to please God." Also anyone's faith grows as it is exercised. However there is also a gift of "faith-vision" which pioneers new ministries, encourages others and helps them to grow in faith. "Without a vision the people perish" (Proverbs 29:18).

8. **Knowledge**. (logos gnoseos), lit: "word of knowledge," systematic understanding of truth in broad, sweeping terms so that others may be trained and instructed. Not supernatural utterances from God. All Christians have some knowledge, but there is also a gift of knowledge given to some so they may teach and edify the Body. The ability to sum up lots of information or pieces of knowledge so as to give a clear concise overview.

9. **Wisdom** (logos sophias), lit: "word of wisdom." The ability to make wise choices and decisions at critical forks in the road. Very valuable to an individual or a group when it needs to choose but has no specifically clear information on the best choice. All Christians can grow in wisdom as they make a series of wise choices over a life-time, however there is also a gift of wisdom given to some in the Body of Christ.

10. **Exhortation**, encouragement. (paraklesis), to call alongside, comfort, strengthen, to counsel, exhort, bring aid, admonish. The same Greek word describes the Holy Spirit's role in our lives.

11. **Discernment** (of spirits) (diakriseis pneumatōn), is a gift to judge or evaluate the spirits so as to distinguish whether something is from God or from an evil source. Similar to the natural talent of intuition but of course more reliable and consistent.

12. **Ministering** (diakonia), to serve (hence our word deacons). A wide variety of activities one performs with the help of God to comfort, encourage, support and build up God's people. Also, (huperetes), an under-rower or servant as distinguished from an ordinary seaman on a Roman galley.

13. **Service** (helps) (antilempsis), "to lay hold of (and support)", especially the weak and needy. To minister to others and meet their needs.

14. **Giving**, (metadidomi), is the gift of sharing and imparting, not only money but other resources. All Christians should learn to give generously since "God loves a 'hilarious' giver", however certain individuals are given the gift of giving so they can act as stewards over material resources in the Body of Christ.

15. **Tongues** (that is, "kinds of languages") (glossa). The ability to speak in other languages not previously learned, but known languages to men. The gift is for the purpose of praising God. It must be directed to God, not to be used to pass a message from one member to another or from one member to the congregation. Not a means of communication from the Lord to the flock. A sign to Israel especially to mark the beginning of a new dispensation. A sign to unbelievers.

16. **Interpretation of Tongues**. The ability to translate unknown languages so as to edify and instruct others regarding what has been said.

17. **Miracles**. (energēmata dunameōn) The ability to raise men from the dead, call fire down from heaven and otherwise present signs that authenticate the power of God in certain situations.

18. **Healing(s)**. (charismata iamatōn) (plural). Ability to heal at the physical, emotional and spiritual levels. The word is plural in Greek, probably suggesting that the ability to heal refers to all three levels of man. Today, God sometimes heals physically, but more often emotionally and spiritually. A valuable gift for a counselor.

19. **Mercy** (eleos) An ability to touch inwardly with compassion. To be exercised with "cheerfulness".

20. **Hospitality**. (philoxenia), lit: "love of strangers." May not be a spiritual gift but definitely a Christian virtue. Those who believe this is a separate gift also hold that all believers are to practice hospitality.

Note: A Christian's service involves the entire Trinity.

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are the sovereign choice of the Holy Spirit.

The place of our service is chosen by the Son of God, and the style, of our ministry is determined by the Father.

This is made clear by the following passage:

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord (Jesus Christ); and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God (the Father) who inspires them all in every one. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Cor. 12:5-7).